

THE EVANGEL

May, 2016
Volume 21, Issue 5

United Methodist Church General Conference 2016



THEREFORE

Matthew 28: 19-20

GO

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

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SCRIP SUNDAY



Scrip Sunday will be on May 15th. Be sure to bring your order form and checkbook. For more information, contact Linda Miller at raylindamiller@comcast.net or 503-699-8628.



Articles for the June/July Evangel Newsletter are due by May 20th.

THEMES & SCRIPTURES FOR MAY WORSHIP

In each issue of the Evangel we run this month's scriptures and themes. We are doing this so you can look ahead and know what's coming and so you can follow along with us if you miss a Sunday.

Pastor Tim will be out of the pulpit four Sundays in May. His son, Nick graduates from the University of Portland on May 1st. General Conference will take his time and attention May 8, 15 and 22. The Bishop and the Annual Conference have graciously stepped forward and provided us with funds to pay honorariums to guest preachers and Sunday School Teachers for the adult Sunday School Class for the Sunday's Pastor Tim will be away for his General Conference hosting duties. Please come and support our guests and give them your attention as they bring God's word to us while Pastor Tim is away.

Sunday May 1, 2016 – 6th Sunday of Easter – Communion – Rev. Susan Hager-Smith Preaching

Theme: How to Survive in a Topsy-Turvy World - Make a Friend
Scripture: John 15: 9-17

Sunday May 8, 2016 – 7th Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day – Pam Robbins Preaching

Theme: "Hi Mom!"
Scriptures: I Corinthians 13: 4-7

Sunday May 15, 2016 – Pentecost – Rev. Michael Powell Preaching

Theme: "One Body?"
Scriptures: I Corinthians 1: 10-12 & I Corinthians 13: 4-8a

Sunday May 22, 2016 – Trinity Sunday – Rev. Susan Hager-Smith Preaching

Theme:
Scriptures:

Themes and Scriptures continued on pg 3

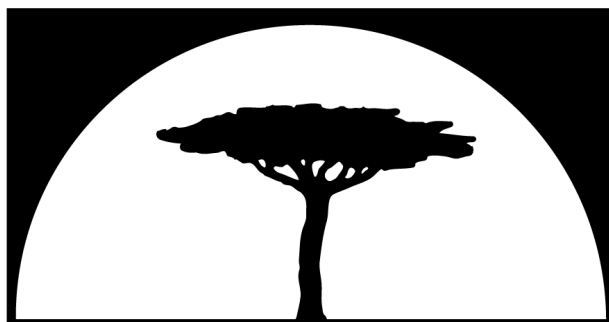
Themes and Scriptures continued from pg. 2

Sunday May 29, 2016 – 2nd Sunday After Pentecost – Pastor Tim Returns

Theme: “Where Is God?”
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 4: 39-40 & Revelation 21: 1-3, 9-14

Sunday June 5, 2016 – Communion

Theme: Earth – God and Life in the Dirt
Scriptures: Genesis 2: 4-9 & Luke 8: 4-8



AFRICA
UNIVERSITY[®]

You are invited to attend performances by the Africa University Choir. The choir will perform in several venues at the General Conference:

May 15 at 11:30 am Central Conferences of Africa Worship Service - Convention Center

May 15 at 5:00 pm AU Alumni Reception

May 16 at 5:25 pm AU report to the plenary. Convention Center

May 16 at 6 pm General Board Higher Education Ministry Night

CARES CORNER



In this feature of the Evangel we list people of our community who are in need of prayers. If you know of someone we should add to our list, contact the church office at 503-246-1213 or humchur@qwestoffice.net.

Special Prayer Focus for this Month: The General Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Host Team from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

Those we don't see as often as we would like:

Jeanette Novak
Neena Kirsch
Myrtle Jonasson
Sally Madden

Concerns of the Community:

Primary Election
College Finals
Air pollution
Gun violence

Concerns of our faith community:

John Chilgren
Rebecca Schappert
Tom Rust
Ben Whiteley

Concerns of our world:

Migrant Crisis in Europe
Earthquakes in Ecuador and Japan
Zika virus
Puerto Rico

The Staff Parish Relations Committee wants to stress that Pastor Tim is ready and willing to come for a visit, all you need do is ask. Call the church office (503-246-1213) to arrange a time or email Pastor Tim (vhumcpastor@qwestoffice.net) to schedule a visit.

