



TUMC Tribune

March 2019

From the Pastor's Desk...

“Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you, for the honor of your name. Amen”- Book of Common Prayer

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Last week, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church met for a special session. This session was held with the hope of breaking the denominations impasse over human sexuality. Since the founding of our denomination in 1968, the General Conference and wider church have been debating how to best minister to those who identify as part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The Social Principals of the United Methodist Church state that all persons are of “sacred worth”, while stating the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching.” The discussion and debate has become very heated over the years, particularly within the United States as attitudes toward sexuality evolve and change in our broader culture. There was hope that the General Conference would find a solution that will help our denomination live in peace. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

As I watched the conference take place, I experienced heartache for the denomination I was baptized and raised in. I witnessed infighting that I had

never seen before at a General Conference. At the end of the day, a plan supported by our bishops that allowed congregations to decide how to minister in their contexts was defeated. A plan that reinforced our denomination's ban on same-sex marriages and the ordination of those who openly identify as LGBT, passed and included stricter penalties than what is already in place. This "Traditional Plan" was passed despite warnings from our Judicial Council (the Supreme Court of our church) that a large portion of the plan would be ruled unconstitutional.

While I acknowledge that I am in the process of moving to a new field of ministry outside of the UMC, I am still a pastor under appointment, and I would be remiss if I did not share my thoughts as your current pastor. It is my opinion that the General Conference made a serious error in its decision. From a pastoral perspective, the decision made by the General Conference aggravated the wounds and continued pain that members of the LGBT community have experienced in the church. In my experience in ministry, I have met same-sex couples who have expressed a self-giving love toward one another that Jesus shows the church and the world. I have seen the Holy Spirit at work in individuals who are called to ordained ministry, yet they are not offered the opportunity to follow the Spirit's leading simply because they want to openly acknowledge their sexual orientation. The church has an opportunity to be incarnational and celebrate those in the LGBT community who live out holy lives and point to their example for others to see. Unfortunately, the plan passed at General Conference prevents this from happening. Additionally, from a polity (organizational) perspective, the church spent millions of dollars that could have been spent on making disciples to meet and pass a plan that will likely be ruled largely unconstitutional by our Judicial Council. This is truly poor stewardship of our resources and our time. I am truly heartbroken to see the denomination that formed me as a disciple come to this place in its history.

As I pondered feelings and thoughts, I was reminded of a prayer that I pray during Morning Prayer (see prayer above). It is a prayer for the church to stretch out its arms of love to embrace all people just as Jesus stretched out his arms on the hard wood of the cross. I pray that the United Methodist Church will stretch out its arms of love to embrace all people and allow them to fully know God and participate in the life of the church. It is my prayer Tabernacle and Chatsworth UMCs will be a place where Jesus cruciform love is experienced and realized. This kind of love can leave us vulnerable and challenge us, but as Jesus shows us, it is a love that leads to resurrection. It is a love that leads to transformed lives and a transformed world where we see glimpses of heaven before our eyes.

May we live with a love that gives honor to God's name. Amen.

Pastor Kyle



Lent Worship Series

God On the Move

Jesus didn't stay in one place for long. As he engaged in ministry, he moved from one place to another. He also moved through every part of the human experience, encountering everything from temptation, to joy, to suffering and even death. As we encounter Jesus on the move, we are also moved to grow and change as followers and imitators of the gospel. This Lent, join us as we discover that God is still on the move in our lives, walking with us every step of the way on the road to Easter.

Rev. Keeyoun Yang has been appointed to Tabernacle and Chatsworth UMCs

Beginning July 1, 2019

Keeyoung (Kee) Yang has been serving at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Bay Head for five years. Previously, he served at Pitman UMC, Appenzeller Nari KUMC, NJ, Long Island KUMC, NY and Hartford KUMC, CT. He received his Master of Divinity from New York Theological Seminary while studying at the Pastor Care and Counseling program at Blanton-Peale Institute & Counseling Center, NY. He is an ordained elder in full connection. He loves to play tennis, ping-pong, and golf as well as watch movies with his family. Kee is married to Grace (Kyungsuk) and they have two children, Daniel and Jenny.

Senior Fellowship Lunch

March 18

11:45 a.m.

All are welcome to join and bring
food to share!





Lenten Ecumenical Worship Series

Join us as we journey through Lent with our brothers and sisters in Christ from areas churches (address will be posted in the bulletin as the worship date approaches).

- Ash Wednesday (3/6) - Vincentown UMC
(97 Main St., Vincentown)
- 3/13- Buddtown UMC (520 Ridge Rd., Buddtown)
- 3/20- Indian Mills UMC
(89 Indian Mills Rd., Shamong)
- 3/27- Tabernacle UMC
- 4/3- Trinity Episcopal Church
(18 Mill St., Vincentown)
- 4/10- Oak Grove Presbyterian
(304 Philos Bridge Rd., Vincentown...VUMC alternate site)
- Good Friday (4/19)- First Baptist Vincentown (39 Main St., Vincentown)

An offering for the NICU at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia will be taken at each service. All worship services begin at 7:30 p.m. *Locations subject to change.*

Counting the Cost

"For which of you...does not first sit down and count the cost?"- Luke 14:28

A monthly update from the Finance and Stewardship Committee

Special Offering

March 17- UMCOR Sunday

This offering will go toward the United Methodist Committee on Relief to aid disaster recovery efforts around the world.

Summary Monthly Giving Summary

Annual Operating budget: \$141,469

Average Monthly Need: \$11,789

Average Weekly Need: \$2,720

February 2019

Weekly Giving:*

2/3/2018: \$2,302

2/10/2018: \$2,714

2/17/2018: \$2,064

2/24/2018: \$1845.91

Total Monthly Giving: \$8925.91

Average Per Week: \$2231

*Weekly totals based off of Finance Secretary's report submitted every week to the church office. Total includes special offerings, but does not include Capital Fund contributions or Love Fund collections.

Choir Schedule

Our choir will be singing on the following dates:

3/3/2019 at 9 a.m.

3/17/2019 at 9 a.m.



Join us for rehearsal on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. New voices welcome!



Upcoming Ministry and Committee Meetings

Ladies Aid- March 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Church Council- March 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Listen to weekly sermons on our website!

tabernacleumc.com



Sermons are also available for download on iTunes and
Sticher.



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