

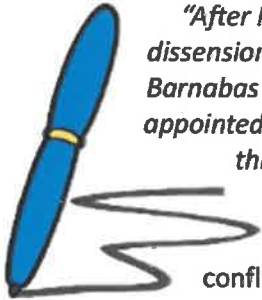


The Messenger

May 2024

First United Methodist Church
1339 W. 400 N., Marriott-Slaterville UT 84404
www.fumcogdenut.org ogdenfumc@gmail.com
801-393-5662 www.facebook.com/ogdenfumc

PASTOR'S PEN



"After Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders" (Acts 15:2).

As this Bible verse indicates, conflicts, big church meetings, and important decisions began very early in the history of Christianity. Within a few years after Jesus' death and resurrection, already there were concerns about what kind of people could be considered Christians. Specifically, there was concern over whether or not uncircumcised Gentiles could join Jewish people in Christian faith. Fortunately, at the council meeting in Jerusalem, those first Jewish-Christian apostles and elders decided in favor of openness and welcome to Gentile believers. After hearing how the Holy Spirit was working among the Gentiles, the Christian leaders declared that they saw no reason to "further burden" them with non-essentials.

As I write this column, our United Methodist General Conference is beginning its 10-day gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina. They will conclude their time of spiritual decision-making on May 3. Our denomination was represented by United Methodists from all across the U.S., plus the Philippines, Europe, and a number of African countries. At this time of writing, I don't know the outcomes. But these "3-Rs" basic priorities have been lifted up: 1) Regionalization, so that the U.S. will be treated as one of several regions instead of the center of the denomination as it has been since its birth in 1784. 2) Revised Social Principles. The 2012 General Conference called for the creation of updated social principles, that would be less U.S.-centric and more global in nature. Those revisions were carefully prepared for the 2020 General Conference. Due to COVID, however, the draft of those revised Social Principles was still awaiting a vote. 3) Removal of exclusionary policies against LGBTQ persons. Also anticipated were a much-reduced denominational budget and a change to the U.S. clergy pension plan to make it more sustainable into the future. There was

also a possibility that the Bishops would call for a special General Conference in 2026.

By the time you read this column, all or most of those decisions will have been made and we'll begin to know what our future as a denomination will look like. In the meantime, and as always, we United Methodists continue to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Serving Christ with you,
Rev. Kim

PS: Happy Mother's Day to all the moms!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:00 a.m. In-person Worship and via Facebook Live
10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:30-11:30 a.m. Nursery for children ages 0-5

PENTECOST SUNDAY—WEAR RED!



Everyone is encouraged to wear red to worship on **May 19**. This is to celebrate the day the Holy Spirit came like fire on the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. If you don't have red, wear orange or yellow.

Rev. Kim will be away on vacation, so David Barron will lead the worship service and preach. Thanks, David!

MEMORIAL/HERITAGE SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 26**, FUMC will celebrate Memorial/Heritage Sunday. That means we will dedicate memorials purchased over the past year and celebrate our 50+ year members of FUMC. If you are in that esteemed group, please plan to attend worship. Let us know if you need a ride. As a bonus, we will also receive a group of brand-new members that day!



CUBAN MINISTRY UPDATE



Thanks to those of you who continue to donate to the Cuban Ministry Fund! Due to the lack of progress on the

Cuban sponsorship program, we have used some of the funds to assist Yainier and Yusimi with their rent. They are still awaiting their legal work permits. (Our bureaucracy is very slow!) In the meantime, Yainier has been volunteering in the church yard one full day per week to help give back and show appreciation for our assistance.

Yusimi's son Maikel is still in Mexico City waiting for the CBP One app on his cell phone to tell him when it's his turn to cross the U.S. border legally. (CBP stands for Customs and Border Protection.) So, he is having to pay for rent and food there.

Yusimi's younger son Cristian still lives in Cuba with Yusimi's mother. He is high school age (17), but there is no academic education available to him. Cristian is only able to receive vocational training at this point. But there are very few jobs available, and the population is very hungry. So, when he turns 18, Cristian will likely set out on a journey similar to Maikel's.

Yainier's 32-year old sister Yisel and her 6-year-old daughter Alisson are still waiting in Cuba, as they consider the journey too dangerous for them. They keep hoping that Rev. Kim's sponsorship application to USCIS (U.S. Customs and Immigration Services) will finally be processed and give them an opportunity to fly to Utah legally.

