



The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse
Pastor

June 2019

Dear First UM Church Family Member:

We are living in unprecedented times that will shape the look and direction of our church for hundreds of years to come. Because we are at a crossroads, I want to give you a summary of all that has happened from February to now regarding human sexuality and the United Methodist Church.

Family Conversation 1

On Saturday 2 February, 65 people gathered for a Family Conversation that would prepare us for the United Methodist Church's Special Session of General Conference which focused on how to offer God's love to our sisters and brothers who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersexual and asexual. During the conversation I explained the three plans that would come before General Conference. One of these plans would become church law.

- The One Church Plan: Each United Methodist Congregation could decide whether to offer full inclusion (including marriage) to our LGBTQQIA brothers and sisters. Each annual conference would decide whether or not to ordain our gay brothers and sisters.
- The Traditional Plan: The ordination and marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals would be forbidden by the church. Clergy performing same sex marriages would be removed from their

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appointment for a year for the first offense and stripped of their ordination after the second offense.

- The Regional Conference Plan: Churches could align with conferences that most closely matched their beliefs regarding human sexuality.

General Conference 23-26 February 2019

The General Conference passed two major pieces of legislation:

- The Traditional Plan
 - o Forbidding the full inclusion of our LGBTQQIA sisters and brothers in the life of the church.
 - o Effective Date: 1 January 2020.
- The Disaffiliation Plan
 - o Allowing churches to leave the denomination with their property for reasons of conscience regarding the United Methodist Church's stance on human sexuality.
 - o Effective Date: Immediate.

Family Conversation 2

On Saturday 23 March 75 people gathered for a second Family Conversation that explained the results of the general conference (see above).

Judicial Council Rulings

Because the constitutionality of both plans was called into question, the Judicial Council (the Supreme Court of the UMC) ruled on both pieces of legislation during their 23-26 April meeting.

Judicial Council Rulings:

- The Traditional Plan
 - o Parts of the plan are unconstitutional, but the sections forbidding same sex marriage and ordination are constitutional.
 - o The penalties to clergy for performing same sex marriages are constitutional.
- The Disaffiliation Plan
 - o The entire plan is constitutional.
 - o For reasons of conscience regarding full inclusion of same sex couples in the life of the church a United Methodist Church may disaffiliate from the denomination if three minimum requirements are met:
 1. A Church Conference where a 2/3 majority of the local church's professing members present at the Church Conference vote to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church denomination.

2. Fulfillment of the financial obligations prescribed by the Annual Conference Board of Trustees. The obligations include:
 - Full payment of the prior year's and current year's apportionments
 - Payment of unfunded pension liability
 - Payment of grants/loans made to the local church by the Annual Conference.
 - Other obligations deemed appropriate by the Conference Board of Trustees.
1. A simple majority vote at Annual Conference of Annual Conference members (lay and clergy) approving the local church's request for disaffiliation.

Leadership Covenant Group

At the 2 May Leadership Covenant Group meeting the leaders of First United Methodist Church unanimously agreed that faithfulness to Jesus Christ means disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church so that we can freely offer full inclusion in the life of our church (including same sex marriage) to all people regardless of their sexual orientation.

Family Conversation 3

On Saturday 11 May 75 people gathered for a third Family Conversation during which I explained the Judicial Council's rulings (see above) and answered questions. At the end of our time together a straw pole (unofficial and nonbinding vote) was taken. 59 professing members voted for First UMC, Meriden disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. 1 professing member voted for First UMC, Meriden to remain in the denomination.

Agree on Jesus

While we as the First UMC Family are not in full agreement about full inclusion of all people in the life of our church, we are all in agreement that God calls us to offer the saving love of Jesus to all people and to invite all people to experience Jesus and His love through First United Methodist Church, Meriden.

Next Steps

Over the next several months the following will take place:

- At the **4 June Administrative Board meeting** I will ask for Board approval to send a letter to District Superintendent Alpher Sylvester requesting that he schedule a Church Conference at First UMC, Meriden for the purpose of voting on a motion that First United Methodist Church, Meriden CT disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

- o This Church Conference vote on disaffiliation would probably take place in October or November.
- On **Saturday 14 September at 9 a.m.** we will hold a final straw poll unofficial vote regarding disaffiliation from the UMC. The results of this vote will shape the actions leading to the Church Conference where we as a local church will vote on a motion to leave the United Methodist denomination.

