

**United Parish**  
801 Main , Box 175  
Bottineau, ND 58318

**Facebook**

**We are on the web**

**www.unitedparishbottineau.com**

**Newsletter News:**

**Send [unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com](mailto:unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com)**

**Deadline for September is August 29**

**Church office - 228-2800**

**Secretary - 228-8123**

**Pastor's cell 605-870-1453**

**Please let the church know if you have a e-mail address**

**Pastor Hours are**

**Monday-8:30-12, 1-4:30**

**Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-12, Afternoon visitations**

**Wednesday-8:30 -12**

**Fridays off**

**United Parish Memorial**

Ovidia Schneider- Kay Hochstrasser &

Terri Johns

Dwight & Gloria Olson

Wanda Kroepin

Lloyd & Peggy Nelson

Russell Dinwoodie

Joan Olson - Bill & Mary Elise Mckay

Ron & Marsha Martin

**United Parish Quilters**

Joan Olson - Marlys Kippen

**United Parish Kitchen**

Ovidia Schneider - Bev Hamnes

**United Parish Building Fund**

Ovidia Schneider & Joan Olson -

Shari Turner

A "BIG" thank you to all who donated hand soap for our mission project for the Food Pantry.

What an "Awesome" congregation we have!

42 Bottles and 127 bars

THANK YOU to everyone who worked on the clean up at the church and manse. Looks great!



Most active church folk are aware that the United Methodist Church is experiencing turmoil in regard to LGBTQ+ issues. Much time at Annual Conference in Bismarck this year was devoted to the process through which church can withdraw from the UMC if they disagree with the church's stance in regard to LGBTQ+ persons' involvement and membership in the UMC. My goal in this column is to clarify the UMC stance on this issue and what is happening with the UMC in the Dakotas Conference.

The United Methodist Church affirms that all people are of sacred worth and are equally valuable in the sight of God. It is committed to be in ministry with all people. The Church "implores families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends."

Underlying this is the constitutional principle of inclusiveness of the church. Everyone is welcome to worship and actively participate in the life of our churches. Laypersons may become members and live out their faith through their local church *without respect to sexual orientation or practice*.

Since 1972, the church has maintained the position that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." This draws a distinction between orientation and practice, or behavior. Sexual relations are affirmed only within the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. The United Methodist Church supports laws that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Based on these positions about homosexual practice and marriage, the Church has also maintained restrictions regarding clergy. Pastors may not be "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" and may not conduct ceremonies that celebrate same-sex weddings or unions. Such ceremonies also may not be held on church property.

With a body of over 12 million members globally, United Methodists are not of one mind about how to be in ministry with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. In 2019, a special session of General Conference met specifically to address ongoing, unresolved divisions regarding homosexuality. Its decisions to strengthen restrictions on ordination and same-sex weddings have led

**"Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist" is the Focus for the next book discussion led by the Rev. Carol Wendel. The book relates of journey of Derek Black, son of the founder of the racist website Storefront and godson of former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke.**

**The first session will be on Thursday, July 21st at 3:30 in the small shelter at Tommy Turtle Park weather permitting. Otherwise we will gather at the Conference Room at First Lutheran Church. The discussion will end at 5 p.m.**

**Pastor Beth will be attending. She and Pastor Carol extend an invitation to all United Parish members to join them in exploring a world so different from Bottineau!**

to growing resistance, especially in the U.S. and in Western Europe, where many United Methodists see such measures as punitive and discriminatory against LGBTQ+ people.

The impasse over homosexuality has led to uncertainty about the Church's future. Calls for separating the denomination have increased. The delay of the 2020 General Conference to 2024, caused by the pandemic and the difficulty it created to obtain visas for many delegates, has led to one of these groups, the Wesleyan Covenant Association, to announce it would launch a new denomination (the Global Methodist Church) beginning on May 1, 2022. It is unknown at this time how many United Methodist congregations may seek to disaffiliate from The UMC to join the GMC.

When the next General Conference can convene (now scheduled for 2024), however, it will address multiple legislative proposals to alter existing church policies (in both more exclusive and more inclusive directions) and to divide or restructure the denomination as a result of differences on these and other issues. There is no way to predict at this time how that General Conference may respond to these proposals.

The above statement was taken from "What is the Church's position homosexuality" found at [www.umc.org/content/ask-the-UMC](http://www.umc.org/content/ask-the-UMC).

My impression from Annual Conference is that there are several churches planning to leave the Conference for the GMC. Four Winds United Methodist Church in Dickenson left last year and is the only one so far.

The Conference has developed a process by which churches who are conflicted over this issue can begin the dissolution process:

- Pray.  
Local churches may remain with the UMC (no vote required).  
3) The Conference offers a four hour workshop to assist churches in discovering defining their core values. The workshop uses personal reflection, small group discussion and large group conversation and consensus to help a congregation define their core values. A diverse group of clergy and laity throughout the Dakotas have been trained to help facilitate these workshops. Five North Dakota UMC churches have held a workshop.  
4) A church may vote to leave the UMC and join the GMC through the disaffiliation process. (We would contact our DS to help go through that process.). It takes a majority of 66% to leave the Conference.  
5). The disaffiliation process must be completed by December, 2023.

Parish Council discussed this issue at our last meeting and are not sure how to proceed. It appears to us (the Council) that there is not much concern about the issue, but we could easily be unaware of people's thoughts and feelings. Consequently, I offer this column as an opportunity for all of us to have a clearer understanding of what is happening. If you would like to discuss the issue further, please contact me or one of the United Methodist members of Parish Council: Rhonda Milbrath, Kristen Allard or Amy Sand.

One other thought: With the churches less supportive of LGBTQ community, I expect the 2024 General Conference will pass more inclusive legislation that encourages LGBTQ members to be more involved in church leadership positions.



### **July birthdays**

- 1 – Braden Pewe
- 3 – John Patterson
- 3 – Travis Wettlaufer
- 12 – Gordon Lund
- 22 - Kristen Allard
- 23-Dawson Glinz
- 27 – Nolan Pewe
- 30 – Jacob Sand
- 30 – Marlyss Jostad

### **August birthdays**

- 21 – Donna Reinholz
- 23 – Luella Bjornseth
- 27 – Lloyd Nelson



### **July Anniversaries**

- 9 – Les & Dawn Patterson
- 9 – David & Donna Reinholz
- 22-Ralph & Luella Bjornseth
- 25 – Daryll & Brenda Gardner

### **August Anniversaries**

- 2 – Larry & Karen Larson
- 6 – John & Peggy Gregg
- 11 – Doug & Leann Bremner
- 15 – Robert & Brenda Marquardt
- 17 – Noel & Amy Sand
- 30 – Mel & Bev Hammes

### **July Calendar**

- Sunday, July 3 - 9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service
- Sunday, July 10 - 9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service
- Wednesday, July 13 - 2:00 UMW
- Sunday, July 17 - 9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service
- Monday, July 18 - 6:00 Happy Hearts
- Sunday, July 24 - 9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service
- Sunday, July 31 - 9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service

### **August Calendar**

- Monday, August 1 - 6:00 Happy Hearts
- Wednesday, August 3 7:00 Parish Council
- Sunday, August 7 - 9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service
- Wednesday, August 10 - 2:00 UMW
- Sunday, August 14 - 9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service
- Monday, August 15 - 6:00 Happy Hearts
- Sunday, August 21 -9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service
- Sunday, August 28 9:00 Fellowship  
10:00 Worship Service
- (Monday groups meet at their own schedule.)