

The Evangel

Stayton United Methodist Church
1450 Fern Ridge Road SE Stayton, Oregon 97383

www.staytonumc.org
e-mail: fumcs@wvi.com

Volume 14 Issue 4

April 2019

A Statement by the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team

Trusting in the Author of Life who understands the blessings of diversity we fail to comprehend, *Inspired by the nonconforming Christ* who teaches us to defy oppression in all its forms, and, *Guided by the Holy Spirit* who continually leads us by grace into abundant life,

We, laity and clergy, of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, as one body, deeply saddened and greatly harmed by the rending actions of the 2019 General Conference, reaffirm our commitment to a radically hospitable church in two converging ways.

1. **As United Methodists, we must resist injustice and insist that the Church repent of the exclusionary principles of the Traditional Plan.** We remain committed to the connectional ministry of The United Methodist Church and to working for an open and inclusive Church for all God's people. We understand that the unity God intends for us binds us not by uniformity, but by love, for God is love. Ever obedient to Christ's commandment to such radical love and extravagant hospitality, we cannot comply with the actions of the 2019 General Conference.

Instead, we will celebrate the fullness of God's creation in all its differences. In this moment we especially celebrate the lay and clergy leadership of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual children of God. And we will maintain the rights for our clergy and local churches to serve all people, which includes honoring the covenant of marriage for couples of all identities and orientations.

2. **Grounded in our Wesleyan heritage, we will foster a new movement to gather the energy of inclusive United Methodists throughout our global connection.** God calls us to recognize that a "new thing" is being born—a new expression of what it means for the Church to be truly inclusive. As we continue to search for ways to serve with integrity within The United Methodist Church, we offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness to the emerging movement, seeking to join others in realizing the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons today.

As we begin to develop this new thing, we divest from institutional patterns that perpetuate racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, and other structural sins. We remember that injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere, and seek to deepen our understanding of the intersections of suffering and hope. We strive to center voices from the margins in this new thing that God is doing. We will carefully follow more leaders who are people of color, young people, and our LGBTQIA+ siblings as we pursue God's "way in the wilderness" (Isaiah 43:19).

Our Response to this moment in the life of our United Methodist Church

The Mission Cabinet of the Western Jurisdiction, composed of the bishops, directors of connectional ministries, and leadership team chairperson, receives and wholeheartedly embraces the statement of the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team, recognizing in it the shared values of the West, and the longing for the home God calls us to share with all.

Many persons across the theological spectrum are feeling the deep pain of our beloved United Methodist Church. We have found much encouragement and hope in the actions and statements of like-minded United Methodists around the world including progressives, moderates, and conservatives alike, who no longer recognize the church they have long called home.

They are not alone. You are not alone. We are not alone. Inspired by these words and actions, we commit to partnering with others across our global connection in nurturing and developing structures to sustain the new life that is springing forth. Working together, forming diverse coalitions of grace and love, is what it means to be United Methodist.

Continuing our response to the harm of the 2019 General Conference and responding to the shared passion of the leaders gathered in Portland, the Mission Cabinet holds the following statements and commitments in common:

- If found to be constitutional and put into practice, the restrictive, punitive provisions of the legislation passed at General Conference will cause continuing harm to many, especially LGBTQIA+ members of the body. We stand in opposition to this harm because “if one member suffers, all suffer together” (1 Corinthians 12: 26) in the body of Christ. Even across theological divides, many faithful United Methodists understand that the legislation is contrary to our Wesleyan tradition of practicing God’s extravagant love and grace. We strive to embody this love and grace and seek to do no more harm.
- We affirm the courage and integrity of our Boards of Ordained Ministry who diligently inquire of our candidates for commissioning or ordination based on their gifts for Christ’s ministry as delineated in ¶335 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. We encourage our Boards to continue to base their examination on their understanding of our Triune God and God’s call rather than on sexual or gender identity of candidates for ministry.
- We affirm that Christ calls people who have different understandings of the Bible and Christian tradition to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4: 3). We will strive in this moment to be a church, the body of Christ that holds in tension our theological diversity even as we engage in dynamic, life giving and transformational ministry with and for all persons. As the Church has focused on the cries for full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people, urgent concerns of other parts of the body have not received the same attention. We commit to work to become a place where the voices of all segments of the Church who desire to live respectfully and peaceably together will be heard and honored.
- We are committed to provide a Safe Harbor for clergy in our conferences as well as across the connection who face the threat of complaints and/or the loss of credentials because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or ministry with and for our LGBTQIA+ siblings.
- We will support those clergy who, after prayerful discernment, choose to conduct same-gender marriages and those congregations who choose to host same-gender weddings.

