

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

February 2018

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Praying for a Way Forward

Following the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, a Commission on the Way Forward was created to address the gender issues facing our denomination. The 32-member Commission, appointed by the Council of Bishops, has the charge of finding ways for the denomination to stay together despite deep differences around gender issues. The Commission's report will be made public no later than July 2018.

After receiving the Commission's report, United Methodism's top lawmaking assembly will meet in a special General Conference to act on the report. That special General Conference will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis.

Before I go any further, it is my hope that LGBTQ persons would be welcome in all United Methodist Churches, including Orion UMC. Worshipping God in a corporate setting—and for that matter, Holy Communion—are means of grace and I would not want to hinder anyone from experiencing the grace of God. The communion table at Orion United Methodist Church is open to all persons.

Our denomination's gender debate really centers on two rituals involving clergy. First, is it permissible for a "self-avowed practicing homosexual" to be ordained in the United Methodist Church? Currently that is not allowed according to our *Book of Discipline*. However, there are many UM conferences which are ignoring that statute.

Secondly, can a United Methodist clergy person conduct the wedding of a same-sex couple. Once again, that is not allowed according to our current *Discipline*. Once again, though, there are many UM pastors who are ignoring that statute.

On Human Relations Sunday (January 14), I discussed the possible directions our denomination may take following the February 2019 General Conference. Most of my comments were drawn from an excellent article in the September/October 2017 edition of *Good News* magazine. You can find the article, "Is There a Way Forward?" at www.goodnewsmag.org. Author Walter Fenton portrayed the groups involved in the debate, saying they generally fell into one of three groups.

Rev. Fenton described the first group as *reconcilers* whose primary objective is to maintain the unity of the United Methodist Church, even if concessions were made for some progressive conferences, churches, or clergy.

He described the second group as *liberalizers* whose ultimate goal is to dramatically liberalize the UMC's sexual ethics and understanding of gender.

Fenton described the third group as *conservatives* who wish to maintain and enforce our traditions concerning gender and marriage.

I hope we can maintain the unity of the denomination. However, I do not believe we can resolve this issue without addressing our itinerant system of appointing pastors to churches. I urge you to be in prayer for the continued unity of the *United Methodist Church*.

Yours for the Mission,
Pastor Dave

P.S., To learn more about this issue, check out my January 14 discussion on my Facebook page.

Find Us on the Web

Our webpage is filled with a lot of information, and we hope you'll check it out. It is www.orionumc.org.

You can also follow Orion UMC on our Facebook page. Just search for and follow Orion United Methodist Church. Among other things, you'll find audio versions of Pastor Dave's sermons posted there; he's been "going live" on Facebook during a portion of the 10:30 services. If you aren't able to attend one of our worship services, then log on to Facebook and follow along. It is available "live" that morning, and it's also available to view anytime after that.

Our MAC also has its own Facebook page and you can find it by searching for Orion United Methodist Church Activity Center.

Finally, you can check out Pastor Dave's blog at davidrschultz.com.

Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

As Epiphany gives way to Lent this month, almost every week will feature a special emphasis. Sunday, February 4 is Super Bowl Sunday and Souper Bowl Sunday with our youth collecting money for the Orion Area Food Pantry. Communion will be served, and scriptures will include Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 and Mark 1:29-39.

Sunday, February 11 is Boy Scout Sunday, and we will celebrate the 90th Anniversary of chartering Boy Scout Troop #123. After the service, our missions team will host our Annual Chili and Soup Cook-off. Our scriptures for Transfiguration Sunday include 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and Mark 9:2-9.

Ash Wednesday is on February 14 with a short worship service at noon. Scriptures include Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

Sunday, February 18 is the First Sunday in Lent as Teacher & Staff Appreciation Sunday is celebrated. Scriptures include Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22 and Mark 1:9-15.

We wrap the month up on Sunday, February 25 with Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22; Romans 4:13-25 and Mark 8:31-38.

As always, scriptures for liturgists are underlined.

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Dave

CHILI & SOUP COOK-OFF

Please come and enjoy a variety of homemade chili and soup following the 10:30 service on February 11. You may participate in two ways – by making chili or soup and by eating it! Hot dogs, chips, and cookies will also be available. A free-will donation will be taken for Missions.

Please sign up if you'd like to make chili or soup.

This event is sponsored by the Missions Team

New Alternative Worship

A new worship experience is taking place in the MAC on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. The target group is young adults, but everyone is invited. This service is casual with readings and conversation around the table.

We hope to see a growing group of young adults during this hour of alternative worship. Please come and see what it's about! Everyone is welcome!

WALK TO EMMAUS

Men's Walk – Thurs., April 19 – Sun., April 22

Women's Walk – Thurs., April 26 – Sun., April 29

Please talk with Marilyn Berns, Jill Kosek, or Pastor Dave for details and information.

Church Directories Have Arrived!

If you had your picture taken for our directory, your directory is labeled with your name and is on a table in the lower narthex for you to pick up. Your 2018 giving envelopes are also available in the lower narthex. Thank you!

Boots on the Ground

Our February Mission of the Month is Volunteers In Mission which includes the ministry of N.O.M.A.D.S. Volunteers In Mission—known as V.I.M. in our denomination—are short-term missionaries who play an important role in carrying out the mission of our church which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Of our twelve areas of mission this year—one each month—this one is truly our “boots on the ground” mission emphasis as we support our own as they go out in mission. Support has included anything from air travel to supplies for construction or distribution and in the process, lives are changed. Best of all, the lives of our short-term missionaries has been changed.

