

# The Evangel

Stayton United Methodist Church  
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## **Finding a way forward: The UMC and Our LGBTQ Brothers and Sisters**

In recent sermons, you have heard me reference the important decision our UMC will make regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ brothers and sisters. This February 23-26 in St Lewis, the specially called General Conference session will vote on proposals which seek to resolve issues around human sexuality and the church. I think it's important for you to know the basics of these proposals. Depending on the outcome of the Special General Conference, our United Methodist Church could enter into a season of wrenching schism, with some churches leaving whatever the new form is that emerges, or we could experience a tectonic shift as differing standards are set in conferences and churches across the denomination. There's a lot at stake. Feelings run high. Opinions about what scripture says, and how determinative it should be, run deep.

In 2016 The Commission on a Way Forward was created to make recommendations to the Council of bishops regarding how the church would treat LGBTQ brothers and sisters in the church. They met nine times over seventeen months, studied the Bible together, and consulted with United Methodist boards, agencies, institutions, and advocacy groups. They researched how other denominations have worked through similar conversations. In 2018, the commission provided a report with recommendations to the Council of Bishops. Below I have tried to outline the proposals.

**The One Church Plan is the plan endorsed by the Council of Bishops.** It would eliminate the Book of Discipline language, "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." Also deleted is the requirement that ordained clergy cannot be "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." Each annual conference board of ordained ministry and clergy session would determine its standards for ordination or certification, including standards related to human sexuality. It would allow but not require United Methodist clergy to perform same-gender weddings where legal, and allow but not require annual conferences to ordain LGBTQ pastors. Thus clergy, local churches and annual conferences could set standards and practices appropriate to their ministry context and exercise of conscience.

**The Traditional Plan, which was not originally recommended by the Commission on a Way Forward,** was later included. It affirms the traditional teaching that marriage between one man and one woman is the norm. "Self-avowed practicing homosexuals" would be prohibited from ordination and same-sex weddings would be prohibited, with strict, punitive consequences for those who fail to follow the Book of Discipline.

**The Connectional Conference Plan** is the most complicated of the three proposed by the Commission on a Way Forward providing for three overlapping conferences which share some services but have more theological autonomy. The Connectional Conference Plan would replace the five U.S. jurisdictions with three connectional conferences that are "values-

based” rather than geographic in nature. The denomination’s current central conferences, which are outside the U.S., could join one of the three U.S. conferences to form a global conference or create their own connectional conference. Each connectional conference would create its own Book of Discipline that includes items “commonly agreed upon by United Methodists,” with the authority to adapt other items not included in a General Book of Discipline. Of the major plans, it provides the most space for theological differences but has the least support due to the number, and difficulty, of the changes proposed.

**The Simple Plan** was not part of the formal proposals reviewed by the Council of Bishops. It would remove all restrictive language in the Book of Discipline to enact full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the life and ministry of the Church. Sexual identity and orientation would not be a standard for ordination. Same sex weddings would be allowed. This plan is the most inclusive. It is a grass roots effort with no official denominational support.

I would be happy to talk with you further if you want more information about the implications of these proposals. Please be in prayer for our church that we may walk in the way of God’s love and light.

*Pastor Janine*



### **The United Methodist Men’s Annual Valentine’s Banquet**

The annual Valentine banquet will be at The Trexler Farms Café on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. We will meet at the church at 5:00pm and carpool. Please sign-up by Wednesday, February 13th. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you may call Angel at the church. The cost is \$20 per person; single women over 80 will be free. Guests are welcome.

The menu includes Herb Baked Salmon or Beef Tri-Tip with assorted side dishes.

### **Movie Day Sunday February 10 at 3:00 PM**

Movie and discussion is at Jim and Mary Kruger’s house this month. Call Mary to let us know if you plan to come. The movie is *The Shack*. It is about a family who is grieving and looking for answers. The father hears God’s call to go to a deserted shack in the Oregon wilderness. He answers the call and it transforms their lives. Please join our group to watch inspiring movies and participate in interesting and timely discussions.

### United Methodist Women Activities

Ladies interested in crafts and fellowship, knitters, seamstresses, cutters, gluers, painters, ideas people, etc. will meet Wednesday, February 20, at the church to make items for the fall bazaar. Proceeds from the bazaar go to local, national and international projects which benefit women and children.

Please join us for this month's Ladies' Luncheon at 12:30 on Wednesday February 20, at Turn Around Cafe in Turner. For those wanting to car pool, we will meet at 12:00 at the church.

Saturday, March 2, Cascadia District United Methodist Women Every Member Enrichment Event (EMEE) will be held at Canby United Methodist Church. It is a great opportunity for those attending to learn what United Methodist Women is about and to share ideas of what it means to be a successful, spirit filled, mission minded unit. Please contact Carol North 503-859-3897 for more information.

