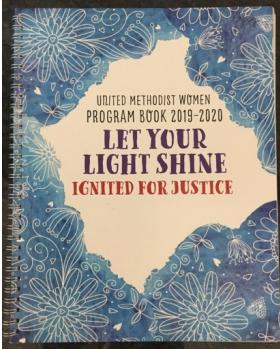


January News from the Pews

Monthly Updates from the congregation and EPUMC groups



United Methodist Women Moment

United Methodist Women enjoyed a delightful Chocolate bar and cookies at our December meeting. Following our time of fellowship and sharing of goodies, Peggy Beck presented our program that was focused on Light, sharing two stories and scripture with us. For the new decade of 2020, our focus is on light. As our Program book says, "Let Your Light Shine – ignited for Justice."

As we begin the new year we will be asking how each of us can initiate or renew our commitment to radical forms of justice. In what small ways can we begin to make a personal commitment to change? In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

Our January meeting will be on January 15 at 1:00 in Anderson Hall. In addition to looking at ways in which we can be a light for justice, we will also learn more about Mission Giving and how we can shine a light on issues affecting women, children, youth and men through our Pledge to Mission. In the words of Isaiah 58:10, If you open your heart...Your light will shine in the darkness, and your gloom will be like the noon. Join us as we become stronger together and as we put our strength into Action.



Crossroads Ministry Food Pantry

This month we are asking for donations of soups for the food pantry. Chunky style soups are especially good. Anything you wish to donate is always welcome, of course. We can always use paper products, laundry soap, hair care products, feminine hygiene products. You may bring donations to the church and leave them in the Crossroads donation basket in the foyer or take them directly to Crossroads, 851 Dry Gulch Rd., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10-4 or Tuesday and Thursday, 10-6.

Thank you for your food pantry and financial donations through 2019.

Your continued support of Crossroads Ministry is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need in the Estes Valley.

If you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer for Crossroads, ask Peggy Beck about that at 970-586-3317, or call Debra Avezzano at Crossroads, 970-577-0610.

Happy New Year!

Inside this Issue

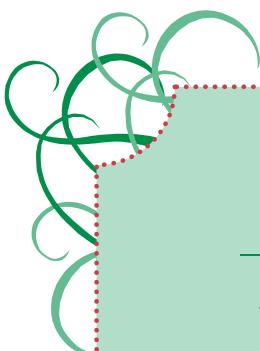
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Thanks You's and Gratitude

Notes of thanks for our ministries

Your Generosity is so Greatly Appreciated

The generous members of our congregation contributed one hat, three pairs of gloves, 8 scarves, and 14 blankets to brighten the holidays for the residents of My Sister's Place and the clients of Estes Valley Crisis Advocates. Thank you so much!



THANK YOU ANGELS

We appreciate all of you who contributed ANGELS to the Love Your Neighbor Art Show: Calling all Angels during Advent and the 12 days of Christmas!

You can take your angels home after Epiphany Jan 6! Thanks to folks who helped with the lights too! Thank you to local artist Patti Glasgow for the art angels!

We will hanging a new art show mid-January called: Hearts of Hope to celebrate the Hearts of Hope Special Offering for HIV AIDS Feb 16 at EPUMC – ARTS 4 AIDS event on Feb. 6th from 1-3 in Anderson Hall to make valentines for the Feb. 16th Service.



Thank you for the Prayer Wraps!

Our Prayer Wrap ministry is very much appreciated. Twelve wraps have been distributed since mid-December. Please feel free to take home some of the yarn on the shelves bellow the basket of wraps to knit or crochet a scarf or shawl for this ministry. If you need a pattern, please ask Lee Criswell or Janis Angermayr for help.