Some of those whom we've supported in the past—and will support again in the future—include:

- YouthWorks Missioners
- Beth Carlson, serving in Haiti with Midwives for Haiti
- Sue DeDecker and Kathy Rohrbaugh, serving at Red Bird Mission in Kentucky

• N.O.M.A.D.S. (“Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service”). This is the ministry that Don and Marilyn Berns have been involved in for several years. It generally involves laypersons who go to a mission site—or to multiple mission sites—in their own RV's and provide all manner of volunteer labor. Don and Marilyn have never asked for direct monetary support, so we've chosen to support the parent organization.

If you are interested in becoming a short-term missionary, we want to invest in your mission. Also, anyone can become an investor by participating in our February Mission of the Month.

Coming Soon – Trivia Nights

Trivia Nights have proven to be an enjoyable and quick way to raise funds for worthy causes. Here are a couple of upcoming Trivia Nights in our area. Get a team together for a fun evening that includes helping others!

- 6 pm, Saturday, April 7 in the MAC. Pastor Dave is the trivia master for this event benefitting our own YouthWorks missionaries. Contact the church office to reserve your table of 8 for \$80. Doors open at 5 pm with walking tacos, hot dogs and beverages for sale then; trivia starts at 6 pm.
- 7 pm, Friday, April 20 at the Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities, 4450 - 48th Avenue Court, Rock Island. Tom Pasmore is helping to organize this event and Pastor Dave will serve as the trivia master. More information will be posted at <http://www.ctcqc.org/>.

We will serve the evening meal at the **Hope Meal Site** Feb. 11. Please contact Jill Kosek if you can donate food items or help that evening. Thank you to everyone who helps with this ministry of feeding the hungry. Your donations of food and of your time are greatly appreciated!

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Please join us on February 18 during the 10:30 service as we honor our Sunday school teachers and staff. Their willingness to serve is appreciated!

Sunday School Perfect Attendance for December

Nevan Browning
Lonnie Catour
Diane McCunn
Clayton Browning

Thea Seys
Derek Nelson
Hope Seys
Pastor Dave Schultz

Peggy Crayne
Sophia Seys
Noah Seys
Joy & Damon Seys

Dylan Nelson
Nick Browning
Faith Catour
Rachel Girotti

Adam Browning
Greg McCunn
Tara Miller
Marilyn Berns

Church Committee Information

If you have been asked to serve our church on a ministry team, it is important for you to attend those meetings. If you would like to serve on a ministry team, please contact Pastor Dave, chair of Lay Leadership.

Also, all team meetings are open to any member of the congregation.

Boy Scout Sunday

We will observe Boy Scout Sunday on February 11 during the late worship service. Orion UMC has sponsored Troop 123 for over 80 years. The troop members and leaders would like to thank the church and its members for the support they have received throughout the years.

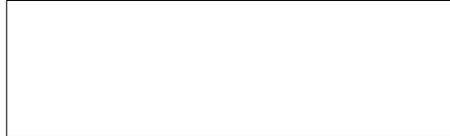
Summer Church Camp

Summer will be here before we know it, and that means it will be time for summer church camp. There are a variety of youth and family camps to attend. For camp information, go to www.igrc.org and click on "camping." The camping guide is also available in the high school classroom as well as on the IGRC website.

Youth News

Feb. 4 is Souper Bowl Sunday. The youth will collect money to donate to the Orion Area Food Pantry.

Youth Potato Bar is March 4 following the 10:30 service in Fellowship Hall. Meal donations will go toward youth events. Please join us!



**Orion Ministerial Association
Community Lenten Services & Lunch**

***Services begin at noon; followed by a light meal
at 12:30 p.m. A \$2 donation is suggested for
lunch.***

*If Orion Schools are cancelled due to bad weather, services
will be cancelled.*

Friday, Feb. 16 at Orion United Methodist Church

Guest preacher will be Fr. Jim DeBisschop of
Mary, Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church

Friday, Feb. 23 at Mary, Our Lady of Peace

Guest preacher will be Pastor Sharon Wilbur of Faith
Family Church

Friday, March 2 at Augustana Lutheran Church

World Day of Prayer with the program by Church
Women United

Friday, March 9 at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Guest preacher will be Rev. Reed Pederson of
Augustana Lutheran Church

Friday, March 16 at Beulah Presbyterian Church

Guest preacher will be Rev. Mike Lawyer of St.
Paul Lutheran Church

Friday, March 23 at Faith Family Church

Guest preacher will be Rev. Sheila Sheer of Beulah
Presbyterian Church

Blessings on Your Birthday!

02/01	Sandra McCreedy Ron Saunders	02/15	Kamryn Brown Betty Gainey
02/05	Derek Dykeman	02/20	Andrew Parks
02/06	Robert Schoemaker	02/21	Avery Noble
02/07	Dustin Hutcherson		Melissa Haars
02/08	Thomas Griffin	02/24	Arlyn Johnson
02/09	Charles Thulin		Bill Stoeber
02/10	Kaye Wright	02/26	Faith Catour
02/12	Eric Smith Joy Seys Hope Seys		Cullen Langley Hallie Lough
		02/27	Joseph Faulkner
02/13	Bruce Walker Sophia Seys	02/28	Karsyn McCunn Betsy Catour
02/14	Kayla Lough		

*Contact the church office to
add your birthday!*

