

# Aurora First United Methodist Church

February 2019

Worship 10:15

From Heart to Heart, House to House, Town to Town, One Kingdom to Another

## A Note from our Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the Aurora First United Methodist Church:

Grace and peace to you from God, and from Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, "God-with-us!" In this season of Epiphany, as we rejoice in the mission of the Church, I give thanks for the faithful ways you are revealing God's love to the world.

I am writing to you today with news about the upcoming February 23-25<sup>th</sup> Special General Conference being held in St. Louis that will determine, for the United Methodist Church, "Which Way Forward". The Commission On The Way Forward submitted three plans to the Council of Bishops in which they have chosen to support the "One Church Plan". But all three plans plus 8 additional plans and 78 petitions submitted by others, some which might modify these plans, will be considered and voted on in the 2019 General Conference.

**Here is a brief overview of each of the three plans as given by Thomas Lambrecht in an article in the Jan/Feb Good News Magazine.**

The One Church Plan (OCP) would change the definition of marriage from one man and one women, to "two adults". It would allow pastors to perform same-sex weddings, and allow annual conferences to ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals as clergy. It also maintains the validity of both traditional and progressive views toward marriage and sexuality, believing that both perspectives can co-exist in one denomination indefinitely. It contains protections for persons of both persuasions, so that under this plan (for the most part) no one would be forced to act counter to one's conscience.

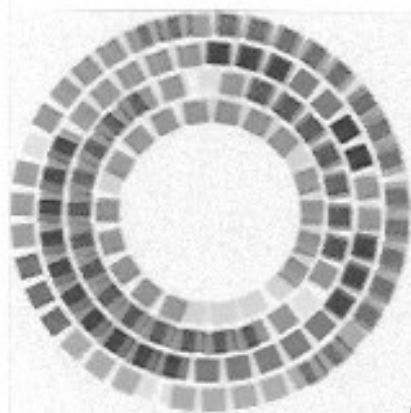
The Traditional Plan (TP) maintains the current position of the church that all persons are of sacred worth and loved by God, that sexual relations are to be reserved for marriage between one man and one woman, and that the practice of homosexuality is contrary to Christian teaching. The TP continues the prohibition on pastors performing same-sex weddings and annual conferences ordaining self-avowed practicing homosexuals as clergy. It requires annual conferences and Bishops to declare their willingness to uphold and enforce the *Book of Discipline* in all respects, and institutes other accountability measures in order to gain gracious exist for annual conferences, local churches, bishops, and clergy who cannot abide by the requirements of the church.

The Connectional Conference in the Plan (CCP) replaces our current five geographical jurisdictions in the U.S. with three theological connectional conferences—Progressive, Traditional, and Unity. All three branches would continue to share some general church agencies, such as pensions, Publishing House, UMCOR, and missions. Other agencies would serve only those connection conferences that desire to participate in them. Each connectional conference would have its own rules for clergy conduct and standards for ordination. Conferences outside the U.S. would be their own connectional conference or could join one of the three U.S. conferences. Bishops and clergy would serve only within their chosen connectional conference under that conference's rules.

I ask you to please be in constant prayer for the next few weeks for the important decisions that will be made during the 2019 General Conference. Pray for the Bishops, clergy, and laity that will be attending and voting on these important matters. Also, be in prayer for our local church, Aurora First United Methodist, as any decision made will have an effect on our local church, and will need to be addressed at that time.

*Pastor Elaine*

## The church as mosaic



A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

## Life of our Church...

### Worship Service Attendance

January 6th:	27
January 13th:	No service due to weather
January 20th:	No service due to weather
January 27th:	32

Average attendance weeks: 30

### Offering Received:

January 6th:	\$2,995.00
January 13th:	—
January 20th:	—
January 27th :	\$ 3,006.00

Average giving 2 weeks: \$3,000.50

### Gifts received and given in December:

Communion Offering:	\$146.00
(Our gift to St. Vincent DePaul)	
Clearing House:	\$40.00

**\*\*A special THANK YOU to all those who gave offerings for the two weeks we were unable to hold services due to the weather. There are NO Snow Days for our expenses!**



"Don't worry, I'm a church pastor. First little problem, and they'll find me."

