

# New Beginnings

Then the crowd asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"  
Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."  
John 6:28-29 N.I.V.

Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish

September 2017



## Pastor's Corner

Pastor Mel Nielsen  
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*26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

- Gen 1:26-27 (N.I.V.)

This is my first *Pastor's Corner* as a grandfather. Now that I am officially old my family can talk about me while we are all in the same room. They can start talking about which 'home' they want to put me if I don't stop saying crazy things.

I have realized over the years that a person can say the same words and be viewed completely differently. When I was a toddler my words made me 'cute', In my teens I was called 'stupid', In my 20's I was called 'immature', in my 30's I was called 'arrogant', in my 40's I was called a 'jerk', in my 50's I am called 'opinionated', in my 60's I will be referred to as 'clever', then 'wise' in my 70's and eventually I will just be referred to as 'cute' again.

Since I have a few more years in my 50's I suppose I am still opinionated. That's okay because one of the benefits of aging is that you get more confident of your opinions. Even when they seem to go against the grain, we maintain our opinions; after all we will never be considered clever if our opinions are wrong. One opinion I hold is that it does not take two to tango, it takes three!

Human beings are very good at making more human beings, there have been billions of us since the world began. Of all the things we haven't figured out, making babies isn't one of them. In all this baby making

we have partaken in, we have not done it alone, God is the third member needed to create life. Two human beings can make another human being, biologically speaking, but God is the only one who can provide the spark that gives a body - life.

We would like to think that babies are the creation of two people's love for each other, that isn't always the case. Some are considered an 'accident' and some are the result of a violent act. I am thankful my grandson was born out of two people's love for each other and their belief in a loving Heavenly Creator.

I pray someday he will come to understand that he has a second life, another life given to him through the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. When God tells us that we have been created in His image, that doesn't just mean we have a physical resemblance, but more. We are also created eternal, just like our Lord. We have our earthly birth and a life that is fit for this world. At some point we accept Jesus and we are made aware of another life, the one that is fit for Heaven.

All of this is just my opinion, you can disagree if you choose. Not even God forces us to believe, He has extended an invitation. So I do the same, I extend an invitation to you. In my opinion there is more we are living for than just this moment. We do not spend our earthly lives working only to face death, but to face life, that new life in Heaven.

Life continues from now until forever. There is an old saying, which, when I was 'stupid' sounded really good; "*Live like there is no tomorrow.*" That phrase means live it up now, give into all the pleasures you can indulge in now for there may be no tomorrow. My opinion is that there is a forever of tomorrows. Now that I am 'opinionated' and turning the corner on 'clever' I try to live as though every decision I make will help guide me to an eternal life where tomorrow is not concern.

Don't live your life like there is no tomorrow. Enjoy everyday of this life and always be preparing for the new life that awaits you.

- Pastor Mel

## *Volunteer Opportunities At Hospice Of Kankakee Valley*

Register now for our upcoming Volunteer Training Classes! Training will be Thursday, September 14, 21, and 28 from 5:15 - 8:15 p.m. at the Hospice of Kankakee office located at 482 Main St. NW in Bourbonnais. Participants must go through an initial interview and be accepted into the class.

Hospice volunteers come from all walks of life including students, stay-at-home parents, professionals, retirees, and family members of former patients. Volunteers opportunities are for individuals 18 and over in our Transitions and hospice programs.

Hospice of Kankakee Valley was originally organized as a volunteer hospice, and we continue to recognize and appreciate the important role our volunteers have on the hospice team. Each volunteer brings a unique combination of interests, experience and talents to the hospice program. We are fortunate to have volunteers on our team from every walk of life, from firefighters and students to attorneys and full-time homemakers. Whatever your talents, Hospice of Kankakee Valley has a need you can fill. A screening interview and orientation at HKV and a training course

are required for volunteers who work directly with patients and families.

