


# Messenger

## Uniondale United Methodist Church September - October 2019

5867 N. Main St.  
P. O. Box 115  
Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes  
260-228-3634

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 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



### September and October Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### September

- 6 – Mindi Herstad
- 14 – Elaine McAfee
- 24 – Kim & Sue Chaney
- 30 – Gerry & Linda Houtz

#### October

- 18 – Linda Houtz



### Upcoming Events

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| September                | Mission Focus - Africa University  |
| Sunday, September 1 –    | Communion Sunday   |
| Monday, September 2 –    | Labor Day  |
| Sunday, September 8 –    | Sunday School starts   |
| Sunday, September 15 –   | Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items<br>Pastor Karen vacation                    |
| Saturday, September 21 – | Cluster Street Fair popsicles distribution<br>begins at 1 PM at Bluffton First UMC |
| Sunday, September 22 –   | Pastor Karen vacation  |
| Sunday, September 29 –   | Kids Changing the World-bring your<br>change                                       |
| Sunday, October 6 –      | Communion Sunday<br>World Communion Sunday Offering                                |
| Saturday, October 19 –   | Faith Circle 9 AM  |
| Sunday, October 20 –     | Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items   |
| Sunday, October 27 –     | Kids Changing the World-bring your<br>change                                       |
| Thursday, October 31 –   | Trick or Treat in the Basement   |
| Saturday, November 2 –   | Charge Conference-TBA at Auburn UMC  |

#### **\*\*Don't forget\*\***

- \* Save your pop tabs and can tabs for Riley's Children's Hospital. Collection can at the back of the church.
- \* Save your change for Children Changing the World on the last Sunday of each month.
- \* To sign up for CHURCH DUTIES on sheets at back table.

## A Word from Our Pastor

“School days, school days, good old Golden Rule days” says the old song reminiscing about the important lessons learned in public school. The golden rule says that we are to do to others as we would have them do to us, or to treat others the way we want them to treat us. This is a primary teaching in many of the world’s major religions. I found a poster online that further explains the application of this rule. “The core of the Golden Rule is a moral obligation to treat others ethically for their sake, not ours, even if it’s better than the way they treat us. Why? Not because it’s advantageous, but because it’s right. And because the way we treat others is about who we are, not who they are.” – Michael Josephson, © 2017.

There is so much discord and strife in our world today. In America we’ve heard for over 50 years that “you can have it your way” as if that was the most important freedom in our culture. But it seems to me that the down side of thinking I can always have things my way is that I don’t have to take anyone else’s needs and desires into account when I make my choices. It makes us selfish, self-centered people who always want more and better and newer things. How can we solve the world’s problems if our major concern is to get my way?

We need to relearn the Golden Rule and to try to discover ways to help people from various points of view to learn to work together for the common good of all people. Each person or group of people needs to learn how to come to a compromise that allows us to build a better world. But in order for this to work, we must learn to listen to people with opposing points of view and discuss problems with an attitude of give-and-take, not just always being on the take. This kind of work requires a lot of trust that the opposition will follow through and do what they say they will do in the agreement.

Though we may not be able to reach this kind of agreement between countries in our lifetimes, we can begin to rebuild the culture in our church and in our homeland. Keep the Golden Rule in mind as you strive to grow in your Christian faith and discipleship. Here are the words to a song titled “The Golden Rule” for you to meditate on.

1. Never lose the golden rule, Keep it still in view; Do for others as you would They should do to you. Kindly, gently, In their burden bear a part; Meekly chiding, With a loving heart.
3. Love the Lord, the first command, With thy soul and mind: Love thy neighbor as thyself, Both in one combined. Justly, justly, With each other strive to live; Ever ready, Willing to forgive.

Refrain: Never lose the golden rule, Keep it still in view; Do for others as you would They should do to you.

-- Words by Grace J. Frances (also known as Fanny J. Crosby)

Shalom, Pastor Karen <><

Pastor Karen <><



GOLDEN  
RULE

## Committee News

### EMM Committee (Education, Missions, Ministries)

On September 8 the fall session of Sunday School will begin. We have classes for everyone. Adult, Youth, and Children. Please come join us. Upcoming mission donations are; September-Africa University, September & October-Kafakumba Training Center in Congo. More information on these missions will be announced during worship services. Upcoming events include on October 31-Trick or Treat in the church basement.

### Nominations & Leadership Committee

The Committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to plan for our 2020 Officers and Committee Members. If you are filling a position and are unable to continue for next year, please let Pastor Karen know as soon as possible. A copy of the list is posted on the bulletin board.

