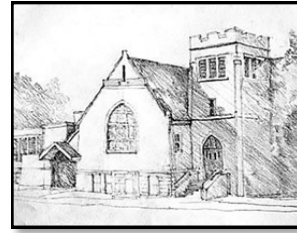


Glendive & Wibaux United Methodist Church Newsletter

June/July 2022



Pastoral Letter

Greetings everyone,

In this pastoral letter, I would like to address the ongoing concerns over the rhetoric and information in the national media about what is going on in the United Methodist Church and the newly formed denomination, the Global Methodist Church. If you have not been following what took place following the Special General Conference in 2019, then let me catch you up very briefly.

During the 2016 General Conference in Portland, it was discussed and voted on by delegates at the conference to postpone any formal decision about whether to change the policies of the United Methodist Church pertaining to its clauses condemning any officiation of same-sex weddings and does not allow anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+ to become an ordained clergy member of the United Methodist Church. It was decided that this topic, given its polemic nature and debate that has raged on since 1972, would be discussed and voted on during an approved Special Conference in 2019 before the General Conference of 2020 in Minneapolis, MN. I assume at this point you know why the General Conference in 2020 did not happen.

Given Covid-19 protocols set by the denomination and individual conferences, the decision to postpone General Conference 2020 until 2022 was discussed, voted on, and approved by the Commission on General Conference. After reassessing how the world is being impacted and dealing with the problems associated with Covid-19, the Commission on General Conference determined since vaccines were not readily and publicly available in many of our international communities that we should not risk gathering as an international community, and in doing so, the denomination postponed the General Conference again until 2024. This brings us to where we are today.

During the month of March, the Global United Methodist church, formerly the WCA (Wesleyan Covenant Association) and the Confessing Movement, formed to create a denomination they claim is the true Methodism with a biblically based faith with a strict adherence to Methodist doctrine, which they claim is obviously stated in the Book of Discipline. This is contrary to the "big tent" theology United Methodism has claimed and identified over the last several decades. "Big Tent" meaning that the United Methodist Church has multiple viewpoints, perspectives, and theologies that all contribute to our Methodist identity, but at our roots, we remain committed to our Wesleyan principles of scriptural authority, adhering to long held traditions and rituals in Methodism of advocacy and love for others, using our God-given reason to see the modern world through our faith, and using our God-given reason to see the modern world through using our faith our individual and collective experiences to guide our faith in our local and regional contexts. Whether we have a doctrine or should not have a doctrine is an entirely separate debate that has muddled the waters with our decision process on same sex marriage and LGBTQ+ ordines. However, make no mistake, whether we have a doctrine or not has been debated on by clergy for even longer than the United Methodist Church was formed in 1968. It's probably been closer to over 100 years on

on whether this is the case or not.

You're probably wondering, "That's great, Pastor, but what does that mean for our local church?" The answer is unclear and will most likely change from what I am about to write below, but I will explain to you what I think will take place based on the information we know currently. The first thing you should know is there was a document signed after the Special Conference 2019 called, "Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation." This document laid out some of the parameters to be discussed on how churches could leave the denomination if they were ready to go. Let me be clear, both progressive and conservative denominations have already disaffiliated from the UMC citing this document as reference for their forfeiture of their identity and connection to the UMC.

Here is the link to this document.:

<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/files/websites/www/pdfs/signed+umc+mediation+protocol+statement+-2020.pdf>

I won't belabor the point of discussing what all is in this document, but here are some highlights. Everyone, including representatives from various new denominations proposing to split and every active UMC bishop, signed this document in agreement that anyone who decided to leave would be treated with grace. As you may know, the local church does not own our local property, but we have signed a trust clause with the UMC as the managers of this building. Most of that language was to say, we, the UMC, will not charge someone millions of dollars who is attempting to buy their building from the UMC and leave. Otherwise, the legal battles that are sure to ensue would become very messy and damaging.

The other big highlight of this document is in article 1 when it was decided the 2020 General Conference would be the date the decision was made. The members of the Global Methodist church became frustrated when the General Conference 2020 was postponed again until 2024. Since they had caught wind this would be happening a couple months in advance, they planned to make their official break off this year, which is why they sent out an official letter of their disaffiliation with the United Methodist Church in March. This is why you have seen in the news, "United Methodist Church splits," however, the split is not official and will not be until General Conference 2024, and how this will all unfold is a mystery for everyone.

Regardless of whether it is official, I fully anticipate to see more churches, like Bowen UMC and Cheyenne Wells UMC did this past annual conference in 2021, disaffiliate from the UMC. The only way this will happen in the local church here is if you decide at a charge conference, usually in November or December, that you and a two-thirds majority of the membership vote to leave. Our conference will most likely not address this until General Conference 2024. As they have said in the past, this conference intends to stay with the United Methodist Church, but if your local congregation feels like they need to go, then they need to speak with their district superintendent to discuss what the best steps to move forward are for their church.