- We will in our own pastoral ministries to laity and clergy continue to learn and grow in our understanding of the ways in which we have been “reluctant followers of Jesus Christ in his mission to bring all persons into a community of love” (Preamble to the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church). We commit ourselves to this journey of learning and growing.
- We also affirm that this is a God-inspired Kairos moment, and that there may come a time when opposing sides determine in the Spirit of Christ, that they cannot remain together. God may call us, in God’s own time, to create a new form of Methodism for the 21st Century and beyond. This new creation must be rooted in our Wesleyan tradition, embodying grace and founded upon God’s revelation in scripture. We are already listening for God’s voice and considering options in this regard.
- Recognizing that the annual conference is the “basic body” of United Methodism (§133, Article II of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church), we commit as ministry leaders on a jurisdictional level to working in committed partnership with the leaders of the various Annual Conferences of the Western Jurisdiction. As we prayerfully determine the appropriate next steps in our individual and unique contexts, we will carefully and respectfully listen to those with whom we serve, prayerfully acknowledging that although our pace may vary, we will lead our conferences to walk in the same direction.

As we make our way back home to create the Church where all are truly welcome, we invite you to partner with us. If you share our vision and our hopes, we invite you to join in the conversations that will be convened to listen to many voices and explore the possibilities for the future. Every United Methodist who shares our vision for a Church that truly, and finally, opens its hearts, minds, and doors, offering a home for all God’s people, has a responsibility to do what they can from where they are. We are stronger together! If you would like to engage with what we are doing, visit onechurch4all.org to learn more, send us a message, and stay in touch. At times when we pause to listen intently for God’s word for this moment, we ask for your patience. And as we move in partnership with others and with you, we ask for your prayers, even as we pray without ceasing for you and our beloved Church.

The Mission Cabinet of the Western Jurisdiction

The College of Bishops

Directors of Connectional Ministries

Chairperson of the Leadership Team

United Methodist Women Activities

This has been a busy month for our Stayton unit. We welcomed new officers on Sunday, March 17. Our **newly elected officers** are: Co-Presidents, Diane McDermott and Mary Kruger; Vice-President, Myrna Headrick; Secretary, Roma Stewart; Treasurer, Betty Fields. A big thank you to the outgoing officers, Judy Halse, Carol North, and Alice Halse.

On March 20 our United Methodist Women unit observed a **Call to Pray and Self-Denial**. The special speaker for the program was Cherie Girod director of the Canyon Crisis and Resource Center who enlightened us on how the center provides services and programs to victims of crime and violence and to persons in need in our community. The women attending enjoyed a delicious pot luck luncheon before the beginning of the program. The \$236.00 received in the offering will fund United Methodist Women programs and partners that support children and youth in need. The Canyon Crisis Center is supported by a donation from Stayton United Methodist Women.

A planning meeting for the All Daughters' Tea was held March 24. Please read this important information about the Tea in a separate article.

Bazaar Crafters continue to meet the third Wednesday of each month. **April 17, at 9:30**, all women are invited to join in the bazaar crafting fun. We will have our monthly **Ladies' Luncheon at Neufeldt's Restaurant in Aumsville at 12:30. Carpool from the church at 12:00.**

UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is March 31, 2019

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special UMCOR Sunday offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope.

Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover our costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

Because we keep operating costs under 10% of our total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, your support is channeled to under-funded programs, where they're most needed. They also may be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised.

Mission Brunch

Our annual Mission Brunch has been postponed until June 2 instead of April 7. There will be more information in the May Evangel.

Thank you,
Robin Strand

Nursery Attendants

April:

7 Pat Coleman
14 Judy Halse
21 Carol North
28 Maria del Carmen



Movie Day April 14 3:00 PM

This month's movie day is April 14. We hope you join us at Jim and Mary Kruger's house to see "Letters to God," a heart warming story about an 8 year-old boy who is battling brain cancer. It is based on a true story. He decides to turn to God as his personal pen pal and writes letters which touch the lives of family, friends, and the postman.

All are welcome, but let Mary know in advance if possible. Snacks (and Kleenex) will be served.



Easter Sunday Breakfast

Kitchen Team is serving cinnamon rolls for Easter Sunday following both services. Please note Refreshment Group K-M please help bring fruit or veggies.