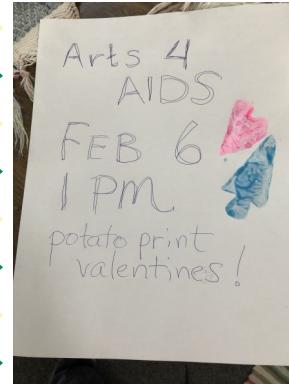
GROWING IN PRAYER

By John Angermayr

Of the many projects I am taking on, there is one that is a bit longer term as far as setting it up and getting it going is concerned. And that project is along the lines of formalizing the Prayer Chain. I have a vision of what it could be; however, I want this to be a community project. For anyone interested in getting more information and helping to organize our potential there will be a meeting on Thursday, January 23rd at 1:00pm in Anderson Hall to talk specifics. For right now, I would like to spend some time talking about what I see the potential being.

At the moment I see two separate braches or arms of the Prayer Chain. We have many gifts amongst our congregation. Some are very gifted at the spiritual and contemplative nature of prayer. I see this being one branch, the Heart and Spirit of the Prayer Chain. We also have folks who are very gifted in hospitality and service. I see this as the Hands and Feet branch of the Prayer Chain.

We have several couples and individuals in the congregation that have expressed they would like to feel more connected to the church community. By creating a system where we can support each other easily and quickly, we can become closer and more connected across the board. Please keep an eye and an ear out for sign-up sheets, meeting dates, and more!



Spread the Word!



Come join us for Arts 4AIDS and create some unique Valentine's Day cards! Meet in Anderson Hall on Thursday, February 6th at 1pm. Bring the art supplies listed below:

Potato(es)

Knife

All other art supplies will be provided to make potato print Valentine's Day cards to be handed out on Sunday, February 16th. We will also be doing a special offering for HIV/AIDS research that day as well.

Please bring a donation for the UM Global AIDS Fund and the Center for Health and Hope in Denver as well.

Hearts of Hope Art show up now!





Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/19 Jan Porter 	1/20 	1/21	1/22 David Diggs Gerry Martindale 	1/23 Prayer Chain Meeting- 1:00pm Anderson Hall 	1/24 Nancy Goudy 	1/25 Laity Leadership Training— Smoky Hill UMC Centennial, CO 
1/26	1/27	1/28	1/29	1/30 Sandy Towns 	1/31	2/1
2/2 2/9	2/3 2/10 Kay Myers 	2/4	2/5	2/6 Arts 4AIDS-1-3pm Anderson Hall	2/7	2/8 Rev. Donna Patterson

Missions Moment

Estes Valley Investment In Childhood Success

Happy New Year UMC Friends!

The EVICS Family Resource Center ended 2019 on a positive note, with many donations and several grants received to support our Childcare Scholarship Program. You may remember that we experienced a record year of scholarship needs in 2019, providing over \$62K in childcare support by year-end! A normal year is about \$30K. Part of the reason for the huge increase is because the Larimer County Child-care Assistance Program has been on an enrollment freeze for over 3 years. Meaning, lower income families in our community cannot access the program, so they come to EVICS. Fortunately, we had operating funds available to dip into, and we never had to turn a family away. This is a testament to the generosity of our caring and compassionate community and our regional funders! We are happy to report that the scholarship fund is back in the black for 2020, and we will be providing support to as many families as we can, so that young children have access to safe and nurturing environments while parents go to work in our community.

And speaking of *support*....we have officially added a new budget line item for 2020, thanks to our friends

at UMC of Estes Park! The *Childcare Incentive Fund*, started by your congregation, has a current balance of \$1620. We have budgeted \$4000 in expenses this year, to help existing providers make improvements and new providers get started. With your help, we will raise the needed funds and make a difference for families in our community. We are so appreciative of the vision and enthusiasm of your congregation, and there is no doubt other faith communities will want to jump on the band wagon and help!

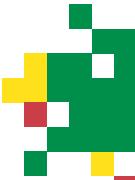
And speaking of *wanting to help*.....our faithful Diaper Fairy, Lee Criswell dropped in at the Family Resource Center today to bring a huge load of diapers collected by your congregation. We put a staff member to work, organizing and loading “diaper bags” for young families to stop in and pick up. The look of relief on a young parent’s face when we hand over a satchel of diapers, wipes and a children’s book is truly gratifying! It might seem small, but to a family struggling to make rent, feed the kids, and pay for childcare, a package of free diapers is a sure relief! THANK YOU UMC for your support!

EVICS

Nancy Almond

The EVICS Family Resource Center is a pretty busy place – offering free developmental screenings, childcare referrals, connections to other community resources, and parent support. We have started a weekly New Parent Support Group, and we offer a monthly support group for Spanish speaking parents. Our mission is to strengthen and support families and children in the Estes Valley, and we can’t do it alone! It takes a village to raise a child, and we are grateful for the support of our “greater village” as we go about working toward our mission and ensuring that all children have a good start in life!

Want more information about EVICS Family Resource Center? Interested in how you can help? Contact us at: 970-586-3055, stop by our office at 1182 Graves Ave Unit A, or visit: www.evics.org



A Note from Pastor Tom

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR METHODIST SCHISM, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK, OR RATHER, METHODIST SCHISM FOR DUMMIES.

We are all in this current tense conversation about schism or separation whether or not we like it. Personally, I don't like it, because I am witnessing conflicts, tears, and suffering that would be unnecessary if all factions of this conversation followed John Wesley's Three Simple Rules:

1. Do no harm
2. Do good
3. Stay in love with God.

As I preached a few months ago, controversy and conflict gave birth to Christianity, a style of worshiping God originating from Judaism. Since the Garden of Eden and all the way to The Revelation of John, conflict and controversy fed us, tempered us, and in some ways matured and nurtured us, WHICH TELLS US ALL WHY WE SHOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE AMIDST ANOTHER, MORE CURRENT CONTROVERSY CONCERNING HUMAN SEXUALITY'S ROLE IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Given our background with controversy, we should know how to address tense issues with-

in our denomination maturely and lovingly. Unfortunately, some of us, but hardly all of us, don't wish to be mature and loving as I am certain that John Wesley would wish. So, how shall I/We proceed?

I propose using the Book of Exodus as our healthiest guide through this journey with its conflicts and confusion. Moses embraced being what I would call "The Greatest Mediator of All Time". Why? He mediated between the Hebrew Nation and Almighty God for forty years; and, every one of those forty years brought with it controversy:

1. Almost as soon as the Hebrew Nation entered the wilderness, they grumbled constantly angry at God and Moses for starving them without proper provisions.
2. Worshipping a golden calf and blatant idolatry;
3. God's anger at their apostasy and idolatry;
4. Moses bringing the Ten Commandments to the Hebrew Nation, then in anger throwing it on the ground and breaking it.
5. Moses reasoning with a very angry, enraged God



By Pastor Tom Towns

saying in so many words, "Lord, if you kill all of your followers, then no one will ever follow you." So, God backed off.

6. And more and more complaining as they all wondered through the wilderness.

This biblical story means that you and I will be required to wander through this current human sexuality wilderness, and hopefully we don't wander in it and trudge through the mired bog for forty years.

If we keep the Exodus story before us, then we can recall why the Hebrews left Egypt in the first place and what God did for them. The Hebrews and God ultimately worked out difficulties in order to bring freedom.





General Conference News

GENERAL CONFERENCE SERIES : PART 1

Over the course of the last few months, I have attended a number of conferences and regional Church-wide events that have brought a great deal of....confusion into focus. In the series over the next few months you will find some information that I have compiled from various sources. I have attempted to make it as neutral as possible and present the information in an accessible way so that we can begin to sort out where we stand as a community and as individuals. My hope is that we can continue to build and form relationships with one another and have conversations about what we all see the future of our little local church and our larger denomination might be. As most of these conferences have focused on, it is time to do some soul searching and dream big.

The first step in understanding this global conversation is to know the recent events that led to this place of tension and schism. [I found a very helpful document with a full outline here](#) and will include a breakdown below.

General Conference 2016: Council of Bishops requests a delay in the debate on homosexuality while



By John Angermayr
RMN Communications

[The Commission on the Way Forward](#) is formed and given time to deliberate. The Commission was tasked with creating potential plans as a way forward as a United Methodist Church. [Download the full report here](#). There is also a call for a Special Session of the General Conference in 2019.

General Conference 2019 (GC19): At this point, The Commission on the Way Forward had released a 93 page document that included 3 plans ([One Church Plan](#), [Connectional Conference Plan](#), and [the Traditional Plan](#)). A fourth Plan was proposed and petitioned called [the Simple Plan](#) by the [UM Queer Clergy Caucus](#).

I attended GC19 as an observer and have to say that you could feel the tensions in the air, but also the hope that we might finally be able to move past this decades long impasse. When the Traditional Plan passed, many people on all sides of the debate could recognize that this most likely meant the end of the United Methodist Church as we know it. Both progressives and Conservatives were fighting tooth and nail to wrest control away from the other. It got ugly at GC19, and has largely remained that way. Neither and both "sides" are to blame.

Post-GC19 conferences and discussions: Since the end of GC19 there have been a number of conferences that have taken place across the country, and a number of new plans that have come into being and will be proposed at General Conference 2020. The upcoming newsletters will contain more information about these plans and the temperature of the conversations I have personally been a part of.

As one of the Reconciling Committee communication coordinators, I am hoping to be able to work with my networks of clergy and lay leaders to bring the conversation to EPUMC. The fact is, things in the UMC are about to change drastically; we need to understand the options moving forward, and where we stand both individually and as a sacred community. If you would like additional information please contact me, John, at office@epumc.org. I can provide printed copies of the articles and plans that will be linked throughout this series.



General Conference News

GENERAL CONFERENCE SERIES: COUNCIL OF BISHOPS PRESS RELEASE: JAN 3, 2020



(Washington, D.C.) - A diverse group of representatives from United Methodist advocacy groups with contrasting views and bishops from around the world has collaborated on a proposed agreement for the separation of The United Methodist Church (UMC) that has the unanimous support of all the parties involved.

The agreement, the [Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation](#), was achieved on December 17, 2019, and announced today.

The action comes amid heightened tensions in the church over conflicting views related to human sexuality after the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference failed to resolve differences among church members.

Legislation to implement [the Protocol statement](#) — an eight-page document detailing the terms of a split of the 13+ million-member denomination — is expected to come before the United Methodist General Conference for a vote at their legislative meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. in May 2020.

The 16-member group came together as an outgrowth of a consultation initiated by bishops from Central Conferences

located outside the United States. The parties sought assistance from prominent attorney Kenneth Feinberg, who specializes in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. Feinberg, who served as Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and administrator of the BP Deepwater Horizon Disaster Victim Compensation Fund, along with a number of other complex matters, agreed to provide his services pro bono.

Meeting over several months, the unofficial group reached an agreement by signatories associated with all of the constituencies within the UMC for a mutually supported pathway for separation, bridging differences among other plans to be considered by the General Conference. “The undersigned propose restructuring The United Methodist Church by separation as the best means to resolve our differences, allowing each part of the Church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity, and respect of every person,” says the Protocol Statement.

The document’s signers include representatives from Europe, Africa, the Philippines, and the United States, and include persons representing UMCNext; Mainstream UMC; Uniting Methodists; The Confessing Move-

ment; Good News; The Institute on Religion & Democracy; the Wesleyan Covenant Association; Affirmation; Methodist Federation for Social Action; Reconciling Ministries Network; and the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus; as well as bishops from the United States and across the world. The representatives have pledged to work together to support the proposal and develop legislation to implement it.

The Protocol anticipates the formation of a new traditionalist Methodist denomination. Once formed, the new church would receive \$25 million over the next four years and give up further claim to the UMC’s assets. An additional \$2 million would be allocated for potential additional new Methodist denominations which may emerge from the UMC. Acknowledging the historical role of the Methodist movement in systematic racial violence, exploitation and discrimination, the Protocol would allocate \$39 million to ensure there is no disruption in supporting ministries for communities historically marginalized by racism.

