

# The Remarker

First United Methodist Church



Princeton, West Virginia

A Place to Trust



A Place to Become



Church in the  of Princeton

November - December, 2016

Volume 45, Issue 6

Get in on the fun by entering your group in our

**Annual Christmas Dinner/ Table Decorating/**

**Children's Program**

**Sunday - December 4, 2016**



Name of Group:

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Number of Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ (*Each table seats 6*)

Table Cloth Desired: (please check)

Green: \_\_\_\_\_

Red: \_\_\_\_\_

White: \_\_\_\_\_

Will provide our own: \_\_\_\_\_

Decorating times will be: (*please choose a day and provide the time you wish to decorate*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday -- December 1, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday -- December 2, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday -- December 3, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_ (Time)

**All decorations must be finished by Saturday at 5:00 pm so that judging can be completed.**

Contact Person for your group:

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Phone #

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Thank you for being a part of this annual event!

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## **Not Quite Home**

For the last several months Pam and I have been suffering through the well-known malady commonly called “Empty Nest Syndrome.” Erin began her third year at Marshall, Allie started her first year at Concord and of course, Leslie continues to live in Canton, OH with her husband and five children.

To say that the house has been quiet is a bit of an understatement. (However, we have noticed that at least once each evening our cats decide to get into some disagreement with one another which is both annoying and nostalgic at the same time. At least the girls never got to the point of “flying fur” in their rare moments of disagreement.)

I know that this is a phenomenon that many of the households of First UMC have experienced and one that I know many more will be experiencing in the not too distant future. Let me share a couple of lessons that have been helpful to me over the past few months...

I am so very happy that Pam and I invested early in making our relationship the most important thing in our lives and in our children’s lives. There were many occasions when the girls were growing up that “the kids did not come first”. This was quite intentional by Pam and me because (a) we wanted our girls to see what a healthy marriage looks like; and (b) we knew the day was coming when it would be just the two of us again and we didn’t want there to be a great amount of awkwardness. Looking back, I’m still extremely glad that we made this decision. I know that my girls are prepared to “work” when marriage arrives for them. I’m also very glad my best friend in the world still can stand to live with me in the same home!

No matter how much you think you are ready for the changes that being an “empty nester” will bring you – you are not ready. I still walk by empty bedrooms, go and sit on the edge of a bed and wish I could hug one of the girls just one more time. I still want to share things with them when I get home. I text more, now. I look forward to (most) of their phone calls. I love hearing their voices and most of all, I love knowing that they are becoming the fine, strong, faith-filled young women that God intended them to be.

I am still Dad even though there are no children in the house. That was an unusual lesson for me to learn. I never really thought about it till the kids were gone, but “Dad” has become a permanent part of my identity. To the new Dads out there...remember that. To those who are further along the path of empty nesting...hold on to that.

I am now really, really, looking forward to the holidays and all that it will bring. The house will be chaotic and festive. I will have to fight for bathroom time. I will have to put up with the smell of body spray. I will probably have to go around and turn off lights in unused rooms. I will hear more laughter. I will get more hugs. I look forward to these days ahead called “holidays” and to me, they will be especially “Holy Days.”

I realize that for many of you, this is old hat. For some of you, it is something you can’t fathom to think about yet. (For still others, who are bearing the pain of waiting for a child, or who have gone through life wanting and not receiving a child, I realize that this has probably felt a bit self-



*Director of Children's Ministries*

*Barbara Ballard (304-920-8186)*

*Office Hours: Mon.: 9:00—10:00 AM; 11:30—12:30 PM, Tues.: 1:00—2:00 PM*

*Wed.: 12:00—2:00 PM office number: 304-425-0064*

*Thank you for supporting Trunk or Treat!*

Thank you for the generous donations of candy for our annual Trunk or Treat outreach event. We couldn't offer this fun evening without the willing support of volunteers of all ages. We hosted about 200 children this year! Hope many of you were able to check out all of the creatively decorated trunks in our parking lot, where the kids were welcomed and treated by many friendly FUMC faces. There was lots of fun inside, too, including balloon animals by the Tuckers, face painting by Amy Williams, and games, which were led by both youth and adults, and food by the youth, directed Becky, B.J and Brandon. Kim Bay's popular cakewalk attracted lots of participants, and the Odell's did a great job of manning the prize tables until they were depleted.