MAY MISSION EMPHASIS IS UMM SCHOLARSHIP FUND



For the month of May all loose coins and designated donations will go to the William H. and LaDean Stobaugh Scholarship Fund administered by the United

Methodist Men of Ogden United Methodist Church.

Are you graduating from high school this year and starting college or already in college? Did you know that we, as a church, have a scholarship program for you? The Stobaughs were long-time educators and members of our church and this is their legacy. This year's application will be on the church website by early May with a deadline to have it in to the United Methodist Men NLT June 25, 2024. You can drop it by the church office or give it to one of the members of the UMM.

BOOK TALK

The Book Talk book of the month is The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah. Join us on Monday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Cheryl Thompson for our book discussion. Contact Cheryl at 801-389-9864 for further information.



SUMMER CAMPS AT PINECLIFF



Pinecliff Camp, an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church, is located 18 miles east of Coalville, UT, about a one-hour drive from Ogden. Campers will come to know and understand the God of creation. Campers will join cross-age family groups and same age cabin groups for activities. Explore God's presence in all aspects of life, meet old and new friends in singing, stories and sharing. Dates and costs are listed below. Camperships (scholarships) are available. Contact the church office for more information and registration forms. For more information about Pinecliff Camp, visit www.pinecliffcamputah.org.

Elementary Camp: (Grade K-6) July 15-18, 2024. Fee before July 1, \$200

After July 1, \$225.00 (Note: Kindergarten campers must have an adult stay during camp.)

Junior/Senior High Camp: (Grade 6-12) July 22-26, 2024. Fee before July 1, \$200.

After July 1, \$225.00.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - LEVITICUS

The Adult Sunday School Class meets every Sunday at 8:45-9:45 a.m. in the Wesley Room. The class is taught by Austin Barron. In May, the class will be studying Leviticus. Newcomers are welcome! Large print Bibles are available in the classroom.



STAFF VACATIONS

Rev. Kim and Office Manager Gail Jensen will both be out of the office during May. Rev. Kim will be away May 15-21, and Gail will be gone May 28-June 7. If you need help accessing the church building during those times, please be sure to call ahead and make sure someone will be here. If you need emergency pastoral care while Rev. Kim is away, you may call Rev. Paul Brunner of CUMC. His cell is 303-548-7503.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETING MAY 28TH AT 1:00 PM

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH plan a special Sunday in appreciation on Mother's Day, May 12, 2024. All women attending services will receive tokens of appreciation. United Women in Faith wish to honor vital participants - who are partners together in the total mission of the church: locally, regionally and globally. UWF will not have regular meetings in May, June, July, and August.



United
Women
in Faith

COMING UP SOON: Mission u (Sat. June 8, 2024) hosted by First UMC, Ogden, UT.

ALL ARE INVITED, congregation and friends, men and women. District and Conference teachers will lead study and activities focused on "Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation."

(See Flyer at End of Newsletter)

QUESTIONS: Contact Jennie Sambamurthi and Julie Coley (United Women in Faith)



We were just notified that during the first quarter of 2024 we earned **\$85.32** in donations from Smith's grocery and pharmacy. Thank you to the 24 households who have linked your loyalty cards to FUMC!

Smith's Food & Drug donates .5% of every eligible purchase made by participants to the organization their rewards card is linked to. If you haven't yet done this, please stop by the customer service counter the next time you are at Smith's and ask them to help you make these easy donations to our church.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In Children's Sunday School we are celebrating Spring by learning about the creation in April and May. You can read about the creation in Genesis 1-4 at home with your families and join us for Sunday School!

April 21 - Cooking

April 28 - Science

May 12 - Games (We will combine with the Nursery if needed for this week)

May 19 - Missions

May 26 - Storytelling/Drama

Thanks to all our Sunday School and Nursery volunteers! If you would like to help, please speak with Amanda Sorensen, Chair of the Children's Ministry Team.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship time host sign-ups for June are now available on the clipboard table in the narthex. Thank you, April and may hosts. The coffee and treats after worship services are much appreciated!