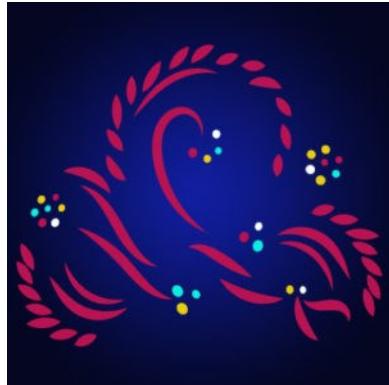
Under the Protocol, conferences and local congregations could vote to separate from The United Methodist Church

to affiliate with new Methodist denominations created under the agreement within a certain time frame. Churches wishing to stay within the UMC would not be required to conduct a vote. Provisions exist for entities that choose to separate to retain their assets and liabilities. All current clergy and lay employees would keep their pensions regardless of the Methodist denomination with which they affiliate.

Under the Protocol, all administrative or judicial processes addressing restrictions in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist* related to self-avowed practicing homosexuals or same-sex weddings, as well as actions to close churches, would be held in abeyance until the separation is completed. The Protocol also references a plan which calls for a special general conference of the post-separation United Methodist Church. The purpose of the Special Session would be to create regional conferences, remove the current prohibitions against LGBTQ persons, and to repeal the Traditional Plan.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Bishop John Yambasu (Sierra Leone) stated, “All of us are servants of the church and realize that we are not the primary decision makers on these matters. Instead, we humbly offer to the delegates of the 2020 General Conference the work which we have accomplished in the hopes that it will help heal the harms and conflicts within the body of Christ and free us to be more effective witnesses to God’s Kingdom.”

The signatories to the Protocol have provided a [FAQ document](#) to provide additional information about the agreement. Comments and questions may be directed to the signatories at mediationprotocol@outlook.com.



By John Angermayr

Spiritual Practice of the Month

Jan 19-Feb 10

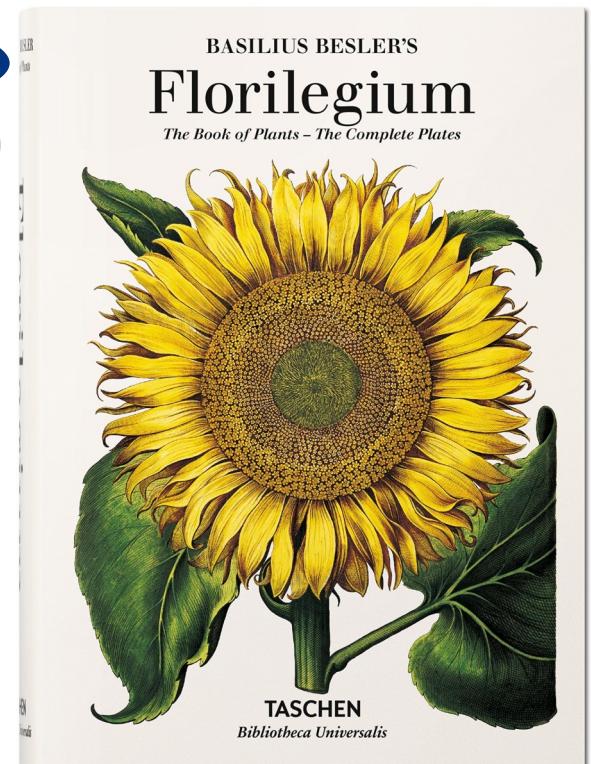
Florilegium

This month, I want to look at a practice that encourages new personal and spiritual discoveries by creating new “bouquets” of text that can point us in new directions and towards new connections. Florilegium is a Medieval spiritual practice I have recently discovered that I have come to like very much. It is quite similar to Lectio Divina with a tweak in the emphasis on word and phrase selection.