Planning for the All Daughters' Tea will be happening in the near future.

### Assistant Nursery Attendants for February

3 DEANA PALMER  
10 PAT COLEMAN  
17 MARY FERGUSON  
24 CAROL NORTH



### Church Directory Pictures

If you have not had your picture taken for the new directory there are two more Sundays we can schedule you for. Sunday, Feb. 10 or Sunday, Feb. 17. Please call the church office at 503-769-5700 to schedule your appointment. If those days won't work for you, you may schedule an appointment with Angel during office hours, Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM. If you are housebound or unable to come to the church for pictures, please call Angel to schedule having a picture done in your own home. Our deadline for pictures is Sunday, Feb. 17th. We will be publishing the directory by the end of the month in February. Thank you for helping us make this possible.

### THANK YOU!

A big and hearty THANK YOU to everyone who stayed after church Jan. 6th to help with the tear-down of the "greens". Even though I get "a-twitter", I truly appreciate the fast and efficient work that was done to clear the church for the next event. It means a lot to know that helping hands are always available.

Gratefully, Judy Halse

## It's About Us



*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . . Malachi 3:10 (NRSV).*

*Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.' Luke 12:18 (NRSV)*

Isn't it amazing how God's rules turn out not to be for God's benefit but for our own enrichment? In Malachi, God tells us to bring our tithes into God's storehouse. We tend to think the command is because the storehouse (read as "church") needs our money. While the church does have financial needs, our giving is more for us individually than for the church. Giving saves us from the soul-destroying sin of greed. Consider Jesus' parable of the rich man planning to build bigger barns in which to store his increasing wealth so he could take it easy and not have to work anymore. His thoughts were for himself alone. He was determined to hang onto everything he could. He was being consumed by greed.

When we commit to giving, we embrace God's antidote to greed. And we find we are satisfied.

-- Don Robinson



## Book Study Group

Our February book is "The Mountain Between Us: A Novel" by Charles Martin. On a stormy winter night, two strangers wait for a flight at the Salt Lake City airport. Ashley Knox is an attractive, successful writer, who is flying East for her much anticipated wedding. Dr. Ben Payne has just wrapped up a medical conference and is also eager to get back East for a slate of surgeries he has scheduled for the following day. When the last outgoing flight is cancelled due to a broken de-icer and a forthcoming storm, Ben finds a charter plane that can take him around the storm and drop him in Denver to catch a connection. And when the pilot says the single engine prop plane can fit one more, if barely, Ben offers the seat to Ashley knowing that she needs to get back just as urgently. And then the unthinkable happens. The pilot has a heart attack

mid-flight and the plane crashes into the High Uintas Wilderness-- one of the largest stretches of harsh and remote land in the United States. As the days on the mountains become weeks, their survival become increasingly perilous. How will they make it out of the wilderness and if they do, how will this experience change them forever? "The Mountain Between Us" will reaffirm your belief in the power of love to sustain us. This book has been made into a motion picture starring Kate Winslet and Idris Elba.

Our next book is "Martin Marten: A Novel" by Brian Doyle. Dave is fourteen years old, living with his family in a cabin on Mount Hood and will soon enter high school. Adulthood and a future are not far off—a future away from his mother, father, his precocious younger sister, and the wilderness where he's lived all his life. Dave is not the only one approaching adulthood and its freedoms on Mt Hood that summer. Martin, a pine marten (of the mustelid family) is leaving his own mother and siblings and setting off on his own as well.

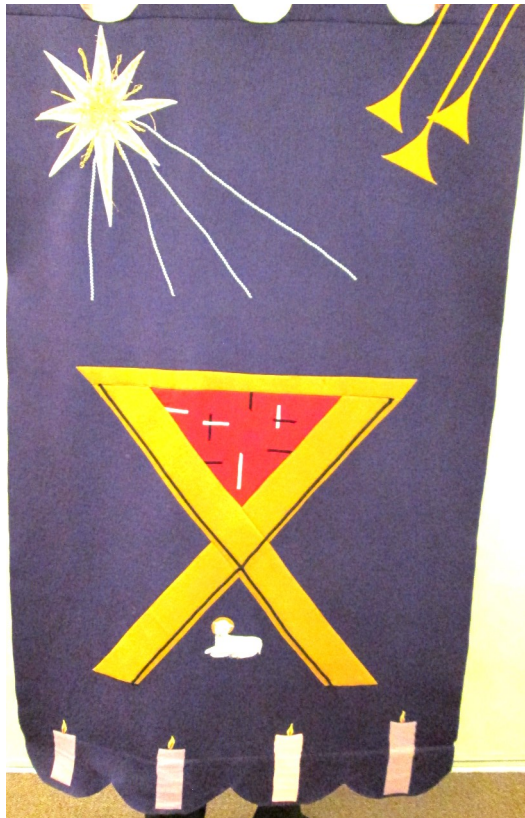
As Dave and Martin set off on their own adventures, their lives, paths, and trails will cross, weave, and blend. Why not come with them as they set forth into the forest and crags of Oregon's soaring mountain wilderness in search of life, family, friends, enemies, wonder, mystery, and good things to eat?