Pastor's Column

What Is General Conference

As I will be heavily involved in General Conference this May I thought it would be good to share with you exactly what General Conference is, what it does, and a bit about how it works:

[General Conference](#) is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

- The General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination.
- The General Conference is an international body of about 860 delegates that meets every four years. The delegates are elected by annual conferences (at annual conference sessions) to attend General Conference. They represent all annual conferences around the world. Half of the delegates are laity (non-clergy members), half are clergy.
- Bishops attend the General Conference but cannot vote. Different bishops serve as presiding officers during the conference. Other bishops cannot speak unless permission is specifically granted by the delegates.
- During General Conference, delegates discuss and vote on petitions and resolutions proposed by individuals, agencies, annual conferences, and other groups within the denomination. These actions result in a revision of the Book of Discipline, the denomination's book of law, and Book of Resolutions, policies of the denomination on current social issues.
- It is at General Conference where delegates wrestle with today's issues in light of scriptural teachings and the church's understanding of that teaching. Here is where the church's official stands and church policies are made regarding such issues as human sexuality, abortion, war and peace, as well as determination of ministries and funding.
- As the top policymaking body of the global United Methodist Church, General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the 12.3 million-member denomination.
- During the 11-day session, delegates will revise The Book of Discipline, which regulates the manner in which local churches, annual conferences and general agencies are organized. The Discipline includes policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures. The assembly may modify most paragraphs by a simple majority vote, but amending the Constitution of The United Methodist Church requires a two-thirds affirmative vote, followed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in annual conference sessions. Revoking or changing the Articles of Religion or Confession of Faith requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates, and three-fourths of the annual conference members must concur.

Pastor's Column continued on pg. 5

- Delegates also revise the Book of Resolutions, a volume declaring the church's stance on social justice issues. The statements in the book are considered instructive and persuasive but are not binding on members
- In addition, the assembly approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years and elects members of the Judicial Council and University Senate.

Elsewhere in this issue of the *Evangel* you will find information about how to stay informed about what the General Conference is doing and how you might take it in.

Remember that you can still volunteer to help host General Conference – we still need people to staff desks in the 12 hotels associated with General Conference. To volunteer takes three easy steps: Visit www.GC2016pdx.org and click on the “First Time Volunteer” link.

- Register yourself online. Indicate the dates you are available and the areas you are interested in working.
- Shortly after you have submitted your volunteer registration application you will receive an email with instructions on how to access the Volunteer Website.
- Using your personal login to the volunteer management system, you can sign up for your shifts and update your schedule, etc.

If you have questions get in touch with me (503-246-1213 vhumcpastor@qwestoffice.net) and I will be glad to help you out. I'm one of the main coordinators of the GC2016 Local Host Team.

Pray for me, the Host Team and the General Conference! Remember to come to Adult Sunday School and Worship in May you don't want to miss the chance to hear from other folks!

Peace,

Pastor Tim

THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. THANK YOU!

You were one of the first churches that got on board and set a goal. Thank you for being leaders and supporting this cause! Thank you again for your support of Imagine No Malaria. Malaria's death rate among African children has been reduced by 70% since this journey started. Your gifts have saved lives. Thank you again for your support. Through you, God is doing more than we could ever ask or imagine!

Julia Frisbie, Field Coordinator
Emilie Kroen, Steering Committee Chair



With Pastor Tim busy at General Conference (see Pastor’s Column for details) we will have a variety of people leading the Adult Sunday School Class in May.

May 1 – Rev. Susan Hager-Smith and her topic: Post Christian: What’s Left, Can We Fix It, Do We Care?

May 8 – John Espy and his topic: Can Science and Religion Co-Exist?

May 15 – Rev. Michael Powell and his topic: How Can Folks of Different Political Perspectives Get Along?

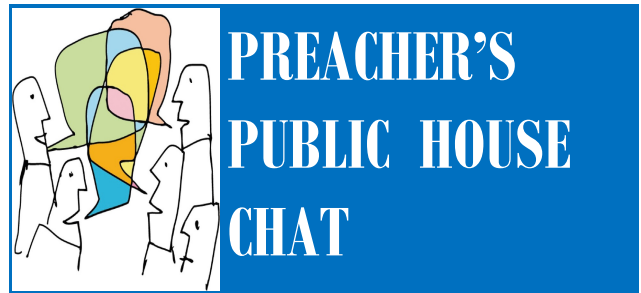
May 22 – Rev. Susan Hager-Smith and her topic: Christianity’s Struggle for New Beginnings: The Rebirthing of God

May 29 – Pastor Tim returns and we pick up our study and conversation around the book Grounded: Finding God in the World – A Spiritual Revolution by Diana Butler Bass.

Come join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Fireside Room at the church. The coffee is always on and the discussion informative, insightful and inspiring with a bit of fun mixed in. For more information or if you have questions contact Pastor Tim (503-246-1213 vhumcpastor@qwestoffice.net)



- 5/01 Cinco De Mayo Celebration
- 5/08 Mother’s Day Bake Sale
- 5/15 Silver Falls Hike
- 5/22 Games Hosted by Fryers
- 5/29 Youth Hosting Sunday School and Jr. Church



Pastor Tim invites anyone who would like to join together for a no host gathering at the Raccoon Lodge (7424 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Portland, Oregon 97225) at 7:00 pm on Tuesday May 17th 2016. We will gather for fellowship and conversation and might chat about the United Methodist General Conference and the actions and events that have been reported in the news. Here is a link to the United Methodist News Service so you can check out what’s happening at General Conference: <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016> This should be a good conversation as no doubt many things will be happening. So bring a friend and join Pastor Tim and company for another chat. For more information contact Pastor Tim (503-246-1213, vhumcpastor@qwestoffice.net).

Our next chat is scheduled for June 21st. As always, we will gather at the Raccoon Lodge. Why not plan to join us for this chat as well. If you have a topic to suggest for a chat let Pastor Tim know your idea.



There will be a Trustee Sponsored Work Party on **Saturday, May 7th, 10 AM—12 Noon** to take care of our church campus. Any time you can give is appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP FEATURE

Each month we include in the *Evangel* a series of articles that relate to our life as Christian Stewards and ways we can put our stewardship into action. Included here is also a report of our financial situation so that you can be kept informed about this critical aspect of the life of our faith community.

Newsletter Nugget

When the disciples asked Jesus how to feed 5,000 hungry people on a hillside, they felt the scarcity of the moment. But when Jesus invited the people to share what they had, all were satisfied.

There was enough to feed the people-and more! Won't you dedicate another 1 percent of your income for the purposes of God in the world? Won't you entrust it to the church?

God will turn it into blessings . . . chaplains in hospitals and prisons, with the military and on college campuses. Sunday school classes and youth groups. Lunch and Communion in a city park. Mission teams building churches, digging wells and planting crops. Flood buckets and birthing kits. Summer camps where children and youth learn they are precious and loved. Elders nurtured in a community of care.

Together we can do something joyful and amazing. Please share what you have with your church. Not all you have. A little more than you were planning to share.

You are the light of the world!

--Adapted from Bishop Elaine J. W. Stanovsky, Denver Area, Milehigh Outlook
[From United Methodist Communications](#)

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Ushers, Liturgists, flowers, etc: We need **liturgists** –folks who can read scripture, offer prayers and help with the service about once every two months. We need **ushers** – people who can greet folks who come to worship, assist them with locating a seat, getting a blanket, using hearing assistance, collecting the offering, etc. And we need folks who can bring **flowers** and arrange them for display on the altar for Sunday service. To volunteer and steward your gifts of time and talent call the church office (503-246-1213) or email Debbie at humchur@qwestoffice.net.

Don't forget the Trustee's Work Parties – Every month the Trustees host a work party usually on the first Saturday of the month. This is when all the little and big “to do” projects get attention in order to keep our campus clean, neat and well cared for. Come as you can, any time and help is appreciated.

Back Packs – once again we will be providing weekend food back packs for kids at Hayhurst School. We need folks who can pack the back packs, deliver them to the school, pick up empty back packs and bring them to the church. Contact Pam Yuzon (503-620-8790 yuzon9@aol.com) if you can help with this vital program.

The Auction Thanks – Thank you to all who helped make our annual auction another great success and to everyone who donated items, bid and bought.

