

connect.

Tuscola
United
Methodist
Church

July
2021



From Pastor Terri Haas

Dear Church Family:
I hope this great summer weather is finding you well! This month, I will begin answering some of the theological or questions about church polity that you have asked me. We're going to start with an important one: **Why are the churches who want to change the UMC the most not the ones who are leaving?**

This question refers to The United Methodist split that is scheduled to take place at General Conference in May of 2022. For those of you who don't know much about this, let me recap a bit. In January of 2019, The United Methodist Church held a one agenda item General Conference in St. Louis. People traveled from all over the world (remember that we are a global church!) to vote on the issues of LGBTQ+ rights such as ordination and marriage within the church. While a lot of plans had been proposed, there were two that seemed likely. The first outcome was a plan that allowed each church to decide for itself what its comfort level was on this issue. The other option was a more traditional plan that blocked LGBTQ+ people from being ordained and blocked ministers from performing same sex marriage.

Before I go on, I want to share two terms with you that you are probably familiar with in a political context: conservative and progressive. It's important to note that, in Christianity, these words have slightly different meanings. In fact, you can be a political conservative who is a progressive Christian or vice versa! In Christian terms, the more conservative you are, the more likely you are to believe that the Bible is the literal word of God. The more progressive you are, the more you are likely to believe that the Bible is inspired, but the time period influenced the writing and laws. Most of us in The United Methodist Church tend to fall somewhere just slightly to the left of center. We believe the Bible teaches us many incredibly important truths and is essential information for us to lead Christian lives, but we also acknowledge that the words were written by human beings who were fallible. That type of thinking is why we have ordained women since the 1960s even though the Bible says women should not teach.

Because The United Methodist Church takes this view, most people believed that the first plan, the plan that allowed each

church to choose for itself, would pass. I think even the more conservative Christians were surprised that the more traditional plan, which blocked LGBTQ+ people from being ordained or having a wedding performed by a United Methodist pastor or held in a United Methodist Church, passed. However, less than one year after the conservative United Methodists, who call themselves the Wesleyan Covenant Association won, they announced plans to leave The United Methodist Church to form what they are now calling The Global Methodist Church.

This brings us to our question. If the more conservative Christians won the vote, why are they the ones who are leaving the church? This is the point where I am going to have to tell you what most people believe instead of proven fact, so please bear with me. It is my understanding from reading a lot of their material and talking to a lot of very smart people about this that the LGBTQ+ issues were only one facet of what they wanted to change. They hold more conservative (in the Christian definition) beliefs than the general body of The United Methodist Church in areas such as interpreting scripture and in

(cont. on Page 3)

REFRESH my HEART in CHRIST.



PHILEMON 1:20

Sermon Series: RE:boot

RE:ignite Sermons

What did a year of the pandemic do to your spiritual health? This year, we will be figuring out how we can be the church that God has called us to be during these difficult times. In order to figure this out, we will need to RE:set, RE:commit, and RE:vive. Join us for RE:ignite: A Year of Renewal.

Sermon Series – RE:boot

What do we do if our technology is running slowly? We reboot, of course! Well, this has been a tough year for us as a people and as a church. Before we're ready to RE:vive, we have to take time to RE:boot. What's holding you back from being the kind of

Christian you truly want to be? Is it regret? Unhappiness? Personal relationships? Join us for the month of July when we examine what the Bible says about how to RE:boot!

July 4th – Philemon 1:1-27 – RE:boot - RE:concile Relationships

July 11th – 1 Timothy 1:12-17 – RE:boot - RE:imagine Regret

July 18th – 1 Timothy 2:1-7 – RE:boot – RE:frame Prayer

July 25th – 1 Timothy 6:6-19 – RE:boot – RE:think Happiness

Theology Corner by Pastor Terri

Do you have questions about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit? Do you have questions about what we believe as United Methodists? Do you wonder about a particular scripture passage? During the next few months, I will be encouraging you to write your questions

down and place them in the offering. I will pick one or two questions to answer in the newsletter every month. I look forward to hearing what you're wondering about!

Book Club

Join us on July 15th at 6:30 PM via Zoom (ask Pastor Terri for a link) for our next Book Club meeting. This month, we will be reading *The Night Olivia Fell* by Christina McDonald. In the small hours of the morning, Abi Knight is startled awake by the phone call no mother ever wants to get: her teenage daughter Olivia has fallen off a bridge. Not only is Olivia brain dead, she's pregnant and must

remain on life support to keep her baby alive. And then Abi sees the angry bruises circling Olivia's wrists. When the police unexpectedly rule Olivia's fall an accident, Abi decides to find out what really happened that night. Heartbroken and grieving, she unravels the threads of her daughter's life. Was Olivia's fall an accident? Or something far more sinister?