Unchanging

While we may vote to leave the United Methodist denomination, our Methodist faith in Jesus will never go away. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, has given us an understanding of the Bible, a way of loving Jesus and a method for organizing the church that will stay with us always. Rest assured that our current local church structure, leadership system, boards, committees and groups, as well as our belief system and way of living out the Christian Faith will stay with us.

Best of all God is With Us

With all my heart I know that Jesus is guiding us. While the decisions we are making are large, consequential and uncomfortable, I know that Jesus is leading us to do what is right, good, just and beautiful. As John Wesley declared, "Best of all, God is with us!" Because God is with us, and because we are one in Jesus, our best days are ahead of us!

Affectionately,

Ric

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL



I've got the **JOY** in my heart! Coming Alive in Jesus.

Summer Sunday School begins June 2nd through the summer during the 10 AM worship service. Learn you when you have Jesus in your heart, this changes

how you look at yourself and the people around you. Children of all ages welcomed.

INFANTS & TODDLERS

Volunteers Needed for a new **Caring Ministry for Parents/Caregivers of Infants & Toddlers**. The Staff/Parish Committee has endorsed opening the nursery room for infants & toddlers (up to age 3) under adult supervision so that parents may peacefully & prayerfully attend worship without concern for their young children's safety & well-being. Nursery would be staffed from 9:45 A.M. until 11:15 or the end of church service. We hope to have a core of at least 8-16 volunteer caregivers, so that each person would only miss attending the church service once every other month. Please see Nancy Peterson or Lauren Rhines and sign-up on the NEW sign-up sheet in Roger's Hall! Parents would be asked to provide all necessary food, diaper items and toys for each child.

Current Needs For Church Nursery Care

1. One pack 'n play/porta crib
2. Crib sheets(s) & possibly a blanket
3. A good CD player along with a variety of children's CD's for background music.
4. A bulletin board (2x3', for example) and Velcro mounting tape to establish a picture board of both students & parents and volunteer caregivers.
5. Perhaps a rug if/when room is changed.

Consumable Supplies: Wipes, Boxes of Kleenex, Small garbage can bags, Diaper deodorizers for trash cans, Donations/materials to print off pictures.

HIPPIE DIPPY

June 23rd – During coffee hour

Entrance fee \$3.00 per entrant.

Entrant will provide an original dip for chips or vegetables. Each entrant will also provide dip or vegetable as needed for their dip. Standard ridged potato chip or broccoli florets will be available for entrants use on a first come first serve basis. Please name your dip and decorate a sign with the name (a hippie motif). Voting for the prize categories will be by ticket. Each entrant will receive three free tickets and three tickets will be provided to all who wish to vote by a donation. Multiple donations welcome !!! All funds will go to MISSION TRIP 2019

The prizes will be

Second Runner up Bell Bottom Bountiful Bliss
Runner up Psychedelic Sauce
First Prize Grooviest Grub



YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group is open for **all youth** from grades 4 through High School. All Junior & Senior High youth of the Church and their friends are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Jim Hazlett at 860.324.2588 or email at jhazlett1222@gmail.com.

June 2 Mandatory Safety Training - end at 2:30 pm

June 9 Picnic - end 3:00 pm

June 16 Father's Day - No Youth Group. But clothing collection deadline. After church help needed to load truck.

June 23 Hippy Dippy contest

June 30 Surprise Birthday Party

July 7 Swimming outing - return at 3:00 pm

July 13 Lock-In Begins. Ends 10:00 am Sunday morning. (POSSIBLE Strawberry Shortcake fundraiser.)

A TON of help needed.

The youth clothing drive goal is a ton of soft

goods this includes clothes, shoes, bedding, curtains, and drapes. Please bring in bagged items to the

church where it will be stored until the 6-16 deadline or bring in on 6-16 to help stuff the truck





CONFIRMATION

On 9 June, our Confirmation Class will publicly profess the faith into which they were baptized and become full and responsible members of Christ's Church. Please join this wonderful celebration of new beginnings for these special people who will give their lives to Jesus to join First UMC.