God Bless you all for your support!

## **CFT Show-Off night**

**Wed., Nov 2nd at 6:00 PM**

**Parents and extended family of our CFT "Close Encounters with the Genesis People" study are welcome to join us for a light supper, as we celebrate the conclusion of our fall session.**



**Our meal will be featuring foods from our stories, such as soup (chili by Miss Martha) for Jacob and Esau, fruit (Adam and Eve), and desserts of many colors (Joseph).**

**The following Wednesday, the children will continue meeting at 6:00 but will be practicing for their Christmas musical on the following dates:**

November 9th, 16th and 30th (full tech rehearsal)

6:00—7:30 PM

(Additional practices during and after Sunday School hour, as needed)

**Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, Dec. 3rd from 10:00—11:30 AM**

**Thanks so much for your support!**

**Family Ministries Center**



**Please join us Sunday, December 4th at 5:30 PM**

**As we celebrate the season together by watching the children's Christmas musical about giving entitled "Bows of Holly" by Dennis and Nan Allen.**

**directed by Sherrie Price**

**This year we will gather in the sanctuary to watch the children's performance.**

**Our annual Christmas dinner will once again, take place in the gym at about 6:30, following the Children's musical.**

The entire church family, extended families, Sunday School Classes, small groups, friends of church members or children who are performing, are welcome to join us for a delicious holiday meal. Just bring a favorite dish. The church will provide drinks, and tableware.



News  
From the  
3rd floor



Rebecca Rowe  
Director of Youth  
rdschaeffer@suddenlinkmail.com  
(304) 425-0064 - Office  
(276) 245-9455 - Cell

Office Hours  
Sunday 1:00 - 8:00 PM  
Monday 3:30 - 8:30 PM  
Tuesday 3:30 - 8:30 PM  
Wednesday 2:30 - 8:30 PM  
Thursday 2:30 - 8:30 PM



**Youth Night**  
Sunday's 4:00 - 5:30 pm



**Bible Study**  
Wednesday's at 6:00 pm




November  
& December  
Youth  
Activities

**Bible Study**  
Dates: November 2, 9, 16,  
23, 30

*Special Thanks to those who have blessed the youth by preparing a fabulous breakfast for us the last two months. Our gratitude to: Bob & Barb Ballard, Scott Sears for September and to Bill & Cindy Lewis for October!!*

### Community Thanksgiving Service



Held at First Church of God on Sunday, November 20, 2016 @ 6 PM. For any youth wanting to go with the youth group, we will meet at the church around 5:15 PM and ride together.

### Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 27, 2016 @ 7 PM  
SNL Youth night will meet at regular time and there will be a parent meeting to follow at 6 pm in the conference room.



Youth Prayer Breakfast will be held on Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 AM. Be sure to join us for a great time of fellowship and prayer!

### Refreshment Cart

Dates:

Nov.  
13 & 27

Dec. 11  
& 25 (?)

Twice a month the youth join with First Baptist Church to meet in the town square on Mercer Street to fellowship with and hand out food and refreshments to the community.



### Christmas Dinner/Gift Exchange

Dec. 4 @ 5:30. After enjoying the children's play, we will be having our table decorating contest as well as our gag gift exchange during the dinner



Date TBD for a trip to see the Christmas Lights @ Bristol





**Library News and Stuff** - submitted by Jerry Flanagan, Librarian**CHRISTMAS STORIES***An Endless Christmas*, by Cynthia Ruchti

Both in their eighties, Dodie and Wilson Binder celebrate every Christmas as if it were their last. This year, their only grandson, Micah, asks his girlfriend, Katie, to marry him – in front of the whole Binder family. But things go terribly wrong when she says no. Now Katie is stuck. Too many people, too much snow, and too little room should be a recipe for disaster. But, sometimes too much is just enough. Especially, when it's Christmas.

*Home for Christmas* (short stories)

One distant, shared memory binds four siblings, separated early in life and reared in different families. This year, a new memory could begin for them as one determined friend, a short internet message, and God's miraculous timing bring them home for Christmas.

*Home for the Holidays* (Christmas Memories)

"What do the holidays mean to you?" More than sixty prominent Americans answered this question, asked by Habitat for Humanity. Maya Angelou describes the Habitat for Humanity mission in an inspiring vignette about the first Christmas. Hillary Clinton offers her thanks for one of the most precious gifts she has ever received. Newt Gingrich tells how two Habitat families changed his view of Christmas. Barbara Bush recalls her ride in a cherry-picker to place the star atop the National Christmas Tree.

**Attendance****ATTENDANCE – September 2016**

Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM-Worship	Online	TOTAL
09.04.2016	74	149	21	170
09.11.2016	77	134	20	165
09.18.2016	75	135	21	156
09.25.2016	64	165	21	186

**ATTENDANCE – October 2016**

Date	Sunday School	10:50 AM-Worship	Online	TOTAL
10.02.2016	63	163	19	182
10.09.2016	89	190	19	209
10.16.2016	77	154	13	167
10.23.2016	70	149	14	163
10.30.2016	71	142	10	152



**College News** - submitted by *Patty Flanagan*

Take just a minute to learn about the college students in our church family.....30 college students!  
Below is a breakdown of the numbers.

Local Students (15)

Concord University

- Catherine Cavender
- LydiaBeth Comer
- William Fredeking
- Jessica Hicks
- Chelsea Hollifield (Grad student)
- Cole Hollifield
- Isaac Mick
- Allie Sears
- Charles Seye
- Rebekah Weaver

Bluefield State

- Colton Fix
- Tierney Quesenberry

New River Community College

- Taylor Horton
- Kayla Thomas

Southwest Virginia Community College

- Becky Rowe
- Carrie Schaeffer

Out of Town Students (14)

Marshall University

- Lori Comer (PhD student living locally)
- Betsy Horton
- Erin Sears
- Sahara Stanley (Grad Student)

West Virginia University

- Catessa Howard (Grad Student)
- Abbey Stafford (Grad Student)
- Bryce Veneri
- Layne Veneri

Virginia Tech

- Alex Bay (Grad Student)
- Megan Graham (Grad Student)
- Matthew Kessinger (Grad Student)
- Perry Stafford

Washington and Lee

- Austin Smith
- Brittany Smith

November 27<sup>th</sup> will be Higher Education Sunday and some of these students will be leading worship and ushering. Please make certain to greet and encourage them.





## **Transitions**

### **In Memory:**

Elmer Hall Bay, Jr.

April 24, 1927 - October 29, 2016

Michael Kile Burks

March 22, 1973 - November 03, 2016

## **In Memory of ...**

***Elmer H. Bay, Jr.***

***gifts have been designated***

***by***

Rowena Gonzales-Chambers, MD

Princeton Hematology Oncology

Norma Lee Clark

Eppy's IV, INC.

Dale Harmon

Fisher & Hodges CPAS

Ott and JoAnna Fredeking

Susan and Rusty Whittaker

***Memorial Fund***

***Frances M. Moody***

Rosie Gilmore, Larry Gilmore, Barbara Bruner

***Memorial Fund***





## **Feeding Hungry Children**

### **Feeding Hungry Children Update**

November is our usually a special time to express our gratitude to God for our many blessings. For the past couple years, the Feeding Hungry Children Team has offered this congregation the opportunity to translate that gratitude into material blessings for the children in our area who are at risk of not having adequate food on the weekend when they don't have school meals. This year the team was asked to provide food for Glenwood School and we decided that we would do our best to provide for the Princeton area children God brought to us. With the addition of Glenwood and the increase in need at some of the other schools, our total is now at 151 students being served each week. This year we are offering the congregation the opportunity to sponsor one or more children in the program for as many months as desired. Fifteen dollars provides a child with a bag of weekend food for a month (four weekends). The children of our church will place turkey hands on a giant turkey in the front of the sanctuary representing each month of sponsorship.

In the spirit of offering special gratitude, we want to offer our thanks to this amazing congregation. Your love and heart for serving has been overwhelming and I know you make God happy each time you think of ways to help those who need your blessings.

### **Food Donation List**

Although a request is being made in November for child sponsorships, some people may desire to purchase and donate food for the bags as has been requested in past years. Below is a current list of needed food if you would like to contribute in that way.

Motts Natural Applesauce (3.9 oz)  
Kellogg's Cereal (individual serving size)  
Fruit Roll Ups (0.5 oz)  
Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Variety Pack (1.3 oz)  
Del Monte Fruit Cup Snacks (4 oz)  
Kellogg's Frosted Strawberry Pop Tarts  
Hunts Snack Pack Pudding (3.25 oz)  
Dole Fruit in Gel Cups (4.3 oz)  
Lance Toasted Cheese Peanut Butter Crackers  
Slim Jims  
Ziplock Gallon Storage Bags

**TLC (Thread Loving Crafters)** *submitted by Kathy Tucker*

TLC will be celebrating its 2nd year anniversary in January. The participants have developed a powerful sisterhood and commitment to meet the needs of others through sewing, crocheting, quilting, and knitting.

Since the last submission to the Remarker, TLC has added a new benefactor for the Newborn and Premie hats: the Ronald McDonald House in Charleston. We are working on our 2nd 1000 little hats that continue to go to the following hospitals: Princeton Community Hospital, Bluefield Regional, Welch Community, and Greenbrier Medical. We sent a large box of booties and car seat afghans to Welch Community Clinic.

TLC was able to honor Scott with an incredibly gorgeous stole that was made to add to his collection. The beautiful reversible stole in blues and purples will be an added touch to Lent and Advent. The stole was passed around to church members who wished to offer blessings for his ministry at FUMC.

The last weekend of October was Blanket Day. More than 20 individuals participated to create 40 blankets that will go to the nursing homes through the United Methodist Women, Mary's Cradle, the Children's Home Society, and other needs in the church. Members, friends, and students from Concord participated in the event. We were on WVVA for the 2nd year in a row!

Another big project has been the partnering of TLC with Feeding the Hungry Children. We have been selling hats and scarves, character hats, shawls, and boot cuffs. In addition to selling to church members, we have been taking orders from friends and as of this date, have generated enough to feed 5 children for a year. Our motto is, for every two sets of boot cuffs, you are buying food to feed a child for a month.

We are in awe of how our hands meet the needs of so many!

**Not Quite Home, continued**

indulgent and unnecessarily painful for me to write about. Please know...I meant you no harm and pray that God's peace would somehow be with you. I am sorry if this hurt you in any way; that was never my intent.)

I thought about trying to tie all this together with a Scripture or two, but then thought better of it. All of our relationships with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in some tied together to the rhythm we recognize in family life. So, perhaps, all of Scripture speaks to this. There are times when life and faith feel "full" and times when life and faith feel quite "empty". I hope we will all always remember that no matter what the stage in life we are still "beloved children of God!"

Grace and Peace,

Scott Sears



## November Anniversaries and Birthdays



November 02 – David & Carol Westfall  
 November 09 – Jerry & Brenda Larue  
 November 13 – John & Carol Johnson (51)  
 November 13 –Randy & Mona Lester  
 November 14 – Tom & Cindy Bailey  
 November 17 – Will & Vicki Horton  
 November 18 – Rick & Kathy Dooley  
 November 19 – Rick & Terry Graham  
 November 21 – Robert & Terri Vest  
 November 26 – Buddy & Suzy Fr  
 November 28 – Travis &Jennifer Collis  
 November 29 – Bob & Barb Ballard