Thanks to all for your support,
Claudia

The Britta Lion Franz Story

Shattered: Journey into a silent past A documentary by Walter Wehmeyer

Documenting a family's history and experiences of three immigrants who fled Nazi Germany. 4 years in the making, this a story of reconciling the past and finding long lost relatives. Please join in for a showing of this documentary on Thursday, April 11th, 2019 at 7 pm at the Santiam Hospital in Stayton.

All Daughters' Tea April 27th

“Travel Tales and Tea” will be the theme of the All Daughters' Tea to be held on Saturday, April 27 from 2-4 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall. At this year's tea we will have a spotlight on travel in Southeast Asia and our speaker will be our own Irene Marchbanks. An exhibit will be set up for viewing. East Asian and Southeast Asian items brought before April 24 will be shown in the display case. Stayton Public Library's summer reading program will receive this year's free will offering taken at the Tea. Child care will be provided for the afternoon festivities.

A sign up sheet will be posted in the Fellowship Hall April 7 for those wishing to attend this time of food, fun, and fellowship. Tea invitation cards for sending to friends and family are in the Narthex on the shelf by the main entrance. If anyone would like to donate door prizes please bring them (unwrapped but with gift bags) to the church and leave them in the container in the craft room by Sunday, April 21. Teapots are needed. If you can help with these items, please contact Claudia Johnson (503-859-2515). Set up for the Tea will be Friday, April 26 at 10:00.



Book Group

Our April book is “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens. The main story-line spans 1952 to 1970, following Kya Clark between the ages of six and 25 as she grows up alone in a shack in the swamp-lands of North Carolina after being abandoned by her family. She learns from the wildlife around her, gaining tricks of camouflage to evade truant officers and acquiring hunting skills to feed herself and catch mussels and fish to sell to shopkeepers in the town beyond the creek. For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted the town people. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead in the swamp, the locals immediately suspect the “Marsh Girl”. In addition to following Kya as she grows up in often difficult circumstances, this story is a murder mystery. All of us who have read this book have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Our next book is “On the Brink of Everything: Gravity, Grace and Getting Old” by Parker Palmer. Drawing on eight decades of life -- and his career as a writer, teacher, and activist -- Palmer explores the questions age raises and the promises it holds. “Old,” he writes, “is just another word for nothing left to lose, a time to dive deep into life, not withdraw to the shallows.” This book was written to encourage adults of all ages to explore the way their lives are unfolding. It's not a how-to-do-it book on aging, but a set of meditations in prose and poetry that turn the prism on the meaning(s) of one's life, refracting new light at every turn.

We will meet to discuss “Where the Crawdads Sing” on Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 2 pm in the home of Patty Martizia. 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.

The Lenten Banner

The season of Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon “lencten,” meaning spring and it is a derivative of “lang,” meaning long. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and includes the forty days plus the six Sundays before Easter. Our banner was a gift from the Charles Henry family from around March 1976.

Symbolism:

Three Crosses—remind us of John’s account of the Crucifixion.

Crown of Thorns and Nails—are symbols of our Lord’s passion. “O sacred head now wounded. With grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Your only crown.” Isaac Watts sums it up: “See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?”

Chalice—the chalice or cup in this context does not refer to Holy Communion, but to the great agony Jesus had to endure. Jesus referred to it as a “Cup.”

Palm Fronds—These symbolize the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. On this banner the fronds are placed so as to form an X with the Greek letter Roe added. From ancient times monograms have been used in Christendom. One of them is the Chi Roe, which stands for the first three letters of Christos. The Greek letter chi (ch) is written as the English capital letter X. The letter rho, is like the English capital letter P.



Eastertide Banner

Season of the Resurrection beginning with Easter Day and continuing for fifty days, in Biblical time between the Resurrection and the Day of Pentecost; six Sundays in duration. Our banner was given by Ben and Leslie Nelson.

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 Jesus' 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. Surely Jesus' cross has issued in life, through all the centuries.

The Cross—The most widely recognized Christian symbol is undoubtedly the cross. Some 50 types of crosses have been devised for church use. They occur not only as personal jewelry but also as art designs at church: on altar and pulpit hangings, in wood and stone, in stained glass windows, and atop steeples.

The cross on which Jesus was crucified like a criminal was once an emblem of shame. But Christians regard it as a symbol of honor, saying with St. Paul, that we should boast only "in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Gal. 6:14).

Easter Lily—Symbol of Eternal Life. With Christ's resurrection on Easter morn the Christian's faith is generally quickened, for "Now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun," as Paul Gerhardt has taught us to sing. Following the cold, cheerless winter of our sins there now emerges the springtime of our salvation in the risen Savior.