### Wells County Cluster

The Cluster churches will distribute popsicles at the Street Fair on Saturday, September 21 beginning at 1 PM at Bluffton First UMC. Other Cluster church events; (1) Saturday, September 14, Ossian UMC will have a Bake Sale, Bazaar & Craft Fair 9:00am - 2:00pm, Also on that day there is a Salad Bar from 11:00am - 2:00pm. Adults \$8.00, Kids 5-10 \$5.00, 4 & under are free. (2) Wednesday, September 25 from 4:30 - 7:00pm there will be a Dan's All You Can Eat Fish and Tenderloin Dinner at Ossian UMC. Adults \$11.00, Youth 6-12 \$6.00, 5 & under free. (3) Liberty Center UMC Musicfest is Sunday, September 29, 12-5pm. There will be several secular bands, food, vendors, and kids' games along with raffle tickets and an auction for some amazing items. All proceeds go to park improvement.

\*\*Please remember\*\*

Mary Etta Blessing  
3890 W. Oak Rd.  
Bluffton, IN 46714

Betty Cary  
200 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #120HC  
Bluffton, IN 46714

Barb Cook  
100 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #100  
Bluffton, IN 46714

Gary Cook-Room 106  
Markle Health & Rehabilitation  
170 N. Tracy Street  
Markle, IN 46770

Jeanette Gilbert  
200 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #105B-HC  
Mail to: c/o Jill Martin  
2172 E US 224  
Ossian, IN 46777

Margaret Hasler  
37446 Carson  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

### Thank You, Sunday School Teacher

<p>Thank you Sunday school teacher For opening my eyes To the Bible and to Jesus, Life's most precious prize.</p>	<p>Thank you Sunday school teacher For opening my heart To eternal life through salvation, The precious lessons you impart.</p>
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<p>Thank you special teacher For opening my mind To God and the Holy Spirit, And for answers you help me find.</p>	<p>Thank you, cherished teacher, For giving me advice So that I can know the Lord And be with Him in paradise.</p>
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**By Joanna Fuchs**



### Treasure's Report

July 2019 Budget Summary	July Actual	July Budget	July Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,392.43	3,967.25	(574.82)	29,283.23	27,770.75	1,512.48
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	2,240.31	3,967.21	1,726.90	24,215.74	27,770.47	3,554.73
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,152.12</b>	<b>0.04</b>		<b>5,067.49</b>	<b>0.28</b>	

# Commission on General Conference Added to Confusion

By the Rev. William B. Lawrence

Aug. 15, 2019 | CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (UM News)



*The Rev. William B. Lawrence.*

*Photo by H. Jackson/Southern Methodist University.*

For those United Methodists who think our denomination was not confused enough, we can thank the Commission on the General Conference for confounding us a little further.

In an Aug. 10 [news release](#) and a [report by United Methodist News](#), we learned that the commission conducted much of its recent meeting behind closed doors in Lexington, Kentucky, and in that meeting concluded that the voting process by General Conference on legislative matters has been corrupted.

The commission considered data gathered by an independent auditing firm and evidence collected by lawyers hired to investigate, reaching a few conclusions but raising many more questions. So the commission will institute new registration and credentialing procedures for any persons who claim to be delegates to the next General Conference in May 2020.

The commission has also asked the Council of Bishops (a separate constitutional authority) and the General Council on Finance and Administration (an agency created by the General Conference, which is the same constitutional authority that created the commission) to determine whether the church can trust the self-reported statistics from each annual conference that are used to determine how many delegates an annual conference sends to the General Conference.

The commission also cast doubt on the legitimacy of votes taken and legislation approved during the February 2019 special session of the General Conference. Enough individuals improperly cast invalid votes to convince the commission that at least one legislative action is null and void — an action that cleared the way for other acts by the General Conference. However, the commission does not seem to be sure if all of the subsequent legislative steps should also be declared null and void, though they resulted from the apparently flawed vote. This hesitation is bewildering at best.

In reaching conclusions, raising questions and reaching out to other bodies for help, the commission has added to the confusion by making its own mistakes.

Here are two of them.

First, the commission convened in closed session, without satisfying the criteria for holding a closed meeting under existing church law. Paragraph 722 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016 explicitly states, "... all meetings of councils, boards, agencies, commissions, and committees of the Church ... shall be open." In the language of the Discipline, "shall" means "must."

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So the default setting is that all meetings must be open. Nevertheless, this church law does address the possibility that “closed sessions” might be necessary under certain circumstances, and it lists the cases when such closed sessions “may be considered” while stipulating that these exceptions “should be used as seldom as possible.” To be clear, the risk that some individual may be embarrassed by a disclosure in an open meeting is not one of the exceptions listed in the Discipline. Having a closed session only added to the spirit of suspicion and cynicism that clouds much of United Methodism nowadays.

Second, the commission determined that it could not take its conclusions directly to the Judicial Council for a definitive ruling on its findings. The commission cited as its authority for this judgment Division Four, Article II, (¶ 56.4) of the church constitution. However, the commission apparently failed to look at the very next numbered item in the constitution (¶ 56.5), which says the General Conference can confer other powers on the Judicial Council, and it apparently failed to notice ¶ 2609.4 in the Discipline.

In that provision of church law, the General Conference has said, “The Judicial Council shall hear and determine the legality of any action taken by any body created or authorized by the General Conference ... upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof or upon request of the Council of Bishops ...” The commission clearly is a body created by the General Conference. Therefore, if one-third of the members of the commission were to appeal, asking the Judicial Council to consider the legality of the commission’s judgments about flaws in voting procedure, the Judicial Council must address the issue.

As matters stand, the commission appears to have added to the confusion in the church by releasing a statement and by hoping that the Council of Bishops or somebody else will ask the Judicial Council to rule on the matter at some point. The commission could have taken one small step toward alleviating the confusion by exercising its own authority under ¶2609.4 to submit the matter to the Judicial Council directly.

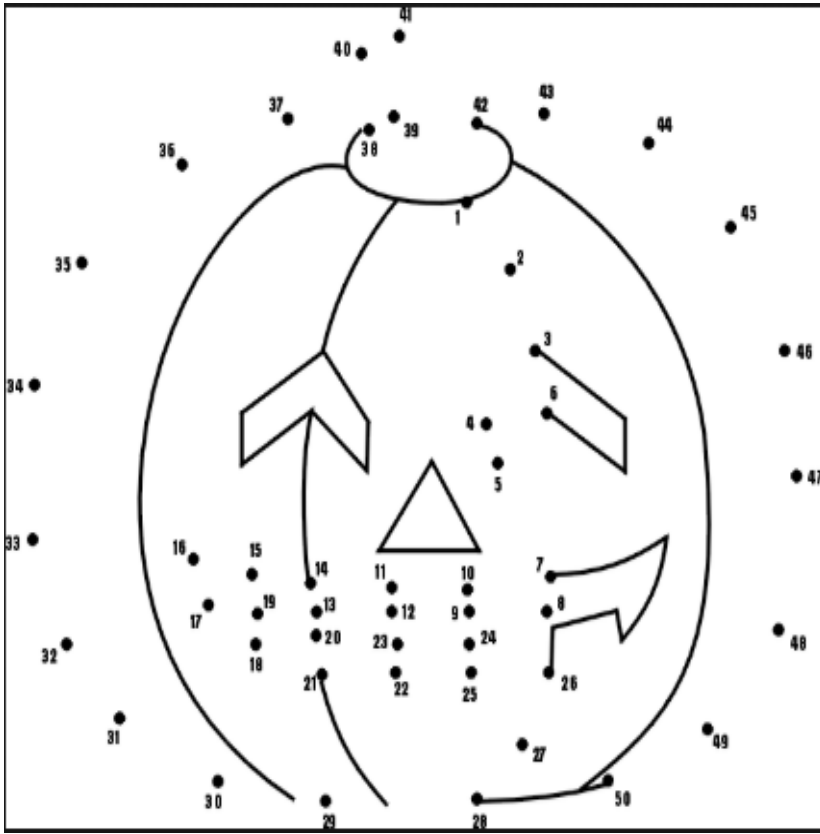
For its part, the Judicial Council could also help alleviate some of the confusion by recognizing the urgency of the matter. July 15 was the deadline to submit matters for consideration and Aug. 19 was the deadline for submitting briefs and making a request for oral hearings. So while it may be too late to add this issue from the commission to the docket for its regular meeting in October, the Judicial Council could call a special session — to be convened on the day before or immediately after the conclusion of its regular session — for determining the legality of what the commission has concluded.

These are dreadfully confusing days in The United Methodist Church. Sadly, the commission has further confounded things by its own errors—one of judgment in regard to having a closed meeting, and one of knowledge in regard to seeking a ruling from the Judicial Council.

What United Methodists desperately need these days are voices that can cut through the confusion, not compound it.

*Lawrence is an ordained elder of The United Methodist Church, former dean of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and former president of the Judicial Council.*





# Autumn

## WORD SEARCH

E	A	X	W	A	L	R	S	T	S	T	
T	K	W	Q	U	E	E	F	G	C	N	Y
F	B	O	O	T	S	F	A	E	I	D	L
H	A	E	A	R	C	I	L	S	K	A	I
M	F	E	O	E	A	P	L	S	C	S	E
A	W	H	H	E	P	U	M	P	K	I	N
S	I	H	K	A	R	B	E	T	P	R	D
E	A	A	N	E	Y	N	M	R	O	A	C
O	R	J	X	K	V	S	N	C	G	R	Q
H	L	E	A	F	S	C	A	R	F	I	O



- |       |         |       |
|-------|---------|-------|
| SCARF | APPLE   | BOOTS |
| TREE  | FALL    | RAKE  |
| ACORN | PUMPKIN | PIE   |
| HAY   | SWEATER | LEAF  |

