

Weekly Newsletter

APRIL 25, 2024



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

General Conference

The United Methodist Church has no pope. But it does have a General Conference, the only body that can set official policy and speak for the international denomination called The United Methodist Church.

General Conference (GC) is comprised of ½ lay and ½ clergy delegates from four continents whose decisions will affect how millions of United Methodists do church for years to come. These 862 delegates have been elected at the Annual Conferences (smaller connections organized along geographic lines) all over the world. The Missouri Conference of The United Methodist Church has a 12-person delegation, 6 clergy and 6 laypersons, who will be representing our Conference.

The work of the GC for the first week of the two-week gathering is to review petitions for change to our Book of Discipline. The Book of Discipline states that any United Methodist organization, clergy member or lay member may submit a General Conference petition, basically the United Methodist equivalent of a bill before a legislature. The GC also sets the budget for the denomination for the next four years. The second week is a time of voting on those petitions that have gotten out of committee and are presented to the GC.

The General Conference is scheduled from April 23 to May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina and is currently underway. It comes at a particularly momentous time.

General Conference typically gathers every four years. But because of the COVID pandemic, the assembly could not meet in 2020. That means the last regular session was in May 2016, nearly eight years ago. A specially-called General Conference to deal exclusively with issues of human sexuality was held in St. Louis, Missouri in 2019. Unfortunately, rather than finding a middle ground, the breach between conservatives and liberals widened.

Since then, our denomination has seen a significant number of churches leave (disaffiliate) because of theological differences related to issues of human sexuality. Some of these disaffiliated churches joined a new more theologically conservative denomination, Global Methodist Church. Many others have chosen not to affiliate with any existing group, but to move forward independently. The remainder, and the majority, of the churches are moving forward together as The United Methodist Church. Proudly, Webster United Methodist is one of them.



In early March, Bishop Bob Farr shared the basics of how General Conference functions and some of the key issues likely to come before the body. Specifically, he highlighted regionalization, inclusion, and potential retirement plan changes. For more details, watch the recording at [Postponed General Conference Preview with Bishop Bob Farr on Vimeo](#). You may also subscribe to receive General Conference updates and newsletter at www.moumethodist.org/gcandjc.

There is great hope that this GC will begin the work of removing the hurtful and exclusionary language in the Social Principles relating to members of the LGBT community, paving the way for full inclusion in the mission and leadership of our church. Whatever the outcomes of the General Conference, any changes to our Book of Discipline must then be ratified by the Annual Conferences before becoming a part of the fabric of our global connection.

Stay tuned, folks; it promises to be a uniquely historic gathering as the people of The United Methodist Church continue to re-define what it means to be the Body of Christ together.

Grace & peace +

PASTOR SHARON



Here's a link to follow the news of the General Conference: Click [HERE](#)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Merv Wright; Dennis Sarich; Margo Petracek; Barb Sarich; Ron & Dianne Wallace; Bev Mesey; Byron Long (Cindy Andrews); Mike Reilly (Debbie Lund); Beth Druhl, Marian Junge, & Marcia Thompson (Marcia Kennon); and world peace.



TRIVIA NIGHT

TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP
TO COPPERHILL, TN THIS SUMMER

APRIL
27TH,
2024

THEME
ST. LOUIS



DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM, TRIVIA IS 7-10 PM

Tickets

\$20 per ticket
or \$150 per table
of 8 if purchasing
a whole table

Silent auction

Drinks will be provided but
everyone should bring food
for their table

LOCATION

WUM FELLOWSHIP HALL
600 N BOMPART AVE,
WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119

CONTACT

AMANDA FURBEE
DIRECTORYOUTH@WEBSTERUM.ORG



Our **United Women in Faith Spring Gathering** is coming up on **Saturday, May 4th**. The Baked Goods/Crafts Sale will begin at 10:45. Come early for the best selection! Lunch (\$10 each) will be served at 11:30, with plenty of time for fellowship. Our program will begin at 12:30.

The program will feature two women from **Voices of American HERstory** to help us learn more about Sojourner Truth.

Sojourner Truth was a former slave and outspoken advocate for abolition and temperance, plus civil, women's and prison rights during the 1800s. In addition, a member of our UWF will give a short presentation about Mai Gray, first African American President of United Methodist Women and creator of the Charter for Racial Justice adopted by UMW in 1978 and later the denomination as a whole in 1980.

We invite everyone to join us!
Please sign up on the Connection Card Sunday morning or contact Cindy Andrews, cyndrews@gmail.com, 314-277-9368 (text or call).





POLAROID CAMERA

Mother's Day Photos

We will feature a slide show of photos of mothers of church family members during worship on Mother's Day, May 12th. To include your mothers, please send photos to Cindy Andrews, cyndrews@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 8th. Include your mother's first name & her children's names. (example: Cindy, mother of Becca & Ned) If you have provided a photo in recent years, it is not necessary to send a new one. If you want check to see if I have a photo of your mother, please send me her first name with your inquiry. (The slides are in alphabetical order by first names.)

Thank you,
Cindy Andrews
314-277-9368

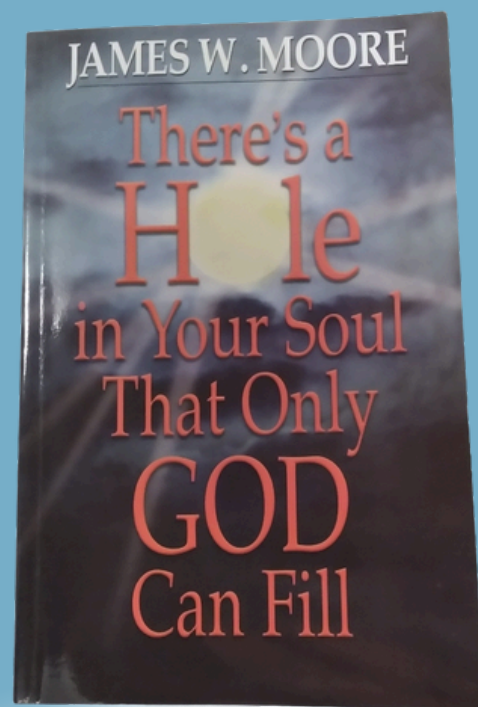
THE KING CLASS STARTING A NEW BOOK ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28



This coming Sunday, April 28 and we invite you to join us, as we start a new book, "There's a Hole in Your Soul That Only God Can Fill" by James W. Moore. Moore is senior pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston, TX and is one of the favorite authors of the King Class.

The book contains 15 chapters of thought-provoking, pleasant reading. We expect to do a chapter each week. We invite you to join us at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall. Plenty of copies are available if you wish to pick one up this week and start reading ahead.

The books are on top of the small cabinet that is beside the piano.



Please Help the Volunteers In Mission Team Collect Lotion & Household Cleaner in April & May

The Team has learned from Midwest Mission that two items they need for kits are in short supply, so we are collecting body/hand lotion and liquid household cleaner through May 12th. We will deliver the collected items to Midwest Mission when we do our volunteer service there May 13-16.

The specific sizes needed are 8-10 ounce size bottles only of lotion---any kind for body/hands--- AND 56-80 oz. size bottles ---no spray bottles---of Household Cleaner (such as Mr. Clean, etc.). Containers for your donations are at the church entrances.

Thank you for your generosity!
The V.I.M. Team



**A COMMUNITY
CONCERT & CELEBRATION**
**Old Community Missionary
Baptist Church**
Sunday , April 28 | 2 - 4 pm
===== FREE =====

You are Invited to Rejoice and Attend Webster Groves' 2nd Annual **GOSPELFEST**, a Community Concert & Celebration of Joyful and Inspirational Gospel Music and Song

Old Community Missionary Baptist Church
238 W. Kirkham Ave., Webster Groves, MO
in the Main Sanctuary
Sunday Afternoon, April 28
2 pm - 4 pm

- Concert performers are open to all ages, soloists, singing groups, Webster church choirs, and all other singers in our community.
- Maximum of 2 songs per performer.
- Please sign up by Saturday, April 20 by sending a text to Dave Buck at **314-952-0910** or email him at **dave@buckstl.com**. Please provide your name and the titles of your songs.

GOSPELFEST is FREE & Open to the Entire Community.

Please, no food or drink in the Main Sanctuary. Come gather following **GOSPELFEST** for light refreshments and community time together.

GOSPELFEST • GOSPELFEST



GOSPELFEST • GOSPELFEST

Food, Friends, Fun & Golf



JOIN THE PARTY!

A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING SHEPHERD'S CENTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

6:00-9:00 PM

*(5:00-6:00 check-in, meet & greet,
golfing begins at 6:00)*

Menu includes brisket,
chicken and all your favorite
sides. Cash bar available.

TOP GOLF

CHESTERFIELD

Chairman's Suite
16851 N Outer 40 RD
Chesterfield, MO 63005

RESERVATIONS

Call the Shepherd's Center 314-395-0988 or
online go to shepherdscenter-wk.org. Reservation deadline
May 23.

GOLFERS

\$750/team of 6 or
\$125/person

Includes: 3 hours of
gameplay, buffet &
unlimited non-alcoholic
beverages

NON GOLFERS

\$50/person

Includes: buffet, unlimited
non-alcoholic beverages &
unlimited fun with friends

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

Pay online - shepherdscenter-wk.org or scan the QR
code with your smartphone camera. In person
payments accepted in the Shepherd's Center office
Tuesday through Friday.