Among the many symbols of Christ's resurrection, the Easter Lily is undoubtedly the favorite and most familiar. For this, two reasons can be cited. First, the Easter Lily is readily available. It is a spring flower that blooms during the Easter season. Second, the Easter Lily is a flower of extraordinary beauty, its white color symbolizing purity.

The green leaves with the Easter Lily also suggest new life.



April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	2 9:30 AM Kitchen Team 3:30 PM Prayer Team 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Citizenship Class	3 6:00-8:00 PM Cascade Youth Group	4 6:30 PM Citizenship Class 6:30 PM GED/ESL	5	6
7 9:00 AM Choir Practice 11:30 AM Bible Study 6:00-8:00 PM Game Night	8 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	9 3:30 PM Prayer Team 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Citizenship Class 6:30 PM GED/ESL	10 6:00-8:00 PM Cascade Youth Group	11 6:30 PM Citizenship Class 6:30 PM GED/ESL	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Choir Practice 11:30 AM Bible Study in Fireside Room 2:00 PM SUMC Book Group @ Patty Martizia's	15 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	16 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast @ Covered Bridge Café 3:30 PM Prayer Team 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Citizenship Class 6:30 PM GED/ESL	17 9:30 AM Bazaar Crafters 12:30 PM Ladies' Luncheon 6:00-8:00 PM Cascade Youth Group	18 6:30 PM Citizenship Class 6:30 PM GED/ESL 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Service	19 Good Friday	20 10:00 AM Kitchen Team Set Up for Easter Breakfast
21 7:00 AM Sunrise Service 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Traditional Service 11:30 AM Bible Study 6:00-8:00 PM Game Night	22 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	23 1:00 PM Evangel Deadline 3:30 PM Prayer Team 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Citizenship Class 6:30 PM GED/ESL	24 6:00-8:00 PM Cascade Youth Group	25 6:30 PM Citizenship Class 6:30 PM GED/ESL	26 9:30 AM Tea Setup	27 2:00-4:00 PM All Daughters' Tea
28 9:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Bible Study in Fireside Room	29 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	30 3:30 PM Prayer Team 4:30 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Citizenship Class 6:30 PM GED/ESL				

April Birthdays

Gerri Hawkins
Diane McDermott
Shane Sheppard
Bill Smith
Charles Henry
Jim Kruger
Durelle Hudson
Deanna Palmer
Mick Bynum
Pat Coleman
Bob Ferguson
Claudia M Johnson
Barbara Jackson
Seth Elkington
Ernie Leffler
Vance Miller
John Phillips

April Anniversaries

Monty & Shannon Sheppard
Ralph & Cheryl Jachens

2
2
3
5
7
13
15
15
16
21
23
24
24
25
25
27
27

Coffee Hour:

Group A-F has the first Sunday of the month.
Group G-J has the second Sunday of the month.
Group K-P has the third Sunday of the month.
Group R-W has the fourth Sunday of the month.

Since we are just doing the simplified Coffee Hour we will continue to use the alphabetical system as is. Please provide just finger foods, items that can be carried on a napkin or small paper plate and require no silverware. Each Group is responsible for bringing juice.

Ushers:

Team 1 (Odd Months)

Jim & Mary Kruger (First Sunday)
Chuck & Erma Henry (Second Sunday)
Gil & Roma Stewart (Third Sunday)
Diane Pankonin & Bob Bushman (Fourth Sunday)

Team 2 (Even Months)

Niki Loewen & Ben Beltran (First Sunday)
Nancy Mathias & Jim Kopetski (Second Sunday)
Margaret Ables & Mike Palinkas (Third Sunday)
Pat & Zeke Coleman (Fourth Sunday)
Fifth Sunday: Durelle Hudson & Jane Kuenzi

LOVE Team & Nursery

April 7

LOVE Team: Irene, Shirley, Berdie

Nursery: Pat Coleman

April 14

LOVE Team: Durelle, Valerie, Charlotte, Margie

Nursery: Judy Halse

April 21

LOVE Team: Janet, Michelle, Betty

Nursery: Carol North

April 28

LOVE Team: Erma & Chuck, Mae Belle

Nursery: Maria del Carmen

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*

1450 Fern Ridge Road SE
Stayton, Oregon 97383
Web Page: www.staytonumc.org
E-mail: fumcs@wvi.com

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
Proofreading: Mary Ferguson
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 Days Off: Friday

Sunday Schedule
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour following the Service
OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS