

Praying the Way Forward

As we enter February, we are approaching the time of the specially-called United Methodist General Conference. This is a time of tension in the church, a time when what our future will look like is in question, and no one this side of heaven has the answers. This is a time of uncertainty. A time when feelings get heated, and opinions are thrown about – sometimes even hurled as weapons against one another.

I pray every day for the future of the church – no matter what decisions the general conference comes to. I pray every day for each of you, that you would know the love of Christ, and share that love with your neighbors. I pray every day for everyone in our community, that they would know the love of Christ through our church, our people, and all that we say and do, no matter what.

I know that God is with us in all moments, when we agree, and when we disagree. I pray that we can learn to disagree with love towards each other. I pray that we will not use our opinions or our words to wound one another, but instead will use them to heal and to build up the kingdom of God, here on earth.

No matter the outcomes, we are still brothers and sisters in Christ, together. We need one another, with all our similarities, and all our differences.

I'm grateful for the local church, especially this church because it reminds us of the important ministry we do. In 2019, the church council leadership discerned two main goals moving forward:

- 1) To connect with new people and families
- 2) To focus on stewardship as a spiritual practice

There will be more specifics on how you can support your church in the coming weeks and months. No matter what happens in the coming month with the wider denomination, Church of the Good Shepherd will continue to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world around us. We will discern together our next steps as the body of Christ. For now, will you pray with me?

This Issue

- Youth Mission Trip
- General Conference 2019 (p. 3, 5-6)
- Forgiveness Sermon Series

Youth Mission Trip Fundraisers

March 23: Spaghetti Dinner

ongoing in narthex on Sunday mornings

For more information on **General Conference 2019**

Join **Pastor Molly** for a **conversation on February 17th** (after fellowship lunch)



9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

Anger is one of our most powerful emotions, more than any other, it has the power to consume all aspects of our lives, distort our sense of purpose, and disintegrate our relationship with God. Finding the ability to forgive seems nearly impossible at times. What if forgiveness is actually a gift for ourselves, not the other people in our lives? Once we truly recognize the power of forgiveness in our life, we can truly experience it as an amazing gift from God.

February 3: Unafraid: The End | John 11:25-26

February 10: God Forgives | Psalm 32:1-5

February 17: Forgiving Ourselves | 1 John 3:18-20

February 24: You Must Be Perfect | Matthew 5:43-48

March 3: Forgiving Others | Colossians 3:12-15

**Average Presence in
Worship for January:**

60

**Total Offerings
in January:**

\$14,303

**YTD Receipts vs.
Expenses:**

\$1,739.77

Upcoming Events

4th: **Grief Support**

1 PM

8th—9th: **Girls United!**

5:30 PM—12 PM

9th: **UMM Meeting
(Covenant UMC)**

9 AM

11th: **Threadbenders**

7 PM

14th: **UMW Meeting**

9:30 AM

17th: **Fellowship Lunch**

11:30 AM

**General Conference
Conversation**

12:30 PM

25th: **Threadbenders**

7 PM

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays at 10 AM

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1 PM

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday at 11:30 AM

2/6: **JJ's Cafe**

2/13: **David's BBQ**

2/20: **UMW Luncheon**

2/27: **Cotton Patch**

**February
8th & 9th**



This year the focus is on social media. All girls 3rd—6th grade are invited to join us in this

lock-in style program where we learn about living positively in a social media age. We begin **Friday at 5:30 PM** and go through **Saturday at 12:00 PM**. If you'd like to volunteer or attend, contact the church office, Esther Webb, or sign up [here](#).

2019 Special Session General Conference

The 2016 session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church all conversation around human sexuality was tabled and a commission was created to devise a "Way Forward" regarding human sexuality in the UMc. This group has done its diligent, prayerful, and important work and a special called session of the General Conference will meet February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis. For a helpful resource of how we arrived here, click [here](#). We discussed much of this over last summer,

As your pastor, I wanted to make three requests of you as you think about your own membership vows in the UMC.

- 1) Pray for the leadership of the UMC and those delegates who will make decisions on our behalf.
- 2) Continue to support the UMC with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Basically, don't leave!
- 3) Continue to trust me as I lead us through this time approaching decisions this month and after decisions are made.

If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to find a time to meet with me or join us for our conversation. You will find an overview of all the plans discussed [here](#) or as an insert to your newsletter if you receive it by paper. Remember, no matter what happens God was, is, and will be. Jesus Christ remains Lord of our lives no matter the outcome.

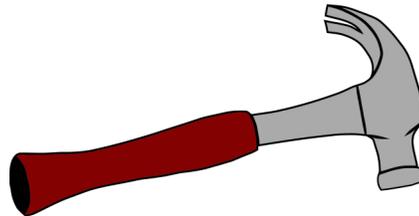
CTCYM Youth Mission Trip

We will be sending a group of at least 12 people on a youth mission trip this summer from June 16-22. We will be travelling to the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast doing relief work after Hurricane Harvey. If you know someone finishing grades 6—12 or are an adult who would like to accompany us, please contact Pastor Molly.

It will take the entire church to make this dream a reality. Due to the overwhelming (yay!) interest, we will need to rent not one, but two vans to transport us. So here are some ways that you can help:

- 1) Pray for our team — that all involved might experience the transforming love, grace, and power of Christ through being the hands and feet of Christ in our world.
- 2) Support the fundraisers, including sharing the GoFundMe (coming soon) on social media.
- 3) Donate the following supplies new or used to create tool kits for each person:

- Claw Hammer (16 oz. suggested)
- Safety Goggles
- Construction Pencil
- Nail Apron
- Dust Mask
- Tape Measure
- 5 gallon bucket



If you're able to donate, please bring items to the church office. Checks can be made out to COGS with CTCYM in the memo.

Fundraising Goal: \$6500

Fees: \$235/person

Van: \$956/van

Gas: \$250/ van

Registration Deadline:

March 5*

*If registering after, you're responsible for the price difference of \$50.

Save the Date: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday, March 23 at 5 PM

*tickets will be sold in March in the Narthex or at the door.



Contact Us

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Good Shepherd**

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