FOCUS ON WOMEN

Unit 4 will meet Monday June 10 at 12:00 noon for a pot luck luncheon. Bring a photo of yourself as a baby or young child. All women are most welcome.

A Spring Craft Show and Silent Auction

Sponsored by Unit 4

Do you need teacher's gifts, Father's Day gifts, or just a gift for yourself? Then come to our Spring Craft Show and Silent Auction. All items are handmade and a portion of the profits will go to the Youth Group of FUMC.

When? Sundays June 2nd & 9th

Time? 9:00 am - 10:00 am and 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Where? Roger's Memorial



Cut off time for the silent auction is Sunday, June 9th at 11:45 am. Hope to see you there! Happy Spring to all from Unit 4!

MEN'S NOTES

Brothers in Christ: Bible study, support & encouragement. The goal is to grow in our responsiveness to Jesus Christ in all aspects of our lives. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, 8:00 am at the Parsonage, 185 David Dr. If you have any questions or need additional information please see Hal Quigley. All men warmly welcomed.

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome *Joyce Bukowski, Dana Fowler, Crystal Gagne, & Cheryl Sansone* to our church family on May 12.

NEW SUMMER WORSHIP AT 1ST UM CHURCH MERIDEN

Throughout July and August Summer Worship will take place at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.. The 8:30 service will be an informal 45 minute experience. 10 a.m. worship will be a 50 minute experience. Children's Sunday School will take place during the 10 a.m. service. Please choose the service that best fits your summertime schedule. I look forward to being with you for Summer Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Summer office hours (starting July 1st and continuing through August) are Monday - Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Thank you.

DOROTHY BARNHART'S ANNUAL RECITALS

Saturday, June 22

First Methodist Church, Meriden

10:00 am - middle school and high school singers

1:30 pm - high school seniors through adults



You are cordially invited to attend Dorothy's student recitals, Saturday, June 22, held at First Methodist Church, Meriden: 10:00 am (middle school and high school singers) and 1:30 pm (high school seniors through adult singers)

Throughout the school year her students have been preparing for their school shows, concerts, Regional, All State and National Association of Teachers of Singing competitions, and of course their June recital.

The recitals are an opportunity for her students to share what they have accomplished during the year and their joy of singing with family and friend. They also get the experience of working with a professional pianist, Stephen Scarlato, who is known not only for his expertise but for his sensitivity and delight in working with young singers. The acoustics in our beautiful sanctuary make it the perfect venue. The receptions after the recitals give all a chance to meet and greet while enjoying punch and cookies.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Staff, Pastor, Parish Relations Committee(SPPRC)

At its meeting on April 23, 2019, the Staff, Pastor, Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) discussed the status of the General Conference's position on the ordination and marriage of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, intersexual or asexual persons.

Ric has been transparent in his stance that he will offer all ministries of our church to all people, regardless of the consequences brought to him. He has taken an active role in keeping the congregation informed of the decisions being presented related to this issue by holding two family meetings giving members the opportunity to ask questions, voice opinions and speak to him individually. In preparation for the final decision of the Conference, Ric has formed the Extended Leadership Covenant Group to map out plans for our church based on all options allowing our church to worship together seamlessly once a decision is finalized.

The members of SPPRC drafted this statement in support of our Pastor, Ric Hanse:

We, the members of the Staff, Parish, Pastor Relations Committee fully support the actions and decisions of our Pastor, Ric Hanse, in response to the decisions of the General Conference on the issue of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, intersexual or asexual marriage. We do so willfully and with great respect for our Pastor.

Roberta Dolan, SPPRC Chairperson

Nancy Salamon

Luke Henderson

Holly Wishart

Nancy Peterson

Simone Keen

Novelyn Cosmiano

Jerry West

Prayer Chain continues active and strong, and would love to be praying for your needs and desires. If you have a special need for prayer, please let our prayer chain coordinator (Holly Wishart) know so she can share your burdens and needs with those who are on the chain. Please make certain you have permission from the person(s) you are praying for, and then call Holly, 203-907-5725, or the Church office, 235-9620. You can also e-mail the office, fumc@snet.net, if you prefer.

MISSIONS

Fostering Love. Children placed in Foster Care receive from 1st UMC Church a backpack with an outfit, a toy, and toiletries. Thank you for your generous help. Most needed now: Pajamas – all sizes, all seasons. Also money donations to purchase toiletries.

A **Food Pantry** is available at New Opportunities, 74 Cambridge St, Meriden. Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Thurs, 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm. There is also a food pantry (**Ted's Pantry**) and breakfast at St Andrew's Church, 20 Catlin St on the 3rd Saturday of each month (next - February 16). Breakfast is at 10:00 am.

Caring Hands. We started knitting in July 2014. Since then we have lost 2 knitters and gained a few other's to knit and crochet blankets, hats, scarfs, mittens and shawls. Since our beginning have given 411 blankets to Midstate Oncology Group, Meriden, The Veteran's Hospital in West Haven and this year have added Middlesex Oncology Group. We have also knitted blankets for Fostering Love and countless hats for the veterans (some of which they use to cover their stumps) not to mention mittens and scarfs for our church's mitten tree. This could not be accomplished without the donations from our congregation. If you can be of any assistance (small or large) or you need a blanket for a loved one please contact Jan Richardson or Nancy Tracy. Thank You.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

June 2 – Team 7: Myrna Spencer, Karen Caproizzo, Linda Mizell, Jim Pearsall, Renee Pearsall, Mary Andersen

June 9 - Confirmation – Commission on Membership: JoAnn Myers, Chairperson, Juliette Buccilli, Michael Buccilli, Novelyn Cosmiano, Brenda Daly, Roberta Dolan, Joyce Ganon, Carmen Garcia, Jan Gawlik, Evelyn Mills, Sue Winchel, and Christa Green.

June 16 – Team 8: Ed & Nancy Peterson, Donna Oddie, Gerry West, Jim Hazlett, Sheila Mansolf, Ruth Petrucelli, Beverly Teixeira.

June 23 – Team 1: Sue Winchell, Barbara Quigley, Evelyn Mills, Stacy Morgan, Jane Ashton, Betsy Cole, Krista Green

June 30 – Team 2: Stanley & Sharon Kapustinski, Brenda Daly, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson, Stacy Harris, Karen Harrison

Summer Worship – beverages only.

July 7 – Team 3: Debbie Molloy, Novelyn Cosmiano, Susan Farquharson, Jessica Nelson, Steve Rittenhouse, Jennifer Janus

July 14 – Team 4: Ray & Rosanne Knapp, Jim & Sue Kostuk, Toni Merrill,

July 21 – Team 5: Nancy Coppola, Mary Alling, Kate Eglee, Bette Grasso, Mary Lavado, Tracy Wodatch

July 28 – Team 6: Deane Poirier, Alison Green, Maurice Poirier, MaryEllen Brechlin, Trudi Schott, Mark Fancher, Lauren Rhines, Ellen Fisk.

Briefs: We have openings for **Altar Flowers** for much of the summer. If you wish to donate flowers in honor of, or in memory of, someone please sign up on the poster in the Cloister at least one week before or call the Church office, 203-235-9620.

The **Deadline for the Summer Parish Herald** is **Friday, June 21st**. Please have your articles in to the office by that date. You can drop them off or e-mail (fumc@snet.net). Thank you. The Herald will be mailed Wednesday, June 26, 9:00 am from the Church office. Anyone wishing to help collate and label the newsletter is very welcome.

Upper Room devotional books are available on the table by the kitchen in Rogers Memorial. A small donation in the offering plate will help cover the cost. Large print copies are also available.

FUMC Facebook Page: Take a minute to “like” it and “share” items our Facebook page. If you would like something posted (advertisement of church events, meeting time, photos etc.) please contact the church office at fumc@snet.net.

Join us on the web! www.firstUMCmeriden.com Better still it is smart phone friendly. This is a wonderful new way for us to grow closer to Jesus and each other as a Church Family. Be sure to check it out!

