

THE CHIMES

Dates to remember:

- May Chimes deadline Wed, April 20th
- Sun, April 17th Rainbows & Rhymes Preschool program at The Gathering
- Sat, April 30th, Rethink Church 10 am - 12:30 pm

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April 2016

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FUTURE by Pastor Gary

One of the vows of church membership in the United Methodist Church is to support the church with your prayers. I am asking you to begin a season of prayer for the future of our congregation and denomination. Some good things are happening and we want to set our sails in the direction of the Holy Spirit's leading. We also need to humble ourselves and submit to God to overcome the many challenges we are facing.

In March, our Church Council met in a special session to begin a discussion to identify our strengths, concerns, opportunities and threats. For the past few weeks, our church staff (myself, Patty Bymaster, Andy Hayward, Paige Livesay, Leslie Peacock, Sherrie Lacy and Randy Neideffer) has been meeting to do the same. A follow-up meeting is scheduled in April where the staff will be making proposals to provide a way forward.

Please pray for our leaders, Church Council Chairperson Randy Hendrickson and Lay Leader Jamie Douglas, as they oversee this process. Pray for the members of the Church Council (Johnny Booth, Phil Wray, Eddie Bayless, Carsten Lemkau, Andy Biddle, Cynda Mellish, Linda Proffitt, Peggy Herzog, Rich Vogler and Myrna Vaught) as they discern God's leading as we consider the future together. Pray for our church staff in the season of uncertainty. Pray for our ongoing ministries so that they will flourish during this time of change.

We know we serve a God that can overcome all challenges. Matthew 19:26 says, "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" Imagine Jesus is looking at us when he says those words. No matter how difficult the road may be, God's redeeming work can be done in this place. Through a renewed commitment to our mission, along with the community of grace known as First UMC, God can help us to maximize our opportunities.

I plan to submit to the council, with the support of the staff, a vision for the future. A vision is a picture of what we hope to see in the future as we complete our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our work will become the property of the council and will become a blueprint to our shared future.

The governing body of the United Methodist Church, the General Conference, will be meeting in May to make some critically important decisions for our denomination and the world we serve. General Conference meets in Portland, Oregon, from May 10-20. The General Conference only meets once every four years and is the only body that can make changes to our rule book, The Book of Discipline.

I have listed those issues elsewhere in this month's edition of *The Chimes*. Please be in prayer. A daily prayer resource for United Methodists to pray together as we approach General Conference is available online. Visit 60daysofprayer.org and register to receive the daily prayers.

*First United
Methodist
Church seeks to
make disciples
for Jesus Christ.
We seek to relate
people to Christ,
connect people
to the Body of
Christ, and
reach out in love
and concern to
the world.*

Food for the FISH Pantry

Current Needs:

Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Spaghetti Sauce
Pasta
Cereal

**Donations can
be left at any of
the FISH Food
containers or
grocery carts
throughout the
church.**

**Thank you for
your generosity!**

PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Please remember to pray:

- For all connected to our church family who are confined to home or nursing homes
- For our TV Audience (9 am Worship)
- For veterans, public servants, police/fire/medical personnel
- For our nation, Christ's Church universal
- United Methodist Church, Sugar Creek Cluster
- For our congregation, our pastor, staff and the Rainbows & Rhymes families

Prayer concerns: Jane Titus, Gary Meek, Melba Rivenbark, Fred Foxworthy, Don Carpenter, Ernie Smith, Olivia Stevens, Janet March, Beth Wilkinson Redenbaugh, **Our missionaries:** Chris & Anna Pratt, Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) in Orlando, FL

Our Sympathies to the Family of Frances Smith. **Our Sympathies** to Joni Hutcheson and family on the passing of Jeanetta Harris

YOUTH NEWS

Spring has sprung which means everything is about to get crazy!!! Every year after spring break the students seem to get a little pep in their step thinking about how close we are to summer break. But, this is also a time when their activities are ramping up for spring and it seems they just keep going into summer! We've had a great March of ministry, get it... :) and we're looking forward to winding the school year down with the students. This month we had a couple of folks from our church come in and give their testimony to how God has worked in their lives and where they think God is growing them for the future. We've also had our first Unite Cville event where we planned a night (with three other churches) of worship and testimonies and we invited 13 churches to join us. We were expecting around 200 people to come and we ended up with almost 300! We're looking forward to our next event on June 5th where we'll gather again in an effort to unite the student Christians of Crawfordsville.

This month we'll be participating in the 30 hour famine! The 30 hour famine is an event where students (and leaders) come to the church for 30 hours and fast the whole time. The goal is to raise awareness within the student population to what it means to go hungry while raising funds to help. The 30 hour famine is a national program run by World Vision. The money that we'll raise will be sent to them where they will use it to not only feed those who are hungry in our world, but the money also trains those in poverty on how to have sustainable agriculture. Each day, more than 30,000 people die due to poverty related issues (lack of healthcare, balanced diet, etc). That's the equivalent to all of Montgomery County dying each DAY. We're choosing to be part of the solution. You can come alongside us by donating to the church (checks written to 1st UMC, world vision on the memo line) and praying for us as we come together to go without in order to give to those who need it more.





am. The program will be during the regular church service so come to worship and see some amazing kiddos singing their hearts out! We are also having a luncheon immediately following the service. An email has gone out requesting volunteers for the meal, as well as requesting everyone to bring a covered dish. We will use this time for our preschool families to become more familiar with our church family. I hope to see many of you staying around for the fellowship.