### **Ways You Can Volunteer:**

- Patient/Family Contact Volunteers:
  - Stay with the patient while the caregiver rests, or runs errands
  - Help prepare meals or do light housework
  - Assist in grocery shopping or picking up medicine
  - Provide companionship to the patient by reading, writing a letter for them, or simply just being there

Administrative Support Volunteers assist with office or clerical tasks, speak to community groups, run errands, work at information booths at events and fairs, or assist with fundraisers.

Bereavement Volunteers help with support groups and bereavement mailings. 11th Hour Volunteers stay with the patient or family when the patient is actively dying. They provide this valuable support and companionship so, as much as possible, patients do not have to spend their final hours alone.

Fundraising/Special Event Volunteers can help with planning and/or implementing any events throughout the year. Volunteers could be responsible for registration, set-up and take down of the event, and assisting participants along with other tasks.

Becoming a hospice volunteer has many rewards: You can gain valuable personal and professional experience, contribute to your community and society, meet new friends, increase feelings of self-worth, learn new skills and work as a team member with other professionals. Our Volunteer Coordinator will be happy to answer any questions you have about volunteering for Hospice of Kankakee Valley. Call (815) 939-4141, email <mailto:volunteers@hkvcares.org> or fill out the form online [www.hvcares.org](http://www.hvcares.org) to submit your information.

### ***Youth Group Kick Off***

The Bonfield Grand Prairie Youth Group will kick-off it's new year with a party on Wed., Sept. 6, 6-8 p.m. in the back yard of Bonfield Evangelical, 348 Smith Street, Bonfield, IL.

This is an interdenominational group, so all youth are welcome to come, there is no cost. If you are a parent of a youth who will be going into 7th grade this year, you are invited to stop and meet the new Youth Group Director, Ryan Coffman and the Pastor Mel Nielsen. Each month the group gathers to share a Bible lesson, play fun games and enjoy snacks.

**Time  
For  
Church**



#### **Bonfield First**

**172 Church Street**

**8:00 a.m. Sunday Services**

**9:15 Adult and Youth Sunday School**

#### **Bonfield Evangelical**

**348 Smith Street, Bonfield**

**9:15 a.m. Sunday Services**

**10:15 Adult and Youth Sunday School**

#### **Grand Prairie**

**Rt. 17 Bonfield**

**10:30 a.m Sunday Services**

**9:15 a.m Adult and Youth Sunday School**

## Martha Circle Report

The Martha Circle United Methodist Women met Wed., Aug., 9, 9 a.m. at the home of Marion Panozzo, with 7 members present. A delicious breakfast was enjoyed by all with Laura & Nicholas (grandchildren) serving.

Panozzo opened with a message on joy that was handwritten by her mother Doris. The group received a big thank you from Mary & Duane Krieg for celebrating Mary's 90th birthday with cake after church.

The treasurer's report was given and it revealed a balance of \$81.52, an offering was taken. The UMW District President asked all units to talk/share what each unit is doing. One thing we do is getting "study bags" for college students during their studies for finals.

Election of officers was held. The same slate of officers will lead the group next year. Janet Boyer, President; Vickie Brinkman, Vice-President; Linda Scholl, Secretary and Rhonda Wenzelman, Treasurer.

The ladies talked about having a soup and sandwich after worship one Sunday per month starting in October. Joyce Cochran mentioned that Sunday school had been talking along those same lines. When dates are finalized they will be published in the church bulletin.

The Gift of God Street Church meals were scheduled; Aug. 9 will be Tricia Coffman & Nicole Cruse; Oct. 11 will be Wenzelman & Scholl and Dec. 13 will be Marilyn & Kim Ohrt.

Upcoming meetings were also announced with Joyce Cochran hosting on Oct. 11 with Shepherdess Ellen Liehr in attendance. Kim Ohrt will be hosting the December Christmas Party with place and date to be determined.

Thank you cards were signed. Cochran filled in the group on plans for the upcoming Thanksgiving Service. For closing each member stated what is a joy for them.