Stewardship Feature continued on pg. 8

Financial Update

We are in the time between; the time between the carryover from last year and the income from the auction and Endowment Fund. What this means is that we are current on all bills, salaries, Shared Ministry Apportionments, etc but have very little left in the bank (At the end of March the checking account balance was just a hair under \$1,900).

This is normal for us as we go through a financial cycle of highs and lows. We operate at an income deficit most months – this means we do not take in enough income in any certain months to cover that’s month’s expenses. We manage financially because in certain months of the year we have far more income than we do expenses. These are months where we have the Auction, get our twice yearly interest payment from the Endowment, and the income from our Fellowship Trip. Through these occasional fundraisers and interest income we balance out financially over the long term.

But a key component to our financial survival is your regular giving. This is the bread and butter of our income month in and month out. It fills the financial coffers to a level that allows for these occasional fundraisers and interest income to push us over the limit to afford our missions and ministries. Thank you for supporting God and our church! You continue to practice faithful stewardship and it shows in what we are able to do as a community of faith.

P.S. Thank you for your generous involvement in our Annual Auction. You are the best!



Mark Schofer	5/01	Joy Wegner	5/15
Petter Overton-Harris	5/01	Odin Moran	5/16
Jessica Karman	5/02	Justin Benjamin	5/17
Kay Petersen	5/04	Jessica Fryer	5/19
Dottie Alsman	5/06	Pam Yuzon	5/22
Hallie Rathfelder	5/06	Marilyn Christie	5/26
David Tanner	5/08	Katlynn Hedgecock	5/31

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 1

Ushers: Jim Van Nest, Scott Wegner
Worship Leader: John Espy
Coffee: Jessica and Mike Fryer
Junior Church: Dori Killion
Flowers: Anne Begg

May 8

Ushers: Bob Bothman, Tom Benjamin
Worship Leader: John Espy
Coffee: Dori Killion and Kelly Eden
Junior Church: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: ***Volunteer Needed***

May 15

Ushers: Ramona Alsman, Dori Killion, Pat Crawford, Jeanette Novak
Worship Leader: Jenna Schofer
Liturgist: Mike Fryer
Coffee: Laura and Mike Reunert
Junior Church: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: ***Volunteer Needed***

May 22

Ushers: Ben Whiteley, John Chilgren
Worship Leader: Jenna Schofer
Coffee: Linda Miller and Donna Benjamin
Junior Church: ***Volunteer Needed***
Flowers: Grace Holbrook

May 29

Ushers: Linda Miller, Grace Holbrook, Jenna Schofer
Liturgist: ***Volunteer Needed***
Coffee: Jenna and Mark Schofer
Junior Church: Youth Group
Flowers: ***Volunteer Needed***

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

A once in a generation event is happening May 10-20 at the Oregon Convention Center – The General Conference of the United Methodist Church gathers and meets. In the Pastor's column you can find out what General Conference is and how it works. But here you can find ways to engage General Conference.

How to be connected

There are several sources for news about General Conference:

- Each day of conference there will be an email of Oregon-Idaho news

Members of the Oregon-Idaho delegation have been [writing blog posts](#) about General Conference GC2016.umc.org is the starting place for General Conference information on the United Methodist Church website.

- You can download the official GC 2016 app to your smartphone.

Follow the [Oregon-Idaho Facebook](#) and [Twitter \(@umoi\)](#) for feeds pictures, videos, breaking news and activities at General Conference.

When is the best time to visit General Conference?

That's hard to say. It depends if you want to see amazing worship, the details of the legislative process, reports on the ministry of the church, or floor debate on critical issues (and some not so critical). And the schedule of General Conference can change during the week. But here are some key things to watch for:

- Opening worship will be a special time. Tuesday, May 10, 2:00-3:30 p.m. (Get there early for good seats).
- Morning worship each day.
- Episcopal Address. Wednesday, May 11, 8:30 a.m.
- Consecration of Deaconesses and Home Missioners, May 16, 8:00 a.m.
- Missionary Commissioning, May 19, 8:00 a.m.

Learn the words

General Conference has a language all of its own. To follow along in person, or via live streaming video, you need to know the code. Keeping straight the DCA, the PIC, the minority report, and the consent calendar can be easier with a guide. And you might think CALMS is a way of talking to each other, but it's not. [Learn more on this umc.org webpage.](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the world-wide United Methodist Church.