



## VOYAGEUR January 2019

Dear Church family,

We are in the season of celebrating Christmas, and looking to the beginning of a new year. I hope you have been able to gather and share a meal with whomever you call family. One of the great gifts of the season is being able to spend time together. I believe it's more vital to our relationships with each other than any gift we could give or receive.

While I'm sure there are exceptions, most family gatherings bring together people who have different experiences, ideas, and beliefs. It's in the nature of our lives that, wherever two or three are gathered, there will probably be a difference of opinion, whether those differences are expressed or not. While this is true for whatever group you hold as family, it is also true for our United Methodist Church. In the many ways we gather as church, we experience having differences with each other. It's been part of our heritage, and it is likely to our future.

Like a lot of families, the United Methodist Church has had family feuds. Longstanding feuds can divide families. The Methodist Episcopal church was divided into two different denominations over the issue of slavery between 1844-1939, and when it re-united, some of the churches left the denomination. Differences can be long-standing and acrimonious.

The United Methodist Church of our era has also participated in a long-standing family feud. We have had an active debate about human sexuality and inclusion since the General Conference of 1972. That is approximately the year I received my first Bible in Sunday school. I didn't know anything about Annual Conference, General Conference, the Council of Bishops, or any of our church history. I didn't even know that the church of my childhood was often in unresolved conflict. I knew that Jesus loved me, and that I was part of the church. Through my mother's teaching, I knew that our church offered Communion to everyone, and that this was very different than the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church that my mother grew up in.

Next month, there will be a special session of General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. (This is not to be confused with the regularly scheduled General Conference in Minneapolis in 2020. Some of you have been knitting scarves for the 2020 conference.) After the church nearly divided in 2016, the Council of Bishops was asked to make recommendations for a way to keep the church together, and to schedule this special conference. There are three different plans to be discussed at this conference. I won't detail them here, but you will find a summary elsewhere in this newsletter.

While I have beliefs and ideas about which path we should choose as a denomination, this is not the reason I am writing you this month. I'm asking for your prayers for all the churches in our denomination, including your own. This is an important time for us. I am more conscious of our dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit in the church than ever. Without it, I don't believe any of the effort of this conference will have a helpful benefit for our churches.

Of all the places affected by this conference, I care most about Bemidji, MN. As your pastor, I am appointed to serve not only the church, but the larger community where we serve together. For most of the people of Bemidji, this conference will not dictate the way they experience and understand the United Methodist Church. You and I, the United Methodists here, will have the most vital impact. We are the people God is equipping to love and serve the people in Bemidji. The relationships we are building will be more effective in naming and claiming our identity among the people than the results of this General Conference.

But the conference will have an impact on the life of our church. What the impact will be is uncertain. In the middle of these uncertainties, God is at work in our lives, such that the only real certainty is God's love. My prayer for the new year is that you will experience God's love in a deep and profound way. I pray that as the United Methodist church in Bemidji, we will use our open hearts, open minds, and open doors to make and be disciples of Jesus Christ, participating in the transformation of our world. In our differences, may we find unity. In our commonality with Christ, may we find love. In the adventure of our faith, may we discover hope.

Pastor Rob

# January

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>Happy New Year</b>	<b>2</b> NO Bible Study NO Community Table NO Youth Group <u>Pastor Rob on Vacation until Jan16</u>	<b>3</b> NO Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	<b>4</b> 7:30pm-10:00pm Square Dancing  <b>Youth Group Lock In</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 Yoga
<b>6</b> 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	<b>7</b> NO Beginning Knitting / Chapel 5:30-8:30 Girl Scout Leader mtg in Lounge 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b> 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge NO Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal 6:30 Trustees Mtg	<b>9</b> NO Bible Study 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Youth Group	<b>10</b> 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation 4:00 SPRC	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 Yoga  NO Game Night, will resume in February
<b>13</b> 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	<b>14</b> NO Beginning Knitting / Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	<b>15</b> 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge NO Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Finance Mtg	<b>16</b> 9:30 BMW Meeting NO Bible Study 5:00 Community Table 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Youth Group	<b>17</b> 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	<b>18</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30 Yoga 10:00 Prayer Shawl Meeting
<b>20</b> 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation 2:00-4:30 Square Dancing	<b>21</b> 6:30 Beginning Knitting/Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hal	<b>22</b> 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge ? Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal 5:30 Council Mtg	<b>23</b> 10:45 Services at Neilson Place 3:30 Bible Study 5:30 Choir Practice 5:00 Community Table 6:30 Youth Group	<b>24</b> 2:00- 5:30 Stamping Group 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30 Yoga
<b>27</b> 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Early Family Worship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	<b>28</b> 6:30 Beginning Knitting / Chapel 6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall	<b>29</b> 2-3:30 Evergreen 5:30 Yoga 5:30 AA in Lounge ? Ruby Tuesday Singers Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 3:30 Bible Study 5:00 Community Table 6:30 Youth Group	<b>31</b> 5:00 Community Table 6:15 Lotus Zen Meditation		

# BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Church Office hours:

9:00am ~ 2:00pm

Monday ~ Friday

Office Phone: 218.751.3503

Pastor Rob Phone: 218.766.8744

If you wish for a pastoral home visit or hospital visit, or know someone who needs or desires a visit, please call the church office.