May Finance at a Glance:

Balance as of
4/30/21: \$8,247.03

May Income:
\$21,870.32

May Expense:
\$22,251.36

Balance as of
5/31/21: \$7,865.99

New Member Classes

We will be holding new member classes on Sunday July 11th and 18th from 10:30 am – 11:30 am with new members joining on Sunday, July 25th.

If you are considering joining the TUMC family officially, please let Pastor Terri know. There are a variety of ways you can join. You can transfer your membership from another church, you can join a church for the first time, or you can hold an associate membership where you are still connected with another church of any denomination.

Please contact Pastor Terri if you have any questions.

VBS Supplies Wish List:

If you have any of the following supplies, please contact Taylor or drop them by the church. Thanks!

- Real or fake house plants and trees for the Garden of Eden
- Used Legos
- Super glue
- Donations to buy craft supplies

Summer Sundays:

July 4th: Independence Day Wear your red, white, and blue. Activities will be provided in the fellowship hall during worship.

July 11th: FAM Kids with Music

July 18th: FAM Kids Volunteer Day (Please sign up prior)

July 25th: FAM Kids with Music

Family Adventure Ministry



Events:

Family Movie Night-July 16th, 6:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School-July 19th -22nd, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Theme: Building in Faith, Grades K-5 (in the fall). Please register with Taylor by July 11th. Limit 50 participants.

Youth Camping Trip-July 25th-27th, Middle and High School Youth. Depart TUMC at 3:00 p.m.

From the Pastor (cont. from page 1)

discussions of sin over discussions of grace. Because of this, I believe that many leaders had already planned to form a new denomination before the General Conference of 2019 that was founded on more conservative Christian principles.

So what is next for The United Methodist Church? In May of 2022, we will once again meet as a General Conference to finalize the plans for allowing The Global Methodist Church, and any other splits that might occur between now and then,

to depart while taking their property with them. The United Methodist body will then vote again on LGBTQ+ issues. The general consensus is that if the vote does not allow the ordination and marriage of LGBTQ+ people, that a third section of progressive Christians will split off as well, leaving three churches where only one had stood. Once the splits have occurred, our church will have a choice to make. If we choose to remain United Methodists, then we won't need to do anything. If we choose to join another denomination, we

would need a two thirds majority vote, and we would have approximately two years to do this.

I hope this answer helps! What I truly believe is no matter what happens, God is on the side of the church as a whole. I and the staff will still be here to help us through any potential changes that might occur.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Terri

Family Craft Time

Join us for a new program this summer for those who love arts and crafts and good conversation! We will meet to do a craft project (see below for dates and projects). Kids are welcome and will have a special corner where they will do kid friendly versions of our crafts with Taylor and some volunteers. The cost of each class is \$10 per adult (kids 12 and under are free!) unless you would like to purchase and bring your own materials. Sign up in the office for each individual week.

July 15th at 10:00 AM – DIY Watercolor Greeting Cards – Join us for easy to make but beautiful watercolor cards in a variety

of skill levels! If you would like to bring your own supplies, you will need watercolor paper, watercolor paints, watercolor brushes, stickers, and card stock!



July 29th at 10:00 AM – DIY String Art – Join us for a super easy craft: string art! We'll have a variety of templates to choose from, but if you'd like to make

your own, contact Terri for details. If you would like to bring your own supplies, you will need a wooden plank painted to your preferred color, small craft nails, a hammer, a template (can be printed online), and embroidery thread in the color(s) of your choice!



Greetings

Thank you all for the flowers, prayers, and cards! May God bless you all.

In Christ's love-Betty Wiekert
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Thank you for all the support from everyone over the last year during my cancer treatments. I could not have done it with the congregation's support and prayers.

Sincerely-Cheryl Warren
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Joyce Ellis turns 85 on July 3rd! If you would like to help her celebrate, please send cards to:

Joyce Ellis
807 E Pinzon
Tuscola, IL 61953

connect.

Tuscola United Methodist Church
901 N. Prairie St.
Tuscola, IL 61953

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July 2021

5
Church Office Closed

6
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm

7
Bible Study—11:00 am
Bible Study—11:00 am

10
Private gathering—1:30 pm

11
New Member Class—10:30am

What's

13
Staff Meeting—10:00 am
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm

14
Bible Study—11:00 am
Bible Study—11:00 am

15
Family Craft Day—10:00 am
Book Club (Zoom)—6:30 pm

16
Family Movie Night—6:00 pm

18
New Member Class—10:30am

Happening

19
VBS—4:30 pm
Church Council—6:00 pm

20
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm
VBS—4:30 pm

21
Bible Study—11:00 am
Bible Study—11:00 am
VBS—4:30 pm

22
VBS—4:30 pm
NAMI—7:00 pm

Here

25
Newsletter Deadline

27
Staff Meeting—10:00 am
Good Grief Group—1:00 pm
Kitchen Band—1:00 pm

28
Bible Study—11:00 am
Bible Study—11:00 am

29
Family Craft Day—10:00 am