The Messenger

May/June 2022



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Pastor's note:

It is always hard to say goodbye to people I care about and cherish. We met together during the unprecedentedly challenging time and have shared many adventures I could not even have imagined and certainly was not ready for. We ventured into a new type of worship in the online space, and now we have settled in both online and physical spaces. We are still going through these Covid-restricted social interactions that limit us from engaging with each other the way we once were used to. At the same time, we have been swamped with new issues — race, ethnicity, sexuality, politics, wars, and many other that called on churches and all of us to respond rapidly.

In these exceptional circumstances, I met many of you who allowed yourselves to be vulnerable enough to open your hearts and make deep connections with me. I felt privileged to learn about your personal stories and struggles that taught me how God works in each of your lives. I have witnessed your loving hearts being readily available to touch the lives of those who are struggling and your dedication to God's callings and to your ministry for people. I learned a lot from you, who humbly serve the needs of the church without making yourself visible to anybody. You truly made me more mature as a pastor through your unspoken words and invisible actions during my time with you. Thank you for being there for me and being who you are.

In July, you will have a new pastor, and I will have a new church. Though we won't be able to connect together the way we



Sunday at **11:15** a.m. In-person & Zoom worship

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pastor Dylan: Mondays 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Fridays 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Lectionary Readings

May 15 / 5th Sunday of Easter Matthew 26:31-35

May 22 / 6th Sunday of Easter John 21.15-17

May 29 / 7th Sunday of Easter Acts 15.1-6

June 5 / Pentecost Sunday Communion Sunday 1 Corinthians 13.1-2

June 12 / Trinity Sunday John 16:12-15



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might want to, we will encounter each other through the Conference and other events as we are in the same Methodist circle.



Please continue to be the same faithful agents of God we have so often talked about. I am sure you will do great with a new pastor who will take you on a new journey. It's not going to be the same because every pastor has different gifts and a unique leadership style. Don't insist on the same old things you have become used to; be open to new ideas so that you can accomplish new and greater things. Trust the love in your heart that God planted within you. It was great to know all of you, and thank you for all of the love and support you shared with me.

-Pastor Dylan



Upcoming:



Church Council June 6 (6pm) via Zoom

Attendance:



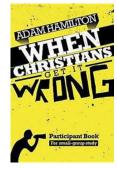
Looking at our attendance, we're growing! As you know, in-person worship has been a joy to see each other's faces and feel the love and care we have for

each other; along with visitors, we're growing. March total attendance was 60 making an average of 15 a Sunday. April's total attendance was 88 making an average of 22 a Sunday.

Keep up the great work; together, we can make a difference in our neighborhood! Renna

Small group:

Our last meeting is on Monday, May 23 at 11 am. We enjoyed our conversations so much as we learned from each other's stories. Please read chapter 5 for the discussion.



Contact Pastor Dylan for questions.

Pie meeting:

We are planning to re-launch our pie

baking that was discontinued during this pandemic time. The purpose of this is to recollect our pie baking muscles; focus on gathering people together to engage

with each other but not making a profit. We will have another planning meeting on Sunday, **May 15**, after church.

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Financial Report:

March and April expenses slightly exceeded income. We have sent \$1,000 each month this year toward apportionments. We operate with a reasonable cash balance mainly because of the 2021 Covid grant.

We had several maintenance issues that we used designated funds to cover. The furnace for the preschool wing had a blower motor failure. We are working on a couple of issues in the kitchen - the sanitizer and the display refrigerator. We also had the aged sanctuary computer fail a couple of weeks ago. We can fund these projects creatively.

We purchased a new mower for our landscaping needs using several funding sources. Nori Zeig was pleased to see the memorial funds given in Al's name were able to help with this project. She and I could see him riding around the yard, which he did faithfully when he was able. The recycling funds and another designated fund covered the rest. Your support of the recycling project continues to be steady.

Together, our small group of faithful members makes all this possible.

Mark



Pastor Gilbert on the new mower

United Women in Faith:

On April 9th, 2022, The United Women in Faith met at Sharon's home at 1:00 PM. We had treats, fruit, coffee, tea, and water. We ate, drank, and enjoyed each other's company! We then said our Purpose together. We read Psalm 103 as a response: "Praise the Lord, my soul." In this song to the Lord, nature serves as both a powerful contrast to God and a powerful path to God. We were asked to think and then share one thing we are thankful for in our lives -- one thing that calls us to delight in praise! It was fun to get to know each other better and delight in their praise! We approved the minutes of our last meeting and the financial report. Our next meeting will be at Deanna Johnson's home on Saturday, May 14th, at 1:00 PM. Respectfully,

Sharon Perez

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Blessing Bag ministry:

We went out to watch our grandson's football practice. There were plenty of houseless people camps on I205 by Foster and Powel Street. Ken and I decided to go back to hand out blessings bags during the daytime. We will have to make more because we have six primarily for women. We were surprised by many people who were camping alongside the freeway. We thank you for all your support.



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Care Team: Thank you to Sharon, who wrote 14 cards. I was busy with our daughter, Mollie, and our new grandson, who came into this world as a gift. We are joyful because of our beautiful grandson.

Deanna

How are United Methodists present in Ukraine?



United Methodists have both congregations and mission partners on the ground in Ukraine, offering hope, support and aid in every way they can.

The nation of Ukraine is included, with Moldova, in the Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, part of the Eurasia Episcopal Area, led by Bishop Eduard Khegay. This episcopal area also includes the Central Russia Conference, Eastern Russia and Central Asia Provisional Annual Conference, Northwest Russia Provisional Annual Conference and Southern Russia Provisional Annual Conference. These include the nations of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. There were 1123 professing members recorded across these conferences in 2017.

Methodism in Eurasia began with a missionary pastor from Sweden, Carl Lindborg, in 1882. He founded the first Russian Methodist congregation in St. Petersburg in 1889. A few congregations were planted in Ukraine prior to the first World War, notably near Uzhgorod and Ternopil, but of these, all but the community in Uzhgorod were shuttered during the Soviet era. The outreach that would lead to the current churches in Ukraine began after the end of the

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Soviet Union, which brought an influx and spread of United Methodist missionaries from the United States, Germany, and Liberia into many of the newly independent nations in the 1990s.

While numbers of United Methodists in the Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference are small (351 total across six congregations based on 2017 data), the congregations are strategically located in or near larger cities, including Kharkiv, Kyiv, Poltova and Chernivtsi, as well as the two breakaway areas recognized by Russia in Donetzk and Luhansk. This means that they are well positioned for outreach across the whole of the country and that several of their cities are among those most under attack at this time. Indeed, many in the church at Luhansk had previously fled in 2020 because of attacks by pro-Russian insurgents that hit their church building.

Global Ministries encourages United Methodists to give generously to UMCOR's International Disaster and Recovery fund to enable United Methodists and other mission partners on the ground to deliver support where it can do the most good.

We pray with the people of Ukraine and all those affected by this campaign of war against its sovereignty within its own borders, joining the words of Bishop Khegay, who published this prayer for peace in Russian on his episcopal area website:

Lord we know that it shouldn't be. People should not bear death. People should not be killed. People should not lose their loved ones on the battlefields.

Cities and villages should not be turned into a war zone, children should not be victims, and war should not be a means to achieve peace.

Lord, we need a new heaven and a new earth. We remember the world that You gave us, and mourn that we have lost it.

We all want to be safe. But our security is not in force. Spare us the ravages of war. Teach us the ways of peace.