

# Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church

*The Messenger*

*Volume 13- Issue 3*

*February 27, 2019*

## General Conference Update

Dear THUMC Family,

The special session of The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has ended. Just before the conference ended on Tuesday, the 864 United Methodist delegates representing countries from around the world adopted the “*Traditional Plan*” which retains the current language of the United Methodist Discipline in regards to human sexuality.

The proposed “*One Church Plan*”, which would have given each individual UM Church and Pastor the right to decide whether or not conduct same-sex marriages and each annual conference the right to decide whether or not to ordain openly gay individuals was voted down on Monday.

The “*Traditional Plan*” that was adopted (438 for and 384 against) affirms that while every United Methodist Church is called to be loving, welcoming, and in ministry with all people, it also believes that scripture reveals the practice of homosexuality to be “*incompatible with Christian teaching*”. Therefore, the UMC renewed its policy of not ordaining openly gay pastors or allowing its ministers to conduct same-sex marriage ceremonies.

In addition to maintaining this current position, two additional items were added under the “*Traditional Plan*”. First, it was decided that UMC pastors who defy this position and conduct a same sex ceremony will be suspended on the first offense and have his/her credentials removed on the second offense.

Secondly, a “*Gracious Exit Plan*” was passed for churches who disagree with the stipulations of the Traditional Plan and desire to leave the denomination. However, the details of this “*Exit Plan*” along with several other new items in the “*Traditional Plan*” are being reviewed by the UM Judicial Council in April to make sure they do not violate the UM Constitution. Therefore, the final version of the “*Gracious Exit Plan*” won’t be available for a couple of months.

As you might imagine, people have strong convictions on the issues that were discussed at the conference so the sessions were very emotionally charged. Now that it’s over, many United Methodists are pleased that the church maintained its traditional position on this issue and many other United Methodists are deeply disappointed that denomination’s position didn’t change.

As your pastor, I’d like to offer the following counsel and assurance as we move forward. First, I have already seen errors in press reports regarding the General Conference and some are from major news outlets. I am also already seeing a variety of posts and emails that are mean spirited, confusing, and divisive. All of this to say, please don’t believe everything you read and select your sources for news on this issue carefully.

Please know that THUMC will continue its long tradition of ministry as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Also know that I remain committed to leading our great church forward in bringing the good news of Christ to a broken world.

I continue to be honored and humbled to be your pastor. If you have any questions regarding the General Conference please let me know.

Grace & Peace, Jay



## PRAYER LIST

Al Nuckolls, Kathyne Middleton, Margaret & Jim Doyle,  
Sis Damron, Chet Dreschel, Mildred Dreschel,  
Ray & Pat Anderson, Barbara Vaughn, Shirley Gribble,  
Vera Nations, James Burroughs

THUMC's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts  
Brooks Lansing-Jim Lansing's Brother  
Sue Broome-Friend of Janice Helton  
Terry Corcoran-Erin Middleton's Dad  
Agnes Sutton-Kay Henderson's Mother  
Kenneth Tatum-Veda Nuckolls' Brother  
Raya Owens-Friend of Jada Barton  
Gabarb Vaughn Summers  
Breanne Locklear-Jo Anna Davenport's niece  
Marge Fox-Cindy Fehd's mother  
Brantley Dean-Friend of Julie Frisbee  
Peggy Cochran-Friend of Amy Roberts  
Whitley Brooker-Friend of Lindsey Roberts  
Orallia Hernandez-friend of the Middletons  
Richard Sharp-Friend of Stephanie Loggins  
Jackie Neel – Anne Monk's Sister  
Kinslie Marie Flowers-friend of Julie Frisbee  
Dolly Hamby-friend of Kay Jernigan  
Eddie Mac Sanders-Friend of Kenny Gowin  
Ricky Reed-friend of Amy Roberts  
Kyler Bass-Friend of Wendy Voiles  
Glen Dean-Friend of Susie Webb  
Agee Martin-Valerie Cleaver's brother  
Alyssa Talley  
Brecklynn Allgood  
Doug Mitchell  
Tina Taylor-Val Cleaver's Sister  
Carl Hooper-Friend of Amy Roberts  
Trish Phillips-Friend of Jeanine Clark  
James Breeden-Friend of Butch Middleton  
Virginia Campbell  
Teresa Evans-Friend of Amy Roberts  
Scott Hannah-Friend of Todd Middleton  
Betty Fetzer-Tammy Home's mother  
Jack Rhodes-Grandson of Linda & Gerald Pack  
Arlene Hooker-Friend of Gwen Maddox  
James & Lynda Quarles-Friend of Gwen Maddox  
Marilyn Brown-Friend of Gwen Maddox  
Ali & Jase Carter-Friend of Susie Webb  
B.J. Jarrett-Nancy Hampton's nephew  
Mr. Andrew Martin-Valerie Cleaver's uncle  
Cheryl Quarles-Friend of Julie Frisbee  
Mrs. Barbara (Bobbie) Phillips-Mickey Reed's sister  
Tina Taylor-Valerie Cleaver's sister  
\*Mrs. Dorothy Grimes-Friend of Erin Watson  
\*Jack Rhodes-Grandson of Linda & Gerald Pack  
\*The Family of Mr. Carter Boyd

(\*Denotes new additions)

To add/remove a friend or loved one to the Prayer List,  
please contact the church office at 706- 673-4022 or  
[thumc@optilink.us](mailto:thumc@optilink.us). Thanks!