BEEKEEPING MINISTRY NEWS

Hello, members of First United Methodist Church. Thank you for "bee-ing" wonderful supporters of our beekeeping ministry for the past decade. You have been part of our mission to care for God's creation in so many wonderful ways. We have trained many on how to keep bees and the importance of pollination to our food supply. The bees increased the yield from our church garden to feed our homeless at the Lantern House. We supported programs engaging school children and adults, as well as produced wonderful honey and bee products for our honey sale. We developed a website for year-round sales and made donations of over \$40,000.00 to charities locally and around the world. Who knew when we began that God would use this ministry in so many wonderful ways?



Now we are sadly bidding our Queen Bee farewell as she moves to New England to be closer to family. Our legacy will live on in the backyards of three local new beekeepers to whom we have donated all of our beekeeping supplies. And we have made one final batch of donations as detailed below.

In Christ, the First UMC Beekeepers

Donations

\$510.00 Heifer International 17 beehives at a cost of \$30 each (this amount was matched by an anonymous corporate donor doubling its worth)
\$511.20 UM Missionary Kutela Katembo - Agricultural Mission in Angola
\$508.00 Youth Futures Shelter Ogden, Youth Homeless Shelter
\$508.00 Lantern House, Ogden - In support of Homeless Shelter Meals
\$508.00 YCC- Family Crisis - Ogden charity supporting individuals and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence
\$1,855.00 was also paid to Matthew Bell who managed the website.

SIGN UP FOR SUMMER MOWING



Lawn mowing season has arrived! Please sign up for weeks when you could ride the zero-turn mower to cut the lawn up close to the church building. Weed eating around sprinkler heads is also encouraged. The sign-up chart is on a clipboard in the narthex. If you need training on how to use the mower, please speak with Gary Phillis or one of the frequent mowers. We ask that you mow on Friday or Saturday of your weeks, so the yard will look nice for Sunday.



Dear FUMC,

Thank you for being part of Youth Futures family of donors! We are thrilled to have received the donation of \$985.43 on February 29, 2024. Your generosity provides runaway, homeless and transition-aged youth with safety, warm beds, hot meals, case management, and access to medical and mental health care. YOU are helping to change the life of every youth who walks through our doors.

For many of these youth, we are a lifeline, a place to find warmth, care and absolute acceptance and support. Thank you for joining us in envisioning a world where all youth have a safe, supportive and affirming place to call home in times of crisis. We sincerely appreciate your support and generosity!

Warm regards,

Kristen Mitchell, Executive Director

Dear Friends in Faith,

Throughout Heifer's history, faith communities have proven to be true partners as we strive toward our mission of ending hunger and poverty, while caring for the earth. For more than 75 years, people of faith have generously given time, talent and treasure to serve God's children who struggle with hunger and poverty.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your recent contribution of \$510.00 to Heifer. Your compassion makes a permanent difference in so many lives. Thanks to you, moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children . . . dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away. . . you are providing nutritious food, education and hope for the next generation.

Thank you for your faithful support. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

With gratitude,

Christy Moore, Sr. VP of Marketing
Heifer International



Ogden FUMC is hosting the UTWCO District. Everyone is invited to participate!

Mission u

“Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation”

Saturday, June 8, at Ogden First UMC

Mission u is spiritual and mission education. This particular topic will be of interest to anyone who prays the Lord's Prayer. Invite men, women, neighbors, friends, and folks from other denominations!

This live study will meet **Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** Cost is \$12 for lunch and snacks. There will also be an online Zoom option. Zoom registration is free.

Please register using the online form:

<https://mtnsky-reg.brapp.com/2024MissionUexploringthelordsprayer>

This study by Riva Tabelisma gives fresh eyes to the Lord’s Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord’s Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God’s kin-dom in our lives. (Yes, “kin-dom” will be explained.) Tabelisma invites participants in this study to step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line.

Pre-Event Gathering Time: 8:30-9:00 a.m.

Ogden First UMC

1339 W. 400 N., Marriott-Slaterville, Utah 84404

No study book is required, but if you wish one, **“Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation”** by Riva Tabelisma can be purchased at <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=9903&catid=2176>

Or you can order the Kindle version of the study book from Amazon for \$5.95 at https://www.amazon.com/Living-Kin-dom-Exploring-Spiritual-Transformation-ebook/dp/B0BT4N4DTR/ref=sr_1_1?qid=1705344130&refinements=p_27%3ANora+Simpson&s=books&sr=1-1

For questions, call Lora Fulton at 303-439-2129 OR email mrcumwregistrar@gmail.com.

For Zoom participants, an introduction letter with details about the event, including the Zoom link will be emailed during the week before the first session.