Finally, we will be having graduation for 24 children on Saturday, May 7th at 10:00 in the sanctuary. A celebration tea will follow in the fellowship hall. If you have time to stop in for the cute ceremony, we'd love to have you!

Blessings,
Leslie

Not sure about you but we are all ready for Spring Break! It'll be a much-needed break for students & teachers (and me)! We have been blessed with such great weather that we've actually made it outside to the playground a few times. We are also busy lining the hallways with fun art projects so be sure to check them out when you are here!

A reminder that we will be hosting our spring musical program on Sunday, April 17th during The Gathering at 11:10



PreSchool Graduation

PAUL'S TESTIMONY by Pastor Patty

Paul's witness and testimony is found in Acts which was written by Luke telling of Paul's own struggles. When you study his letters that share his faith and experiences you find him mentioning God's grace. His letters are powerful testimony for all of us to read. It gives us the understanding that maybe we too should write our own testimony to witness to others. You just need to start with how you became a Christian, what made you think about becoming a Christian, how God is working in your life now and how becoming a Christian changed your life.

I have found that there are times you cannot win the argument regarding the importance of believing with a few people, but I will also say those same people cannot win the argument over me either. I always have a counterargument. I have my own real faith experiences that present real life happenings. Paul gave real life testimony of the trials he endured.

Paul says God has revealed himself plainly in the creation to all people (Romans 1:18-20) and yet people reject even the basic knowledge of God. That would be an inner sense of what God requires but many prefer not to choose the way nor to live up to the standard of Christianity or even think about the words pertaining to faith. People suppress God's truth so they may live their own way. Christ called Paul, while he was traveling on the Damascus Road, to put aside his own life of dreams and to surrender to God. Paul's life was and is an inspiration to many people. God called and Paul responded. Paul Rasmussen, pastor of Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX has a unique way of asking his congregation from time to time, "What won't happen if you don't do what God has called you to do"

2016

REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN

CONTACT LESLIE FOR MORE INFORMATION

PRESCHOOL

3 - 5 YEAR OLDS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:30 - 11:30 AM &
12:30 - 3:30 PM

RETHINK CHURCH

WHEN:

*Saturday, April 30th
10 am - 12:30 pm*

Outdoor and Indoor projects will be available.

TO HELP:

Contact the church office at 362-4817

NEED HELP?

If you have a project you need help with, call the church office at 362-4817

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS...

CAVE QUEST "Following Jesus, the Light of the World" VBS

VBS is only a few short months away! Mark your calendars. Invite your friends. Beginning Sunday, June 19 to Thursday, June 23, we will become spelunkers and explore Jesus' love while playing games, experiencing bible stories, experimenting with science- fun gizmos and eating some tasty treats! We've got an awesome program planned for all! There is a spot for everyone on our team! We've still got lots of openings for volunteer spots and our online registration for participants will begin March 28, so go to the website <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/cvfumc>, email: plivesay@cvfumc.org, or call (765)362-4817.



WNL

With Wednesday Night Life winding down to a close for the season, we've already begun preparing for start up in the fall. We've got lots of exciting things to look forward to. We are going to begin having a Church Dinner on the first and third Wednesday evening of each month during the time that WNL is in session. We are forming 4 teams of 3-4 people who will prepare and serve a meal once every 2 months. We hope to have these teams formed soon so that our calendars will have these dates reserved and menus can be planned. With this new endeavor, we will need a couple volunteers to lead the Kids' Club. So, pray about this and please consider spending Wednesday evenings loving the Lord with some pretty great kiddos. If you want to be involved in meal prep, dessert prep, or Kids' Club just send Paige Livesay an email plivesay@cvfumc.org or call (765)362-4817.

Sunday School Teachers

I want to send a big shout out to Marilyn Myers and Julie Neideffer! These two are our faithful, committed and loving Children's Sunday School teachers. Mrs. Myers teaches kiddos preschool through 2nd grade and Miss Julie teaches the 3 through 5th grade class. These two are always here and always prepared to love our kids and I just appreciate everything they do! On another note, I am sad to say Miss Julie will be stepping down as Sunday School teacher after this spring. We need someone to lead our 3rd through 5th grade Sunday School. If you love God and love children this spot may be perfect for you! I would love to get the chance to talk with anyone who may be interested in serving in our church, so please email plivesay@cvfumc.org or call (765)362-4817 and let me know. It would be great to talk with you.