## Church Worship Leaders...

February 3rd: Liturgist: R. Moorhead  
Greeter: M. Davis  
Usher: K. Davis

February 10th: Liturgist: G. Starker  
Greeter: B. Nocks  
Usher: J. Whitaker

February 17th: Liturgist: S Turner  
Greeter: K. Prarat  
Usher: S. Moisio

February 24th: Liturgist: J. Prarat  
Greeter: A. Hambrick  
Usher: L. Hamrick

February 3rd: Communion: Elders

*\*If you are unable to serve on the date assigned, will you please contact someone to switch with you and notify the church office. THANK YOU!*

## Lectionary Readings...

February 3rd - (4th Sunday after Epiphany)  
**Luke 4: 21-30**

February 10th - (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)  
**Luke 5: 1-11**

February 17th - (6th Sunday after the Epiphany)  
**Luke 6: 17-26**

February 20th - (7th Sunday after the Epiphany)  
**Luke 6: 27-38**

## February Calendar...

- 1 Richard Midlam, B'day
- 2
- 3 **Communion Sunday**; Cluster Mtg,  
Oliver Moisio, B'day
- 4 Angela Clark, B'day
- 5 Deborah Fehling
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9 Cainan Baxter
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13 Jacque Whitaker, B'day
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18 **President's Day**; Lou Ann Martin, B'day
- 19 Tom & Charlotte DeVille, Anniv.
- 20
- 21
- 22 Td Hamrick, B'day
- 23
- 24 **Hymn Sing Sunday**
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

## March Calendar...

- 1 Jim Blair Jr., B'day
- 2 Matt Turner, B'day; Ron & Sue Craig, Anniv
- 3
- 4

*"Let love live long; let hate live short."*  
—Burmese Proverb

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*"Love is a friendship set to music."*  
—Various source

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*"Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."*  
—C.S. Lewis

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*"Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."*  
—Franklin P. Jones

## This and that...

- Thank you Dennis and Roger  
Fellowship Hall kitchenette looks great!
- Did you know that AFUMC serves as  
meeting place for 7 Self Help groups weekly
- Faith costs, but lack of faith costs even  
more.

Just for fun....

- Love and laughter go hand in hand...  
Humor can brighten a day.
- Q. What did the paper clip say to the magnet?  
A. "I find you very attractive."
- Q. What did the pencil say to the paper?  
A. "I dot my i's on you!"
- Q. What valentine did the French chef  
give his wife?  
A. A hug and a quiche.
- Q. How did the phone propose to his girl  
friend?  
A. He gave her a ring.
- Q. What do you call a very small Valentine?  
A. A valentiny

I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the color  
and fragrance of a flower, the Light in my darkness,  
the Voice in my silence. —Helen Keller

We have committed the Golden Rule to memory,  
now let us commit it to life. —Poet Edwin Markham

*In our thoughts and prayers...*

**Our prayer list of friends and families...** *Keith Bangert, Howard Aylor, Debbie Blough, Doris Houze, John Boyken, Jason Cox, Millie Tufts, Bentlee Hussung, J.D. Giffin, Dorothy Holden, Deb Schroeder, Cynthia Hendricks, Linda Vornheder, Jim and Barbara Scott, Gary Hartman, David Bowling, Virginia Becker, Kathy Robinson, Mike Nowacki, Leslie Joyce, Mary Schewe, Dottie Fedroff, Nancy & Glendal Stork, Fred Fehling, Danny Martin, Monica Haller, John Hubbartt, Amzy Gray, Tom Yauba, Neresa and Chuck Moore, Ron Bradford, Mel Green, Josh Hensley, Bill Butte, Gabe Amsperger, Leisha Workman, Casius Slayback, Sharon White, Meredith Carp, Chris Jameson, Lisa Lee, Jaxson Salisbury, Mike Ross, Nancy Ross, Cory Lewis, Michelle BeCraft, Nielen Hansen, John Palmer, John Cox, Cheryl Edwards, Jeremy Beard, Dana Offill, Shane McHenry*