## JUST A REMINDER....

Articles for the January Newsletter are due in the office no later than **9:00am on Friday, January 18, 2019**. Any announcements you wish to have in the Sunday bulletin must be called in, emailed, or delivered to the office by **9:00am on Thursdays**.

**THANK YOU!**

**Email Addresses:** Church Office, Tammy: [umcbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)

Pastor Rob: [revrmkopp@gmail.com](mailto:revrmkopp@gmail.com)

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619

**Street Address:** 924 Beltrami Avenue NW, Bemidji MN 56601

## Worship Service Volunteers January 2019

**USHERS:** *Coordinators Mike & Rita Albrecht*

January 6: Mike & Rita Albrecht

January 13: Bill & Kathy Strycker

January 20: Dave Dahlberg & Merrill Theil

January 27: Mike & Rita Albrecht

**GREETERS:** *Coordinators Mike & Rita Albrecht*

January 6: Merlyn & Velma Wesloh

January 13: Cal & Pat Rice

January 20: Verna & Loren Lofberg

January 27: John Herath & Jack Spangenburg

**READERS:** *Coordinator Becky Lueben*

January 6: Jeff Anderson

January 13: Dave Dahlberg

January 20: Verna Lofberg

January 27 : Dana Danielson

**COFFEE SERVERS:** *Coordinator Lorne Lofberg*

January 6: Ken & Deanna Nichols

January 13: Robert & Carol Rieke

January 20: Roy & Jan Miller

January 27: Mike & Tessa Richardson

# JANUARY MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Please celebrate and pray for these people on their birthday and anniversary.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 01 Richard Burghart                               | 18 Linda Bradley, Krista Coyle     |
| 02 Maggie Dahlberg, Barb Fellman                  | 19 Virginia Youngdahl              |
| 02 Verda Murray, Ginger Tibbetts                  | 21 Zaverree Conner                 |
| 04 Spencer Jessen                                 | 22 Hayden Pirkel                   |
| 05 Alice Larkin, Sandra Sterr                     | 23 Jan Grimm                       |
| 06 Olivia Geiger                                  | 24 Betty Freborg                   |
| 07 Shirley Bruers                                 | 25 Barbara Johnston, Cal Mattfield |
| 11 Madalynn Frenzel, Michelle Seibel, Linda Smith |                                    |
| 15 Kathy Burger                                   | 26 Lillian Douglas                 |
| 16 Dana Danielson                                 | 27 Janice Moberg, William Strycker |
| 17 Dave Danielson, Courtney Frenzel               |                                    |
| 17 Kambria Lee, Nick Thompson                     |                                    |

If your birthday or anniversary or the birthday or anniversary of a parishioner is missed here, please call Tammy at the office so it will be included in the Sunday bulletin and future Voyageurs.

### **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE . . .**

- ... at **Neilson Place:** Bill Britton, Marian Blehm, Nelle May
- ... at **Trillium:** Dick Slinkman, Lois Statton,  
Judy Comstock, Lorraine Sorensen
- ... at **Windsong:** Wag Collins, Jean Slinkman,  
Bert Clark, Karren Clark, Dotty Naramore
- ... at **Baker Park:** Kathleen Magsam
- ... at **Havenwood Care Center:** Patty Boyer, Mary Conner,  
Grace Daniels, Vern Ditty, Betty Howard.
- ... at **Goldpine:** Laura Hays, Dorothy Sathre,  
Ruby Hausauer, Dorothy Baxter, Marjory Beck
- ... at **Tanbark Assisted Living in Lexington, KY:** Margaret Skinner
- ... at **May Creek in Walker, MN:** Ruth Weis,



*The Bemidji Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday,  
January 16 at 9:15am in the lounge with refreshments being served.*