We will meet to discuss "The Mountain Between Us " on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 2 pm in the home of Jan Hofmann; note the earlier time for short winter days.

Please bring a small snack to share. Everyone is welcome to join us for this discussion or several. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Shirley Hardee or Irene Marchbanks.



## Church Banners: Advent & Christmastide



**ADVENT:** Season of Expectancy, including the four Sundays leading towards the coming of Christ preceding Christmas Day. Purple is the color used during Advent, signifying Royalty in the coming of the King.

The Advent Banner was commissioned by Rev. Hansen and designed and crafted by Audrey Tonn of Hood River.

**Symbolism:**

Star: Guiding light for the coming of the Wisemen.

Trumpets: Sounding note of joy and announcement.

Manger: Remembrance of the humble birth of Jesus.

Lamb: Introduces the sacrifice this mission would require -"The Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

Four Candles: Marking the period of waiting in the four Sundays of Advent.

X (Greek CHI): The end of the manger is in the form of an X, a symbol for Christ-Xpistos.

**CHRISTMASTIDE:** Season of the nativity in celebration of our Lord's birth which includes Christmas Day and two Sundays leading up to Epiphany day, or Twelfth Night, January 6th. White, color of purity and joy, adorns the chancel during Christmastide.

Christmastide banner, given by Ben and Leslie Nelson, is one of Audrey Tonn's creations.

**Symbolism:** The cross on this banner appears to be a St. Andrew Cross placed on an upright pole in the form of the Greek letter, CHI. The upright pole at the top suggests a shepherd's crook, reminding us of Christ's words: "I am the good shepherd".

**Budded Cross:** All of the cross members seem to terminate in a bud, suggesting the message of the budded cross: "Out of dead wood comes new life".

**Christmas Rose:** The idea of a flower has long been identified with the Christ Child. A German Christmas carol opens with the line--a Rose has sprung up. Its English translation is "Lo, How a Rose Is Growing".

Stanza four goes on: "This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere". The rose is also referred to as The Rose of Sharon.



## Church Banners: Epiphany

EPIPHANY --- is the season of the Evangel celebrating our Lord's outreach to the Gentiles. Epiphany Day marks the coming of the Wise Men. Green is the color of hope, life and nature.

THIS BANNER --- was first used during Epiphany at this church in 1977 and was provided by money from a general memorial fund.

THE DESIGN --- came from a Christmas card given by Melva Henry to the pastor, Arthur Hansen, with the hope that it be used for a banner. He commissioned Audrey Tonn to make an Epiphany banner using the design on the card. The stylized forms are intriguing and this banner is a joy to behold.

### SYMBOLISM:

THREE WISE MEN---"Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? Matthew 2: 1  
THREE GIFTS---GOLD is the gift for a king. Jesus was the "man born to be King".

FRANKINCENSE --- is the gift for a priest. It was in the Temple worship and at Temple sacrifices that the sweet perfume of frankincense was used.

The function of a priest is to open the way to God for men. The priest is the man who builds a bridge between man and God and made it possible for men to enter into the very presence of God.

MYRRH --- is the gift for one who is to die. Myrrh was used to embalm the bodies of the dead. Jesus came into the world to die.

MANGER---This calls for the remembrance of the humble birth of Jesus

STAR---The five-point star is used during the days of Advent - Christmas- Epiphany. The significance we attach to stars comes from the Bible. In the Old Testament, the coming of the Savior is referred to under the figure of a star. Numbers 24:17



## Church History Binders

The Church History binders are now back in the media room for easy access. The loose items to go into the binders are located in the cupboard next to the fireplace in the Fireside Room until a better location can be found. Questions?...ask Judy Halse.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Mission Statement:** As a spiritual community, our mission is to grow in our Love of God, Relationships with Others, and Service to the Community

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## **The Evangel**

The Evangel is a monthly publication of the Stayton United Methodist Church, with a circulation of over 225. Articles and items submitted prior to the 3rd Thursday of the month receive priority for inclusion. Others included on a space and time available basis.

Editor: Angel Miller

Support Staff: Kyle Rumley

Thank you to all our contributors.  
Become one!

The people of the  
Stayton United Methodist Church  
*welcome you!*



**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday - 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Pastor's Day Off: Friday  
**Sunday Schedule**  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Coffee Hour following the Service

**OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS**