



The Southlawn Beacon

A lighthouse of love & concern for all people

Council of Bishops: 2018 New Year's Greetings

To the People Called United Methodists:

Grace and peace to you as we embrace the New Year.

The joy of Christmas and the gift of Emmanuel – God with us – give us the confidence to face the future with hope. This hope is born of our faith in the Living God. Thus, as we enter the New Year we affirm that God who started a good thing in us will see it to fruition.

As United Methodists, we are at a precipitous moment, uncertain about our denomination's future. Yet, we do know that we have been raised up as a people to share in God's mission by spreading scriptural holiness across the globe. And, we know that God knows what form this mission will take in the future.

As a Council of Bishops, we have been in unceasing prayer, asking God to open our hearts and minds to discern what God would have us do to lead our global movement. We thank you for your earnest prayers and invite you to continue to pray for the Commission on a Way Forward and the Council as our work continues and we prepare for the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.

Likewise, every part of the world where our United Methodist Connection is present is in the throes of dramatic upheaval, conflict, poverty, migrations or natural disasters. As we enter 2018, let us resolve to be tireless in our efforts to bring health, healing, recovery, and transformation to a broken world.

Let us be unflagging in our commission to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us be fully available to grow in our love of God and neighbor. Let us renew our commitment to always and everywhere practice our Rule of Life – do no harm, do good, attend to the ordinances of God.

The New Year is a time for renewing the covenant. John Wesley clearly understood that covenant cannot be manufactured or maintained by structural, administrative or compulsory means. He knew that covenant-making and covenant-keeping were spiritual matters—a function of offering one's life to God and to God's purposes above all else.

The first celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist movement was held on Monday, August 11, 1755. In short order, covenant renewal services were being held on New Year's Day in class meetings and societies of the Methodist revival movement. Many United Methodist churches utilize this service on their own Watch Night or New Year's Day worship. Many United Methodists can recite all or portions of Wesley's invitation to his Covenant Service as deftly as they can recite the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed or Psalm 23.

The words are powerful and provocative. I believe they may hold the key to our seeking a way forward. They invite a measure of humility, integrity, denial, and surrender that is often discomfiting and disorienting to our pre-conceived, siloed positions.

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Sunday Scripture Readings for January

January 1, New Year
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8 (UMH 743)
Revelations 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

January 7,
Epiphany Sunday
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29 (UMH 761)
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 14, 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 21, 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787)
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 4th Sunday After the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111 (UMH 832)
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Let's Update the Directory!

Have you found that your Beacon is being sent to your neighbor, or that your birthday is not in the right month? If so please give me a call, drop me an email or leave me a note (preferably printed) in the office and I will get things squared away for you as quickly as I can. Phone & Fax: 574-291-3070 Email: southlawnumc@gmail.com

Chili Cook-off Fundraiser

BRRRR, it's cold outside! How about some hot chili to warm you up a bit? You are invited to a special event to help raise funds for The Ripple Effect choir. On January 27, chili enthusiasts in the area will be bringing pots of their special homespun recipes to Zion United Church of Christ to be judged by the public. At the end of the evening, the Top Chili Dog will be awarded a prize! The \$10 suggested donation at the door includes limitless chili, cornbread, beverage, dessert, dinner music (provided by The Ripple Effect members, of course!), and the opportunity to participate in a silent auction. All proceeds will go to The Ripple Effect choir general operations, including an "If You Knew Me" tour next summer. Zion United Church of Christ is located at 211 S St Peter St, South Bend, and the doors open 4:30-7:30. For more info, please contact Sherry K at 574-291-9044 or sherry@sherryk.com.

Ladies Fellowship

Happy New Year! May 2018 bring you much joy and happiness! There will be no Ladies Fellowship during the winter months due to the unpredictable weather. We will resume in April. Have a great, warm and safe winter!

Men's Lunch Group

Happy New Year! I hope 2018 will be a good year for all. So, let's start it off with a lunch & good fellowship and share our new year's resolutions. We'll meet at Angelo's on Thursday, January 18th at 11:30 AM. Please let Roger Riddle know if you would like to join in with us. Hope to see you there!

Chancel Flowers

The 2018 flower calendar is up in the usual place by the nursery. Please prayerfully consider giving flowers for the altar to honor a loved one or a special occasion.

Thank you,
The Worship Committee

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Southlawn Shut-ins

Marge Kinner

Nancy Wolf

Primrose Retirement
Community:
Jon Baney

Woodland Terrace:
Treva Frick
Nonie Hertel

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Prayer Concerns

Jon Baney
Thomas Decatur (Son-in-law Kay Beyer)
Dennis Hudak
Janet Kling (Daughter-in-law of Shirley Kling)
Joyce Kling (Daughter-in-law of Shirley Kling)
Mitchell Kois (Friend of Kopec Family)
Matthew Lefever (Friend of Axelberg Family)
Janet Menting (Friend of Deanie Kopec)
Art Mikel
Jean Murdock (Mother of Dorothy Axelberg)

Jennifer Rex (Daughter of Fran Lapkiewicz)
Carol Riddle
James Riddle (Grandson of Roger & Carol Riddle)
Jennifer Riddle
Scot Shearer (Friend of Debbie Kopetski)
Angela Stajkowski (Sister-in-law of Nancy Stajkowski)
Cheryl & Sonny Stratton
Mike & Ines Welsh (family of Lashell Stevens)
Jason Wilson (Friend of the Sills Family)

We try to keep the list as current as possible. If you know of anyone who can be removed from the list, please contact the church office at 291-3070 or southlawnumc@gmail. Thank you.

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They clearly remind us that we belong to Christ and that to give ourselves to Christ in all things is the heart and soul of all covenantal relationships within our great United Methodist Church.

So, as we enter 2018 and trust that God will provide a future with hope, I invite all United Methodist's to renew our covenant with God and one another, as we join Methodist people throughout the ages in praying the Covenant Prayer, which in part reads:

*Lord, make me what you will
put me fully into your hands;
put me to doing, put me to suffering,
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and with willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and disposal. Amen.*

May God add God's blessing to our journey together as a covenant people and grant us a blessed New Year.



Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President
Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

The Baptism of Jesus

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11

Based on Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)



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

REPENT	JORDAN	FORGIVE	HEAVEN
CLOTHING	SINS	JESUS	WILD
LOCUSTS	WATER	RIVER	BAPTIZED
SPIRIT	CONFESS	HONEY	JOHN

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 Communion Epiphany Sunday Baptism of the Lord	8	9	10 6 PM Crochet	11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day	12	13
14 Noisy Bucket	15 The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance	16	17 6 PM Crochet	18 11:30 AM Men's Lunch Group @ Angelo's ----- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 1/18-1/25 -----	19	20
21 *Beacon Articles Due*	22 ----- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 1/18-1/25 -----	23	24 6 PM Crochet	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 6 PM Crochet			



- 2 Erin Faunce
- 3 Lauren Hall
- 4 Jen Weaver
- 7 Lucy Overmyer
- 11 Mary Alice Fletcher
- 16 Karen Nokes
- 16 Brent Urbin
- 18 Sonny Walters
- 20 John De Souza
- 20 Steve Fletcher
- 21 Robin Stratton
- 22 Jerry Kline



- 11 Darrel & Jen Weaver
- 18 Steve & Kim Holder

Liturgist
Shirley Milcherska