**HOSTESSES: Verna Lofberg & Carol Rieke**

**DEVOTIONS: Carol Rieke**

**PROGRAM: Scams & File of Life ----Officer Carrigan**

*Everyone is welcome, please join us for refreshments & Fellowship.*

**January Welcome Desk Volunteers**

January 06-Kari Knudson & William Knudson

January 13-Merlyn & Velma Wesloh

January 20-Tessa Comstock & Skip Larson

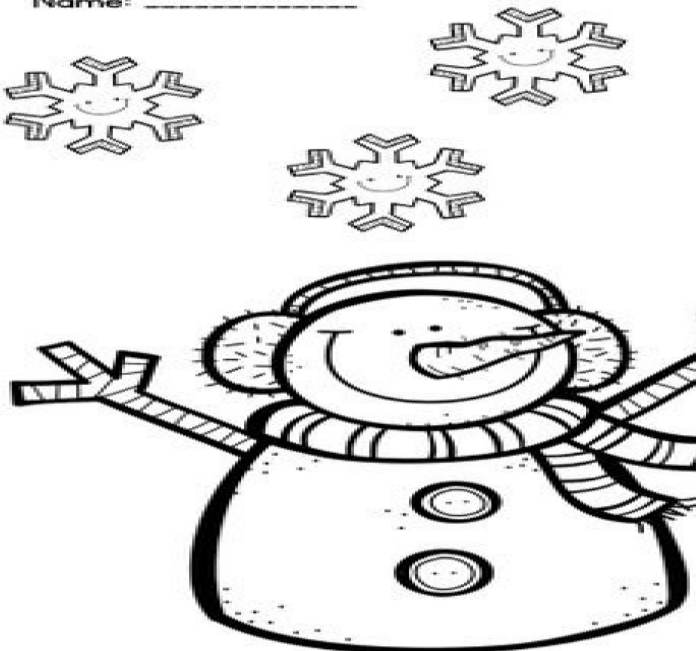
January 27-Ginger Tibbetts & Grace Pastoor



Charge Conference Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 am with a Potluck meal.

**Winter Cross  
Puzzle**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**2019-UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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Return Service Requested

January 2019 VOYAGEUR  
Published Monthly

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors

*The People of the United Methodist Church*

**Church Staff**

Reverend Rob Kopp  
*Pastor*

Tammy Freye  
*Secretary/Bookkeeper*

Chris Newman  
*Custodian*

Cynthia White  
*Organist*

Linda Wagner  
*Chancel Choir Director*

Grace Pastoor  
**Volunteer & Events  
Coord.**

## **A Way Forward**

At the 2016 United Methodist General Conference, the delegates from across the globe were once again unable to find any common ground about our United Methodist position about homosexuality. The United Methodist Church has been divided about human sexuality since 1972. This time, however, it seemed likely that the denomination would break apart over inclusion or exclusion of LGBTQ people, unless a way could be found to help us stay together as a church.

The delegates agreed to ask the Bishops to put a moratorium on votes on homosexuality, and to lead us in something new, in an effort to preserve the unity of the United Methodist Church. The Bishops created a Commission on A Way Forward to advise them, and set a special General Conference session on only this topic for February 2019.

The Commission on A Way Forward, selected by the bishops, is a diverse group of 32 clergy, laity, and bishops. They met in person many times over two years and made recommendations to the bishops.

The One Church Plan emerged as most helpful, in the Bishops' estimation. It creates the most likely way to unity of the church while honoring global and regional cultural differences. It preserves our connectional ministries. The bishops are recommending that the General Conference adopt this plan.

Here are summaries of the plans:

### *One Church Plan*

The UMC structure stays as it is. Current conflicts are deemed “non-essential” matters to our mission. Restrictions and prohibitions are removed, allowing Annual Conferences, Boards of Ordained Ministry, Local Churches, Clergy and Bishops to have freedom of conscience. The church remains united.

Example: Prohibition against same sex marriage are removed. Where legal civilly, UMC pastors would be allowed but not forced to conduct services. Same sex weddings will not be celebrated in church buildings unless a congregation has voted for it.

### *Connectional Conference Plan*

Three Connectional Conferences, separate but part of one UMC, would each make their own rules. The three would likely Traditionalist, Unifying, and Progressive. A sorting process would place Annual Conferences, Local Churches, Bishops and Clergy into a Connectional Conference that matches their belief.

### *Traditionalist Plan*

This plan retains and strengthens current prohibitions on same sex marriage and gay ordination. It invites and forces Annual Conferences who are progressive to leave the UMC to start a new denomination. Local Churches may vote to stay with their Annual Conference or leave the UMC, or may vote to stay in the UMC if their Annual Conference leaves.

## **For more information**

Our Minnesota Annual Conference web site has more information. [www.minnesotaumc.org/wayforward](http://www.minnesotaumc.org/wayforward)

There you can read the entire report of the Commission on A Way Forward, or read a two-page summary article and see a summary chart comparing the three plans.

Reverend Michelle Miller