## Upcoming Worship Schedule

*The following is a tentative schedule for September 2017 worship.*

**(Readings & message may change without notice.)**

### September 3

13th Sunday after Pentecost

"Roman Road - Part 8"

Altar Color - White

OT: None

NT: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

### September 10

14th Sunday after Pentecost

"Roman Road - Part 9"

Altar Color - Green

OT: None

NT: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

### September 17

15th Sunday after Pentecost

"Forgiveness"

Altar Color - Green

OT: None

NT: None

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

### September 24

16th Sunday after Pentecost

"Earthly Prizes"

Altar Color - Green

OT: None

NT: None

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

### October 1

17th Sunday after Pentecost

"Equality with God"

Altar Color - Green

OT: None

NT: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

## July 2017 Attendance

	<u>7/2</u>	<u>7/9</u>	<u>7/16</u>	<u>7/23</u>	<u>7/30</u>
Evangelical	32	41	43	38	43
First	18	14	25	15	09
Grand Prairie	31	35	31	30	30
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>



# There is POWER in PRAYER

Pastor Mel invites you to join in praying for the following names and causes.

## **Friends and Family Close to Home**

### Nursing Home

Heritage Village.....Vi Morse

Manteno Veterans.....Bob Grob, Byron Warren

### Assisted Living

Butterfield.....Bernice Schultz, Mel Brinkman family

Harvest View.....Warren Cochran, Roscella Piper,  
Randy Riegel

River North.....Ruth Ohrt

Westwood Oaks.....Fostine Schwark, Don Mau

At Home.....Jan May, Jackie Wagner

## **From Our Church Bulletin**

Kurt Boesen, Charles Brinkman, Jr., Shirley Brunner, Dennis Bushman, Joann Coffman, Tyler Coffman, Sue Coons, Ron Cordes, Jean Dunn, Dennis Hertz, Butch Lambert, Janice Logsdon, Allen Messer, Sheila Neuby, Dorene O'Connor, Merle Penrod, Kevin Reiniche, Rob Reiniche, Randy Riegel, Richard Wildman, Pam Wilking, James Vilt., Sr.

## **Compassion International Kids**

Latif Korogo.....Burkina Faso

Maria Clara Maciel Da Silva "Clara".....Brazil

Dayava Sanchez.....Columbia

Witney Juarez.....Guatemala

Shan Toppo.....India

Junior Okwii Barasa .....Kenya

Genesi Marisol Martinez Vasquez.....Honduras

Samuel Juda Lopez Miranda.....Mexico

Mohini Ahirwar.....India

Cinthia Yolany Carranza Aguila.....Honduras

Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh

Yeferson David Ortiz Cortez.....Colombia

Nevada Eric.....Rwanda

Anielka Carolina Garcia Roque.....Nicaragua

Schekinah Jean Louis.....Haiti

Salome Vicente Melo.....Mexico

Benjamin Sewu.....Ghana

Lucky Hubiagbe.....Ghana

Rebeca Callapa.....Bolivia

Saray Morales.....Columbia

## **Other requests**

Bishop Frank Beard, D.S. Leah Pogemiller, Nueva Jerusalem, Inner City Violence, State Budget, President Trump and his new cabinet, First Responders, Missionaries, Military.

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

In September the Prayer Shawl Group will be meeting on Sept. 5, 7 pm at the Bonfield First United Methodist Church in Bonfield.

So far the group has given away 37 Prayer Shawls to people suffering from many different difficulties that life can give us. The group continues to pray for those recipients and their families.

They currently have a supply of Prayer Shawls and hope that anyone who knows of someone who may need the encouragement and comfort of a Prayer Shawl will contact Dianne Wells 815-933-4206 or Pastor Mel at 815-802-9805. You do not need to be a member of the Bonfield Grand Prairie Parish, this is an outreach to the entire Limestone Salina Communities.

They are encouraging anyone in these communities to come knit or crochet with them. They like encouraging beginners or people who may have knitted or crocheted in the past and would like to brush up on their skills. They encourage people to come for fellowship and getting to know others in our communities.

Needles, hooks, yarn, and patterns to share are available to all who attend.

The group will also be working on winter scarfs and hats for the Salvation Army to give out to people this winter. Every year Bonfield First United Methodist Church has a mitten tree on which scarfs, hats, and mittens are collected for people in need. You may like to start one in your church! This is a good time to get started on these projects.

Group leader, Dianne Wells, hopes to see some new faces and meet new people who like to reach out to others!

## *Fellowship Breakfast*

Tue., Sept. 5, 2017, 8:30 at IHOP in Bourbonnais. Come enjoy a great breakfast and even better fellowship with other church members and friends. This is a good way to get to know other people who worship God in the Bonfield area. You do not need to be a member to attend. Everyone is invited.

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A life spent in the service of God and communion with Him is the most pleasant life that anyone can live in this world.

— Matthew Henry

## *Evangelical UMW Report*

On Thurs., Aug. 3, 1:30 pm the Evangelical United Methodist Women met at the home of Marjorie Kersch. Christine Meyer read Scripture taken from Psalm 139 and Matthew 10:30.

Ardis Messer gave the lesson on nurturing, based on Luke 8:1-3 and Luke 23:54. Along with the disciples, many women supported Jesus' ministry out of their own needs. Some were anxious to hear his words and share with other women as well as their children.

One question asked was "where are women when men are not happy?" Some answers included women wanting the right to vote. When men had to work with women during the war in factories. In more recent times when women went work and even in the pulpit.

Messer talked about when our local women's group began, Mar., 7, 1912. 105 years ago it was called Sister Society of Salina with 11 members and dues was 10 cents. She closed her lesson with a prayer from Response Magazine.

Roll call, minutes and a treasury report were given. The group has given to the Guardian Parent Program through Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana, IL.

They will provide supper at Gift of God Street Church on September 13. Interested in helping? Contact Christine Meyer.

The Annual District Meeting, A Call to Community will be Sept., 21 at Hudson UMC.

Officers were elected for 2018. President, Carol Buente; Vice President, Dayle Seitz; Treasurer and Program Resources, Ardis Messer and Secretary Christine Meyer.

Nominations Chairman is Esther Marcotte. The next meeting will be Sept. 8 with Ardis Messer as hostess and Joyce Riegel as lesson leader.

## *MMDC Trip Held*

On Aug., 8, 2017, 2 ladies from Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Women volunteered at Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Dayle Seitz and Chris Meyer spent the day counting and boxing up soap and tooth paste in preparation to be to be included in health kits. The health kits will eventually be shipped to Haiti or elsewhere as needed.

## *Bible Quiz*

In memorable language in Revelation, God tells the church in Laodicea, "I am about to spit you out of my mouth," because it is metaphorically \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank).

- A. too hot
- B. too cold
- C. tasteless
- D. lukewarm

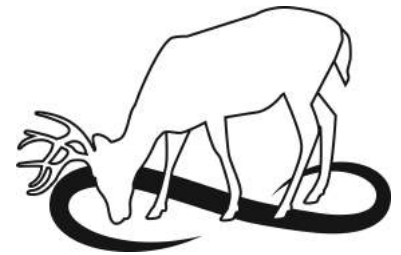
See answer below

## *September Memory Verse*

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.  
—Ephesians 4:32

## *+ Christian Symbols +*

### **Deer**



The deer symbolizes safety in God's care, as seen in David's praise of God for delivery from enemies: "[The Lord] makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights" (2 Samuel 22:34; Psalm 18:33, NIV). The deer also represents faithfulness and eager devotion: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God" (Psalm 42:1, NIV).

## *Quotes Of The Month*

"Don't worry about failures. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try."

—Jack Canfield

"I teach Sunday school. What's your superpower?"

—Unknown

"Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion."

—Georg Hegel

Answer: D (See Revelation 3:16.)





## *Family Movie Night*

Save the date! A family movie night is being planned for Fri., Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m. at Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist Church. The movie is free and includes popcorn and snacks. The movie has yet to be determined, so watch this newsletter and the church bulletin for more information. The church is located at 348 E. Smith Street, for more information, call 815-802-9805.

## *Bonfield Evangelical Beginning Plans For 100th Anniversary Celebration*

The Bonfield Evangelical NOW Committee is in the very early stages of planning a 100th Anniversary Celebration. The members of the committee are looking to August 2018, with a specific date to be announced. Look for more information to be announced in the coming months. If you have any interest in assisting the NOW Committee please see Pastor Mel.

## *First UMW Report*

The Bonfield First United Methodist Women met Thurs., July 20, at Bonfield First Church. After collecting donations all month, the group assembled kits and donations for Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). In all, 3 sewing kits (+ 49 most needed items); 3 flood buckets (+ 17 most needed items); 2 layettes (+ 40 most needed items); 14 school kits (+52 extra items); and \$40 for personal dignity kits were generously given by members and the amazing congregation!

The gifts will be taken to MMDC at the end of the month. Election of officers was held, and the slate changed as Barbara Cordes accepted the position of Recording Secretary, and Karen Meyer is now the Vice-President. More info regarding the chicken supper was discussed as the group reluctantly decided to raise ticket prices to accommodate the rising cost of chicken. Karen Meyer provided delicious treats for the group. The next UMW meeting is September 14, a week earlier than usual so preparations for the chicken supper, Sat., Sept. 30, 4-7 at the Lion's Hall, can be made.



Photos by Pastor Mel

The Bonfield First United Methodist Women gathered at Bonfield First United Methodist Church on Thurs., July 20 to assemble kits that will be delivered to Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF**

Immediately following  
Sunday Worship on  
**Sun., Sept. 10**  
(Appx 10:15)

### **Breakfast**

- Pancakes • Sausage
- Fruit • Drinks • Donuts

### **Games**

- Bozo Buckets • Spin & Win
- Mini Golf • Ring Toss

**Face Painting  
Games for the Adult**

*Come and meet your Sunday school  
teachers and see the classrooms!*



## *An Update From The Way Forward Commission*

Last week the Bishops' Commission on a Way Forward for the Church held its fourth face-to-face meeting. With nine total meetings scheduled, we are still not even halfway to the end of our process. We are aware that this process is taking more time and thought than some would like. It is not easy work.

The Commission is not trying to determine what the church should believe regarding sexual practice and marriage. We are concentrating on how we can and cannot live together. So time has not been spent on theological debate or trying to persuade others to change their position. We've done that for four decades, and going over the rationales for each position is unlikely to change anyone's mind or create any kind of resolution.

The focus of this meeting was to solidify the foundation for a proposal by 1) coming to agreement about what we have in common as United Methodists, 2) summarizing what we have been hearing and learning from various parts of the church, and 3) identifying guiding principles for a way forward.

### **Our Core**

We agreed on what forms our common core, the shared understanding of the Christian faith that helps describe our identity as United Methodists. We share a

common desire to root our theology and actions in Scripture, even while we have sharp disagreements over how to interpret and apply the Bible to life. We share a Wesleyan theological heritage founded on:

- Apostles' and Nicene Creeds
- Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith
- The General Rules (do no harm, do good, attend upon all the ordinances of God/means of grace)
- The Wesley Hymns

A key part of our identity that we are recovering is small group accountability and support. The class and band meetings of 18th century England have given way to modern spiritual formation groups, support groups, and accountability groups. We strongly believe in a life of Christian discipleship characterized by works of piety, mercy, and justice. Common liturgy, such as services of Baptism and Eucharist, link us together. And our church features bishops, an itinerant clergy to extend the mission of the church, and conferencing as our way of decision-making.

Of course, it is important to note that evangelicals, centrists, and progressives do not understand our core the same way. Differences of

**PLEASE SEE "PASTOR" ON PAGE 11**

## **New Member Classes Beginning Sept. 13, 2017**

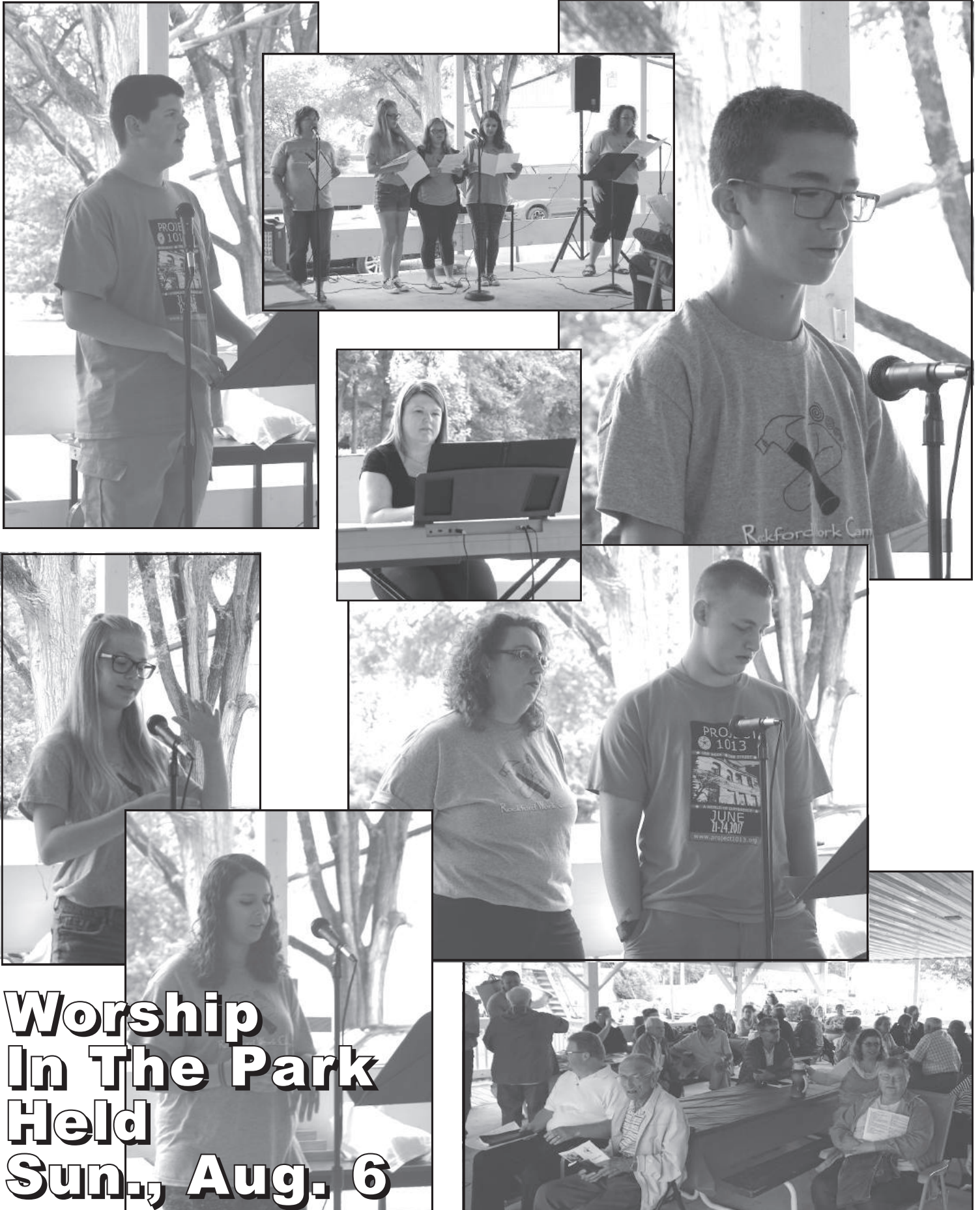
This is a 5-week study focused on Methodism. We will talk about the denomination's history, theology, traditions and polity.

After completing this course you will have an opportunity to join the church as a full member but you will not be obligated to.

*Please contact Pastor Mel 815-922-9161 if you would like  
to register for these classes.*

*There is no fee or books required.*

We will meet at the Pastor's House - 225 Country Lane, Bonfield



## WAY

(Continued from page 9)

interpretation and application might mean that the core does not really unite us, but only serves as a starting point for development in separate directions.

### What We Are Learning

We have received and processed significant feedback from North American caucus groups, general church agencies, seminary students, young adults, large church pastors, and United Methodist theologians and historians, among others. While this feedback has been helpful in understanding the issues and concerns that people bring to this conflict, the solutions people have proposed are in many ways contradictory and one-sided. As we narrow in on a proposal, we will need to try to accommodate the interests and concerns of all sections of the church, while knowing that we cannot fulfill anyone's expectations completely. The ultimate proposal will be a compromise and blending of ideas and suggestions.

One major emphasis of this meeting was a deeper understanding of the distinct circumstances in the central conferences outside the United States. It is important to understand where these United Methodist brothers and sisters stand on the issues that divide us. But it is also important to understand their local situations. There are many countries in Africa and Eastern Europe that not only do not allow same-sex marriage, but actually have laws against homosexuality. Many of the European congregations and annual conferences are small and financially precarious.

Another segment during this meeting revolved around a greater understanding of our church pension situation. Some annual conferences have considerable unfunded liability for pensions earned by clergy prior to 1982. And as clergy and spouses live longer lives, that liability increases. Any proposal the Commission makes will have to address how that liability is cared for.

### Principles for a Way Forward

We are looking for a way forward that provides enough separation between the disagreeing parts of the church, so that no one is forced to support a type of ministry that he or she cannot in good conscience believe in. Given the events that have transpired since General Conference 2016, the amount of needed separation is probably greater now than it was then. I am hoping for a solution where those who can live

together are able to do so, while those who cannot live together are not forced to do so.

I am gratified that the Commission has begun sketching the outlines of a proposed way forward. The next several months will be crucial in helping us arrive at a way to resolve the impasse in our denomination. The outlines will rapidly become clearer, and the details will start to fill in.

### A Heart of Peace

Some have complained that the Commission's meetings are not open to the press or public. While I am a proponent of open meetings in most circumstances, I firmly believe we on the Commission could not have accomplished what we have so far if the meetings had been open. (Full disclosure: my colleagues who work most closely with Good News magazine disagree with me and believe the meetings should be open.) The need to worry about how one comes across in a polarized church and society would stifle creativity and the ability to "try on" ideas. Because of the trust and goodwill we have toward one another within our group of 32 members, we are able to say things that we might not have said in a public venue, and we can work through a messy process toward a clear solution. I along with many Commission members look forward to sharing publicly as much information as we can as soon as we can in this process.

We are grateful for, encouraged by, and dependent upon the prayers of United Methodists around the globe. As we on the Commission do our work, we are constantly admonished to engage with one another with "a heart of peace." I am hopeful that this same attitude of humility, peace, and love will characterize not only the deliberations of the Commission, but all the blogs and discussions and meetings that will help the church process our recommendations. Finding a positive and God-honoring way forward for our church depends on it.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

*Thomas Lambrecht is a United Methodist clergy person and the vice-president of Good News. He serves as a member of the Bishops' Commission on a Way Forward.*

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September 2017

# Bonfield First Church's Annual Chicken Supper

Saturday, September 30

4 - 7 p.m.

Bonfield Lion's Hall

*Adults - \$10*

*Children 6-11 - \$5 Under 5 Eat FREE!*

**Don't miss the WORLD-FAMOUS Salad Bar!**  
**Dine In or Carry Out.**