The direct definition of the word means something along the lines of “to gather flowers”. In the literary and spiritual practice worlds, it simply means the gathering of smaller excerpts from a larger body of work. These little snippets can be referred to as “flowers” or “Sparklettes” and many other things. What you want to focus on

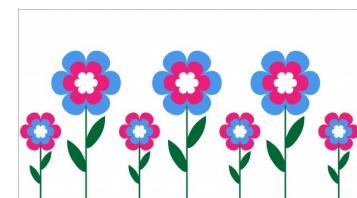
when attempting this practice is the individual flowers and sparks of the text, rather than losing sight of the flowers for the garden. When applied to scripture and holy writings, we can rediscover the beautiful aspects of the writing and the meaning behind the words themselves.

To begin this practice, take a small piece of text and read through it once to familiarize yourself with the passage. Take a few breaths and reread the passage, this time looking for two to three snippets of text that catch your eye or tug at your heart. Jot these snippets down in the journal provided. Once you’re done rereading the passage, take a few more centering breaths. Finally, combine the “flowers” you found into a



bouquet to see what the text now offers you. By doing this, you are able to find new meaning and understanding by examining the flowers only in relation to one another.

Join me for the following three weeks of new discoveries and beautiful arrangements co-created



FLORILEGIUM JOURNAL

STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

Date Example: Jan 18	Scripture Example: Psalm 40:1-11	Bouquets Example: “Making my steps secure” “None can compare with you”	Insights-By arranging the “flowers ” in different orders what is something new that you see or hear? Example: “Making my steps secure, none can compare with you” “None can compare with you, making my steps secure” Either God is the best because of safety or God is the best at creating safety.
Jan. 19-Jan. 25	Psalm 27: 1, 4-9		
Jan. 26– Feb. 1	Psalm 15		
Feb. 2- Feb. 10	Psalm 112:1-9		

Stories from the Community

The Youth and Young Adults
Speak Out!

Growing up at UMCEP has been a wonderful, yet different experience from many other teens. Here, I am the only youth besides the occasional visitor, and I am not complaining. This could not be more different from my cousin who lives in Indianapolis. When I was visiting, I was astonished that thousands of people attend her church every Sunday.

In my mind, the sanctuary seemed more like an amphitheater while service itself was like a rock concert. While there were lots of people, youth groups, and activities, I realized that I couldn't feel connected. The reason I believe I wasn't feeling connected is because we were sitting in a room full of unfamiliar faces listening to a service that had no personalization. From my experience in Indiana, I have come to the realization that it does not matter that I am the only youth because I have a wonderful church family.

-Lucy Scott

When I was a youth, I attended several different churches looking for a group that I felt I could fit in with. Much like Lucy visiting the mega church, I didn't feel connected, until I went to Hope UMC in Denver. The youth directors and ministers were amazing and wonderfully supportive people who I am still in regular contact with today.

Many years later (after I had come out several times) I mentioned to one of them that as a youth discovering my identity Hope had been the best place for me growing up. And their jaw hit the floor. As it turns

out, the lead pastor at the time held some rather conservative views of sexuality and identity. What I told them was that their positive influence helped to overcome any condemnation I ever received.

I have many fond memories of my youth group days. But what they all boil down to are the lasting relationships I formed in the church. With those relationships, I have been able to grow both personally and in Christ. Love on the young ones, we need it more than you might think.

-John Angermayr

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of Estes Park

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Estes Park, CO 80517

FIND MORE INFO
AT
EPUMC.ORG



Dates for February Newsletter

Submission Due Date: 1/30/2020

Newsletter publish date 2/10/2020

"Wondering what to do with Christmas cards you received? One place that will take them is the Nebraska Masonic Home; 1300 Ave. D; Plattsmouth, NE 68048. Just cut off the fronts of your cards, put them in a big envelope and mail them there.

Current Collection Drives

Crossroads

December Item: Boxed Cereal or Oatmeal

EVICS

Diaper Drive (newborn-5, place in baskets by front entry)

My Sister's Place

Bath/hand towels, wash cloths, Deodorant, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, detergent, fabric softener, dish soap, sealed over-the-counter Medications such as: aspirin, children's aspirin, cold/flu tablets