LIVE STREAMING, RESOURCES, AVAILABLE FOR GC 2016

If you want to learn more, explore, and follow along in the preparations before and during General Conference, the United Methodist Church website has a page dedicated solely to General Conference. It contains many videos, downloadable guides, and articles: <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>. There is also a downloadable app for smart phones and tablets. Videos of some of the pre-General Conference briefings for elected delegates are also available on the website. During General Conference, certain events and all main sessions will be live streamed via the website.

MANY ISSUES FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE

The governing body of the United Methodist Church, the General Conference, will be meeting in May to make some critically important decisions for our denomination and the world we serve. General Conference meets in Portland, Oregon, from May 10-20. The General Conference only meets once every four years and is the only body that can make changes to our rule book, The Book of Discipline.

Though there are many, many items up for consideration for General Conference in May, the major issues can be summarized in these categories: Social Principles, Clergy Matters, Church Structure and the Budget.

Social Principles

There are many, many, resolutions asking for a change in language and understanding on several important human issues: human sexuality, abortion, religious freedom, disabilities, sustainable and responsible investments, racism/xenophobia, immigration, creation and environment care, and finance and economics. There are resolutions proposing the removal of the statement that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teachings, for allowing same-gendered marriage to be performed by United Methodist clergy, and for allowing ordination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer/questioning (LGBTQ) persons. There are also many resolutions proposing that these do not change. The church has had provisions declaring homosexuality to be "incompatible with Christian teaching and practice" since 1972.

Clergy Matters

The 2013-2016 Ministry Study Commission, formed by the General Conference in 2012, is proposing significant changes to the process of ordination for elders and deacons, and more rigorous standards for licensed local pastors.

Church Structure

There are several proposals to General Conference for an overall restructuring of the global United Methodist Church. These address such issues as the size and scope of the Connectional Table (like a Board of Directors), the structure and accountability of our general agencies (global ministries, discipleship, religion and race, etc.), the structure and authority of our regional world-wide conferences called central and jurisdictional conferences, annual conference structure, bishop tenure and retired bishop relationships. The impetus behind these proposals is to make the United Methodist Church a truly global church. Many have said the United Methodist Church has been a very USA-structured and centered denomination.

Budget

General Conference considers budget recommendations for the spending of apportionments for the 2016-2020 quadrennial. Budgeted funds support seven general apportionments: Africa University Fund, Black College Fund, Episcopal Fund, General Administration Fund, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, and World Service Fund. The latter provides most of the funding for the denomination's general agencies.

2016 MISSIONS GIVING

Our church has given \$14,787.32 to support mission efforts so far in 2016. This giving comes from our Missions Endowment, Special offerings and individual donations. Below is a breakdown of those disbursements:

Montgomery County Free Clinic - \$450

Trinity Life Ministry - \$1,500

South Carolina Mission Team - \$1,500

Rural Mission South Carolina - \$1,050

Imagine No Malaria - \$150

Africa University - \$600

Half Way Home - \$1,805.66

FISH Food Pantry - \$450

UMYF Mission Trips - \$751.66

FISH Financial - \$450

Discretionary Fund - \$1,500

Heifer International - \$150

Food BackPack Ministry - \$300

Cru - \$750

New Day Charities (Abby Twarek) - \$300

Fletcher Place - \$300

Table of Grace - \$2,780

**First United Methodist
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Sherrie Lacy, Admin Assistant
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Marsha Smith, Choir Director
Cindy McCormick, Organist
Randy Neideffer, Maint
Sunny Lollar, Custodian

Service Times

9:00 a.m.

**Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary**

&

11:10 a.m.

**The Gathering in the
Fellowship Hall**

10:00 a.m.

**Sunday School with
classes for all ages!**

9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Take-Up-A-Cup in the
Library & Narthex**

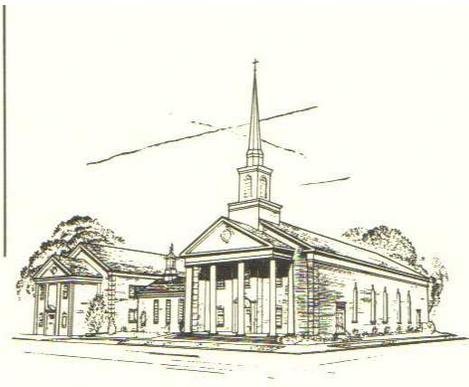
The Chimes

April 2016

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN**

DATED MATERIAL



2016 SOUTH CAROLINA MISSION TRIP

Plans are underway for our annual mission trip to the sea islands of Charleston, SC. Those with many skills or few skills are able to make a difference on our projects. Youth must be 14 to attend with a parent or 16 to attend alone - no upper age limit! Team members over the past years have found this trip to be a life changing experience in their spiritual journey. We welcome you to join us this year!

Trip dates are Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 12. Registration opened on March 29th (registration fee \$25). Watch for our other 2 meeting dates in April and May.

Please contact Cynda Mellish (clmellish@gmail.com or 376-2025) if you have questions or if you are considering the trip but were unable to attend our first meeting. Thanks!!