### Thursday, February 28

7:00 PM Grief Support Group (FEL. CL.)

### Sunday, March 3

9:00 AM Choir Practice (S)  
9:15 AM Intercessory Prayer (Library)  
10:00 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship  
6:00 PM Parenting Study Group (FEL. CL.)

### Monday, March 4

6:00 PM Cub Scouts (F.H.)

### Tuesday, March 5

5:15 PM Girl Scouts-Cadets (Ch. Room)  
5:30 PM Juniors (YR)  
7:00 PM Boy Scout meeting (F.H.)

### Wednesday, March 6 – ASH WEDNESDAY

5:45 PM Mid Week Meal Served (F.H.)  
6:15 PM AWANA  
6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (S)

### Thursday, March 7

7:00 PM Grief Support Group (FEL. CL.)

### Sunday, March 10

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS  
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR**

7:30 AM UMM Breakfast & Meeting (FH)  
9:00 AM Choir Practice (S)  
9:15 AM Intercessory Prayer (Library)  
10:00 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship

### Monday, March 11

4:00 PM Young at Hearts to Cheddars  
6:00 PM Cub Scouts (F.H.)

### Tuesday, March 12

5:15 PM Girl Scouts-Cadets (Ch. Room)  
5:30 PM Juniors (YR)  
7:00 PM Boy Scout meeting (F.H.)

FH-Fellowship Hall

FC-Friendship Classroom

CB-Church Bldg.

S-Sanctuary

FEL. CL-Fellowship Classroom



The dates for the Oasis Epworth trip this summer has been officially announced! The theme this year will be "Hold Your Breath". This theme is a continuation of last year's message, though having not been there last year won't be an issue. What I ask of the congregation is to keep a few things in your prayers. We will be starting our service projects back in March. So, if you have anything that needs doing around your home or garden, please keep the youth group in mind! Also, we will be having fundraising meals

on March 17th and May 5th, with a bake sale on Easter Sunday! Spring is going to be a busy time, and we can't wait to see what God has in store!

Garrett Teems, *Youth Pastor*



There are only four spaces available for the upcoming Ladies Retreat in Pigeon Forge, TN on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

If you would like to attend please contact Becky Gowin as soon as possible at 706-271-7202.

The cost will be \$100 per person. \$50.00 deposits are currently due to reserve a space.

Please make checks payable to THUMC and write "Ladies Retreat" in the memo section.



To begin the season of Lent, we will have an Ash Wednesday Worship Service on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dinner will be served from 5:45p.m - 6:25p.m. as usual. Oasis students and Children, grades 2-5, are invited to attend the service. Children Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will follow their normal AWANA schedule and learn about Ash Wednesday in their class. Parents are asked to pick up their children from the Friendship classroom at 7:30p.m.

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS**

The Children's Ministry of THUMC continues to thrive and grow each week. We are indebted to everyone who serves in this ministry and especially to Sydney LaVelle who has been the Director of Children's Ministry for the last several years.

Sydney has gone above and beyond to make sure the children that are entrusted to our care are loved, cared for, and taught about the love of Christ. Not only has she overseen all of THUMC's children's activities on a weekly basis, she has also organized some of the largest off-site events that have ever been planned by our church for children and their families.

It's obvious that Sydney is a very busy lady and that's why I'm writing this note here in the newsletter. Sydney recently let myself and the Staff Committee know that her life has become even busier recently and that she needed to step down as THUMC's Children's Director. While we'll dearly miss Sydney serving in this role, we definitely understand and want her to do what's best for her and her family.

With this in mind, the Staff Committee recently met with and hired Jennifer McRae to serve as THUMC's Children's Director effective March 1st. Jennifer has been very active as one of the leaders in our Awana's Ministry on Wednesday nights and she has become very familiar with all of THUMC's Children's activities.

Please join me in both thanking Sydney for all that she has done for the children of our church as well as welcoming Jennifer as she assumes this new role.

Thanks, Pastor Jay

### **YOUNG AT HEARTS**

The Young at Hearts are planning to go to dinner at Cheddars in Chattanooga on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the church parking lot at 4:00 PM. If you are over the age of fifty, you are cordially invited to join us for a great time of food, fun and fellowship.

Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 146  
Tunnel Hill, GA 30755

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

**USHERS:** Chris Griffin, Blake Griffin,  
Garland Barnes & Larry DeFoor  
**NURSERY:** Ellen Dreschel  
**OFFERING TEAM:** Chuck Davidson &  
Brenda Hampton

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

**USHERS:** See Sunday, March 3  
**NURSERY:** Gidget Griffin  
**OFFERING TEAM:** See Sunday, March 3

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

**USHERS:** See Sunday, March 3  
**NURSERY:** Brittany Sewell  
**OFFERING TEAM:** See Sunday, March 3

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

**USHERS:** See Sunday, March 3  
**NURSERY:** Tammy Horne  
**OFFERING TEAM:** See Sunday, March 3

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

**USHERS:** See Sunday, March 3  
**NURSERY:** Sydney LaVelle  
**OFFERING TEAM:** See Sunday, March 3

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Weekly Budget Needed: \$5,130.00

**GIVING FOR FEBRUARY 17**

GENERAL BUDGET: \$3959.25  
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$1407.00

**GIVING FOR FEBRUARY 24**

GENERAL BUDGET: \$6239.84  
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$155.00

**ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 17**

Sunday School – 74  
Worship – 144

**ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 24**

Sunday School – 79  
Worship – 164