**Those with unspoken cares and concerns...**

**Those having recently lost loved ones...** *Wigner family*

**Teachers and students...**

**Care givers...**

**The Heroin/Drug Epidemic in our community and county...**

**Our Military troops and their families...** *Will Calkins, Cainan Baxter, Will Baxter, Robert Young, Oliver Bugariski, Gary Good, Sarah Boyken.*

**Our Church, our Council of Bishops, Jurisdictional Council and all UM Bishops.**

**Those in Assisted Living, Nursing Homes and Care Centers...** *Bob Ernsting, Jeanette McIntosh, Delores Tandy, Earnie Worthington, LaVerne Whitham, Martha Kaiser, Marge Arthur, Rick Strzynski, Bernie Skidmore, Virginia Knippenberg, Pat Clark, Kevin Adams, Mary Ball*

**Shut ins...** *Bob Myers, Jerry Stonebraker, Jean Witte, Alice Schuler, Doris Spencer*

**Missions...Local:** *AA, NA, CASA, Heart House, St. Vincent DePaul, Clearinghouse, YES Home, Parent Cafes...* **United Methodist:** *Red Bird Mission, Mountain Mission, UMCOR*

*(If you know of someone in need of prayer, PLEASE let the church office know...likewise, if you have placed a name on our list or know of someone on our list that has received healing PLEASE let us know that we might celebrate with them that they are feeling better and remove their name from the current list at least for a time. THANK YOU!)*

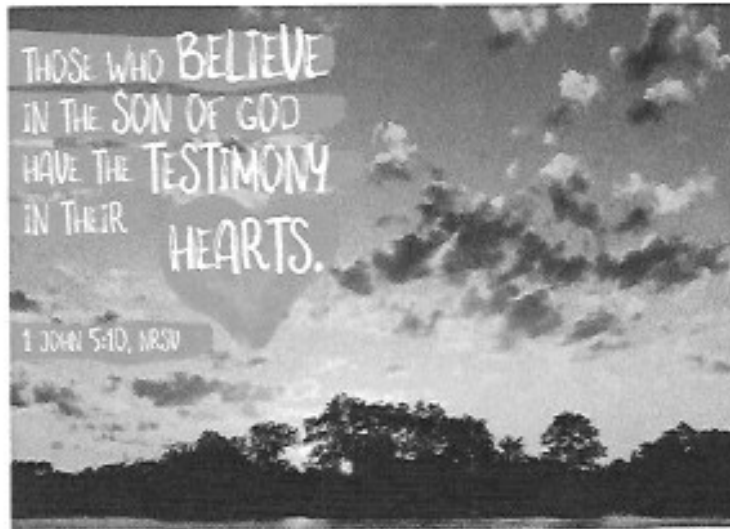
**\*\* 'Tis not enough to bend the knee, and words of prayer to say;  
The heart must with the lips agree; Or else we do not pray.  
For word, without the heart, the Lord will never hear;  
Nor will He to those lips attend, Whose prayers are not sincere. \*\***

-Author Unknown



# February

# 2019



The Mission of the First United Methodist Church of Aurora is to...provide a welcoming environment for people to worship and gain fellowship with the Lord and to faithfully offer the message of Jesus Christ through word and action to our local and global community.

PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR:

Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Website: [aurorafirstumc.org](http://aurorafirstumc.org)

Pastor's Email: [ellaine.hussung@firstumc.org](mailto:ellaine.hussung@firstumc.org)

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Aurora First United Methodist Church