

Sunset Rays
The "Son" still shines at Sunset Church

February 2019

Newsletter for: SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Thomas (Tom) Murphy



ALERT...ALERT...ALERT!

By now you have heard, or been made aware, that there is a called meeting of a Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church to be held in St. Louis set for February 23-26. The meeting is being held to attempt to find a way forward for the United Methodist Church as we try to resolve the denomination's differences over homosexuality. The "Commission on a Way Forward," made up of lay and clergy from across the General Church have for many, many, months prayerfully, faithfully, and biblically sought God's guidance. Our United Methodist peoples have offered information, faith statements, and reasoning in letters and petitions honored by the Commission as it has pursued its work. The proposals to be submitted at the General Conference session are basically three:

The One Church Plan - a proposed plan by the Council of Bishops.

The Traditional Plan - essentially calling for things to remain as is according to the Discipline of the Church.

The Connectional Conference Plan - simplifying the General Church structure and provide "both space and

connection between those parts of the church currently in deep conflict."

Because the above plans are so detailed, we cannot print here all of the ramifications associated with the plans to be presented to the General Conference. However, you can go on the Internet at "The United Methodist Church: Our Way Forward" and read the details found there. You may also contact the church office for further guidance.

I am calling on YOU and all of our church family to be in consecrated prayer as the lay and clergy representatives from across our Annual Conferences gather to seek wisdom from God as our church makes its Way Forward in the days ahead on this matter. Please, let us at Sunset Drive seek God's intervention through our personal prayers during this "water-shed" moment in our denomination's history. Also, let us remember that our Master said, *"That they ALL might be ONE as you and I are one."* Let this thought be strong in our prayerful thoughts.

Pastor Tom

Upcoming Church Events

- **Worship Committee Meeting** on Tuesday, February 5th at 7pm.
- **Bible Study** will meeting on Wednesday, February 6th, February 13th, February 20th and February 27th at 6:30pm in the Forever Young Class. If you haven't attended previously it is easy to catch up as we study together. Don't put it off...join with us and learn from the Word!
- **UMM Community Breakfast** on Saturday, February 9th, from 7:30am to 9am. Meal includes- Turner ham, bacon, pancakes, sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, hot and cold drinks. Donations to be used for United Methodist Men's projects. The breakfast is opened to the community, so spread the word.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Tuesday, February 12th and Tuesday, February 26th, from 1pm to 3pm. We supply the yarn, needles, and lessons. New members are welcome.
- **Potluck Dinner and Line Dancing Lessons:** On **Saturday, February 16th** we will be hosting a potluck and line dancing. Come one, come all even if you don't want to dance you can watch and socialize. This event will be from 5:30pm - 7:00pm in the Social Hall. Dances will be taught to Christian music..
- **Administrative Council Meeting** on Monday, February 18th at 7pm.
- **March 2019 Newsletter Deadline:** Tuesday, February 19th. Please have all information to church office.
- **Sunset Drive Ladies** will meet on Thursday, February 21st at 6:30pm.
- **Sunset Ladies Lunch** will be on Tuesday, February 26th at 11:30 am Please bring a covered dish to share in some wonderful fellowship.



Inclement Weather and Cancellation Notice

Should it become necessary to cancel Sunday services or other activities during the week due to winter weather conditions, a cancellation notice will be posted through the following media: WHSV TV-3, the church website and the church Facebook.



Keep current with News & Events

submitted by Barry Davis

A friendly reminder that you can find an up-to-date calendar, bulletins, sermons, newsletters, upcoming events and online giving information on our website. Please take a few minutes and browse the site to see what's there. You'll be surprised at how much information is right at your fingertips.

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we can improve our website or our Facebook page, please feel free to contact me at barry8360@yahoo.com

Our website: <https://www.sunsetdriveumc.com>

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sunsetdriveumc>

Upcoming District Events

Conversations on “A Way Forward” for United Methodism

On *Sunday, February 3rd* and again *February 10th* there will be presentations and discussions on “The Commission on a Way Forward” and the General Conference discussion on human sexuality. Both meetings will be at 2 pm at Asbury Church, co-hosted by Pastor Adam Blagg of Otterbein Church and Pastor Steve Hay of Asbury Church. The meetings will be in room 300, also called Slaven Hall.

On February 3rd the presentation will be about the options and the decisions before the General Conference, and some of the potential consequences of the plans. There will be opportunities for questions and discussions. This first meeting will focus more on the institutional questions.

On February 10th the presentation will be about the theological issues raised by the topic of human sexuality. The values informing the three plans will be lifted up and brief reflections on Biblical/theological approaches will be offered. Again there will be opportunities for questions and discussions around the tables. This second meeting will focus more on the personal questions. All are invited to join in both meetings on the first two Sundays of February at 2 p.m. in room 300 at Asbury United Methodist Church.

Valley Vision Day

On February 16, 9:30 – 3:30 p.m., at Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft, VA, a Vision Day will be held. It is a one-day training event that provides an opportunity to discover what it means to be the Church in new and creative ways, hear from Fresh Expressions practitioners, learn how to renew existing congregations through fresh expressions of church, and discern what this could mean for your region, community, or neighborhood. There is an active discussion as well as opportunity to build networks and relationships among those in your area. Register today at [FreshExpressionsUS.org/event/Valley Vision Day](http://FreshExpressionsUS.org/event/Valley%20Vision%20Day) Cost is \$25/person for affiliates of the Virginia Conference of the UMC; \$35/person General Admission. Registration includes lunch. A.5 CEU will be available.

Sunset Ladies Ministry

submitted by Donna Belle Dove

Sunset Drive Ladies Ministry met Thursday, January 24th. We had devotions, mailed cards to church members and discussed upcoming events. *We will be putting together goodie boxes for our shut-ins during the February meeting. *We are looking forward to our annual yard/bake sale. If you have usable items that need a new home, remember us. More details to come next month. *In February we are sponsoring a non-perishable food drive for our local food bank. Look for containers in the narthex to place your contributions. Make sure your donations are not past their expiration date. *We made monetary donations to Meals on Wheels, our local food pantry, Teen Challenge, and Harrisonburg/Rockingham Community Services Board.

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 21 at 6:30. Please join us.

February Food Drive

The Sunset Drive Ladies Ministry will be collecting food for the Daily Food Pantry during the month of February! The items may be placed in the Food Drive Box in the Narthex! Please help us make a generous donation to the area food pantry. Remember to always check dates on donations as the food pantry cannot take any out-of-date items.

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation, make check payable to SDUMC and in the memo line, write Ladies-Min Food Pantry and give to Peggy Grandle or Donna Belle Dove. Thank you and May God bless your donations.



Nurture Committee

submitted by Sandy Cupp

Meet and Greet Fellowship Meal:

We will have a Carry-in (Potluck) meal following the worship service on Sunday, February 3, 2019. This will give us a chance to meet Harlen Miller, our new music director, and to fellowship with one another.

Bible School:

Our Vacation Bible School is planned for June 9 through June 13. Adult volunteers are needed. Let Sandy Cupp or Erica Kann know if you would like to help. Please consider making a difference for our children in this special ministry.

Nursery:

We need volunteers to sign up to work in the nursery during the worship service. Sandy will send out an online sign up for volunteers.

Sunday School Classes

We are currently offering the following Sunday School Classes for children from 9:00 – 9:45:

- Nursery: Ages Birth – 2 Years
- PreK / K: Ages 3 – Kindergarten
- Elementary: 1st Grade – 4th Grade
- Intermediate: 5th Grade – 6th Grade
- Youth: 7th Grade – 12th Grade

We are currently offering the following classes for adults from 9:00 – 9:45. College age students are included in these classes as well.

- Forever Young Class
- Faith Class

Members of the former Men's class and the Dorcas class have merged with the other two classes as of January 1, 2019.

Altar Flowers

submitted by Judy Post

Altar Flowers brighten our sanctuary as we worship God. Please consider giving to the Altar Flower Fund to honor your loved ones living or deceased.

Special occasions can also be celebrated with the placing of flowers on the altar in the sanctuary. Your name and your loved one's name/names will be printed in the Sunday Worship Bulletin.

For your convenience, Flower Order Forms are available on the table in the narthex just outside the sanctuary doors. These forms should be dropped in the offering plate with a check attached for your contribution and indicate on the "memo" line that it is for the Altar Flower Fund.

You can help beautify the altar in our church and honor your loved ones at the same time. If you have any questions about dates or how to order, please call Judy Post at 896-7189.

We hope that you think about Altar Flowers when you think about the people, days, and events in your life. Remember that the flowers are completely funded by contribution from the congregation.

In Christian Sympathy

• **We extend Christian sympathy** and prayers to Kim Koeppen and family. Kim's step dad, Jack Humphreys away on Friday, January 18th.

Happy Birthday

February

- 1 Meridith Peele, Carol Lee, Kai Orebaugh
- 3 Melissa Kiniry, Blake Wenger,
- 4 Patrick Malloy, Ryan Wisman
- 5 Laurel Roberts, Kay Turner
- 7 Jane Garrett, Glen Langston
- 8 Kyle Flora
- 9 Grant Holsinger, Esther Malloy, John Packard
- 10 Phillip Thompson
- 11 Betty Sue Melchor, Terry Ford
- 12 Meghan Flora
- 14 Nick Turner
- 15 Emily Turner
- 16 Bev Thompson
- 18 Austin Deavers
- 19 Mike Dick
- 20 Beth Hoover, Tim Branner,
- 22 Natalie Flora
- 23 Beth Moore, Kim Mills
- 24 Landon Wisman
- 25 Abby Fulk
- 27 C. W. Grandle, Pat Leffel
- 28 Samantha Dove
- 29 Elizabeth Gilley



Happy Anniversary

February

- 6 Steve and Joan Shifflett
- 23 Kevin and Michele Biller