Don't forget you can access our **Church Calendar** on our website at <http://www.firstumcmeriden.com/events/> This calendar has the most current schedules.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

We wish to thank all of our church family for helping to ease us through the loss of our beloved Tom Falcigno. The many prayers, cards and condolences have meant a lot to us. We especially wish to thank those who helped with the memorial reception for Tom: Kate Eglee, Myrna Spencer, Toni Merrill, Jean McCann, Jane

Ashton, Barbara Rogers, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson, Roberta Dolan, Trudi Schott, Barbara Quigley, Deane Poirier, Bette Grasso. Through Him, *Liz, Bart, Tom and Cindy*

Baptisms: May 12 – *Philip DeMerchant*

May 26 – *Eleanor Charlotte Johnston*, daughter of Andrew & Katie Johnston. She was born at Mt Sinai Hospital New York, NY on October 22, 2018

Weddings: May 4 – Mary Jo Coscuna and Blaine Preston Poirier

Hospitalized since the last Parish Herald: Ernie Rule.

June Birthdays:

David Parmelee	1	Donna Kilgore	9		
James Green	1	Wendy Callahan	10		
Rachel Pearsall	2	Amy Aresco	10	Leslie Schultz	19
Alyssa Kovach	2	Gloria Willette	10	Aidan Spencer	21
Julie Coggshall	2	Staci Roy	11	Wesley Cantliffe	21
Ty Lopez	4	Deborah Molloy	13	Erin Blecha	21
Jackson Rhines	4	Dale Blaisdell	14	Daryl Ellison	21
Christie Shields	5	Peggy Pope	15	Zoe Quigley	22
Dawn Szacik	7	Danielle DeCaro	16	Alexa Quigley	22
Danielle Lippold	8	Mary Alling	17	Layne Spencer	24
Alexa Beauregard	8	Alexander McLean	19	Zachary Anderson	28
Kylie Bacon	8	Victoria Doerfler	19	Meredith Hazlett	29



Adult Bible Study, Seasonally. Pastoral & Lay Leadership

Boy Scout Troop 52 Tuesday, 7:00 pm.

Brothers in Christ 1st & 3rd Saturday, 8:00 am, Parish House

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, 7:30 pm, Sunday, 9:00 am

Church School Children's Choir – 1st Sunday and Seasonal: 10:15 am

Confirmation Class, alternate Sunday's after worship

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sunday, 11:30 am.

Youth Groups, Grades 6- 12 , Sunday, 1:00 pm

United Methodist Women , 2nd Monday of each month and Special Programs

Worship Service & Church School at 10:00 am Sunday - Nursery provided.

Web Site: www.FirstUMCmeriden.com

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ	
2 10:00 am Worship Confirmation Class Peace with Justice Offering Mini Craft Fair Youth Group	3	4  7:00 PM Administrative Board	5 6 7 8 NY Annual Conference			7 Soup Kitchen	8 Eagle Court of Honor
9 Confirmation Pentecost 10:00 am Worship Mini Craft Fair Youth Group	10 Unit 4	11	12	13	14	15 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ	
16 10:00 am Worship Scholarships Awarded Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21 Soup Kitchen Deadline for Parish Herald	22 Recital	
23 10:00 am Worship Youth Group	24 Notify paper, change in hours. (Also, phone message)	25	26 9:00 AM Parish Herald Mailed	27	28	29	
30 10:00 am Worship Youth Group							

Kindly tear off and return to Church office. Thank you.

- () Please add/drop person below to mailing list
 - () Would like offering envelopes
 - () Would like to join Church
 - () Changes in Address, phone, e-mail...
 - () The person below is in the hospital
 - () Please pray for:
- NEWS FOR THE PARISH HERALD, COMMENTS, INFORMATION.

Signed.....

Mail should be sent to our 15 Pleasant St. Church office address. Please do not use the East Main Street address. Our E-Mail address is fumc@snet.net Phone: 203-235-9620

First United Methodist Church
15 Pleasant Street
Meriden, CT 06450-5702

“People judge by
outward appearance,
but the LORD
looks at the
heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7, NLT