I could continue writing much more, but this seems like a good place to stop and just leave space for any further questions that may arise. I may not have the full understanding or all the information readily available at my disposal, but I promise I will always be honest with you with any questions you have regarding this current debate. Please know that all the information above and a lot that you are hearing in the news right now is subject to change in the future.

This is the very beginning of what many of us have anticipated for a long time. Methodism has split and fractured over the years multiple times, so let us be reminded of the words of Paul in these tumultuous times we face, “**4** Rejoice] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice **5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless you and keep you, now and forevermore.

Amen.



The annual rummage sale was a great success!

Everyone working together made this happen and we were able to donate over \$1,300.00 to the general fund. It was through a united effort that we were able to accomplish this. People donated items, brought items to the church, categorized and priced the items, bought items, and spread the word of our sale.

Many hours of hard work went into making this sale so successful and we thank everyone who contributed in any way.





On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way.

The story in [Acts 2](#) describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the [birthday of the Christian Church](#).

The word [Pentecost](#) comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost called *Shavuot*, means "weeks" in Hebrew. It falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church.

On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the [commissioning of new members into ministry](#). Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3).

White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The [Season after Pentecost](#) is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women) will host their annual June Coffee meeting on June 8th, 10:00 am at the church.

Looking ahead: We will be doing a Cotton Candy booth at the Dawson County Fair again this year. Volunteers will be needed.
Please mark July 28-30 on your calendar!



There is an interesting article in the May 26th Wibaux Pioneer Gazette written by Carmen Hahn that you might enjoy. It tells of an interview with Loic Wibaux who is a descendant of Pierre Wibaux, the founder of Wibaux, Montana.

When Loic was about 12 years old his father told him of an ancestor that went to America, made a fortune, and had a city named after him. Years later, Loic retells the story to his son who decided to research this for a school project about Pierre Wibaux. Loic then told his family he is going to make a documentary about Pierre and his life. Soon family members began sending him information they had, to help with the research.

Two years ago, Loic went to Wibaux to document all that he could about his ancestor who had become a cattle baron. He went to the Range Riders Museum in Miles City where they have Pierre Wibaux's saddle and his signature from the bank in Miles City that he owned. Pierre also owned the Cloverleaf gold mine in Deadwood, South Dakota which is still being mined to this day.

Loic had attended the Wibaux County Fair and Rodeo and recalled how welcoming the people of Wibaux were to him.

This year he came back for a visit which included attending a branding at a local ranch. Loic learned how important roots are. He feels the huge sense of community in Wibaux stems from the times of the pioneers who had to rely on neighbors during the difficult Montana winters and harsh summers.

He was fortunate to find a cousin who is a descendant of Josef Wibaux who was Pierre's brother. Over 350 letters had been saved by the family, some were from Pierre. Reading letters from the late 1800's gives a person an insight into his ancestor's journey.

Hopefully by September 2022, this documentary will be completed and the citizens of Wibaux will have a chance to preview it. Also, Loic is hoping to restore the white ranch house his ancestor lived in to honor and preserve history for other generations.



Our Girl Scout Troop 2323 is selling cookies for their annual fundraiser. Please spread the word and support them in their efforts. You may leave a message at the church office if you would like to place an order .




We appreciate our Coffee Hour Hosts. For the Month of May they were: Jasmine Winchell, Andrine Haas, Marlene Linquist, Leslie Hunter, and Millie Robinson



June 2	Jim Gentry
June 3	Ardelle Smith
June 4	Denise van Leeuwen
June 6	Jason Stanfill
June 15	Mary Brown
June 16	Leslie Hunter
June 18	Ron Haugeberg
June 28	John Wesley



June 11	George and Terry Skerritt
June 14	Steve and Judy Rice
June 27	Vern and Marlene Linquist

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Wibaux Fun Fair</i>
5 <i>Pen-tecost</i>	6	7	8 <i>UWF 10 am coffee</i>	9	10 <i>Buz-zard Day</i>	11 <i>Rock/ Craft show</i>
12 <i>Peace with Justice</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18 <i>Quilt Show</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Celebrate Glendive</i>	25
26	27	28 <i>John Wesley's BD</i>	29	30		

Summer Scheduling:

For the month of June:

The Glendive United Methodist Church will host the United Congregational Church at the 11 a.m. services.

For the month of July:

The United Congregational Church will host the Glendive United Methodist Church at their 10

Wibaux Fun Fair

June 4th

- 8am 5K run
- 10-3 "The Town Challenge" - Family Game Circuit
- Artisan Market
- Car Show
- 8pm Street Dance and party at Pierre's—featuring MBJ and the Tall Boys

July 28-30 United Women in Faith candy booth at the Dawson County Fair. Volunteers needed.



Newsletter

Glendive & Wibaux

United Methodist Church

June/July 2022

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