November 01 – Kathy Quesenberry  
 November 02 – JoAnna Fredeking  
 November 04 – Delia Ben Chaabane  
 November 04 – Pat Haynes  
 November 04 – Carol Westfall  
 November 05 – Marcia Anderson  
 November 06 – Taylor Horton  
 November 07 – Stuart Burks  
 November 08 – Vicki Horton  
 November 09 – Roger Topping  
 November 10 – Paige Belcher  
 November 11 – Ashlie Jones  
 November 12 – Ashlie Collis-Keeney  
 November 12 – John Pack  
 November 12 – David Westfall  
 November 13 – Becky Helmick  
 November 13 – Brent Swecker  
 November 14 – Michelle Clark Hamlyn  
 November 15 – Todd Gillespie  
 November 16 – Justin Thurmer  
 November 19 – Elizabeth Hollifield  
 November 19 – Seth Price

November 20 – Elizabeth Ball  
 November 20 – Griffin Biggs  
 November 21 – Jerry Bailes (93)  
 November 21 – Kim Bay  
 November 21 – LaVerne Fields  
 November 21 – Kara Grogan  
 November 22 – Joanna Williams  
 November 23 – Becki Hill  
 November 23 – Cathy Linkous  
 November 23 – Lindsay Price  
 November 25 – Valeda O'Dell  
 November 26 – Brian Struble  
 November 27 – Courtney Price  
 November 27 –  
 Mike Quesenberry  
 November 28 –  
 Mary Ashford  
 November 28 –  
 Raegan Biggs  
 November 29 –  
 Kaitlyn Artrip





## **December Anniversaries and Birthdays**

December 18 – Jim & Heather Austin  
 December 18 – Kent & Joanna Thompson  
 December 19 – Chris & Stephanie Knight  
 December 22 – David & Ellen Knight (60)  
 December 22 – Stan & Kathy Tucker



December 02 – Eleanor Williams	December 10 – Mike Owen
December 03 – Tyler Jones	December 14 – Randy Lester
December 03 – Jeff Kessinger	December 17 – Griffin Jenkins
December 04 – Jane Walthall	December 18 – Ruth Boyles
December 04 – Harry Farmer	December 20 – Betty Musick
December 05 – Ryan French	December 23 – Connie Myers
December 05 – Donavin Hylton	December 23 – Jim Bob Satterfield
December 06 – Jim Fleming	December 24 – Lisa Duty
December 06 – Sarah Linkous	December 24 – Doris Robertson
December 06 – Kelley Massie	December 25 – Elizabeth Smith
December 06 – Peggy Wells	December 26 – Kristine Price
December 07 – Randy Beachler	December 26 – Benjamin Williams
December 07 – Reed Sarles	December 27 – Tom Bailey
December 07 – Jim Sarver	December 28 – Pam Coulbourne
December 08 – Kathey Haway	December 28 – Dorothy Kessinger (96)
December 08 – David Lovely	December 28 – Pat Tolley
December 09 – Cathy McNew	December 30 – Abbey Stafford
December 09 – Stewart O'Dell	December 31 – Shelley Cline
December 10 – Evayne Chambers	December 31 – Christopher Hawkins
	December 31 – Janie Sarver



## Thank You Notes

Tender Loving Crafters,

Many Thanks for the beautiful gift that was crocheted by this lovely group of women. Keep up the good work and God bless to all!

Love and Prayers,

Sue Backus

*The Ronald McDonald House in Charleston would like to thank you for supporting us by donating twenty-four knitted baby hats on September 21, 2016.*

I was so honored to receive my 90 – N – Better Club plaque from the congregation of First United Methodist Church. My memories of my loving church family will always be with me. May God continue to bless the Church in the Heart of Princeton.

In Christ's love,

*Evelyn McClung*

Pineville, NC





## **Singular Selections** - a variety of nonrelated topics



### **Prayer Vigil for Jobs**

Our church's Prayer Vigil for employment opportunities in our community continues until mid-January.

We are very thankful for all those who are taking time each day to lift up this special prayer concern and we have already noted some economic growth announcements in our area! Please be faithful to the time ahead where you have agreed to pray. A prayer calendar is available in the Hallway outside of the Sanctuary.

### **Confirmation and New Member Sunday**

We will be receiving new members through Baptism and Confirmation on Sunday, November 13 at our worship service. If there are any others who wish to join by Profession of Faith or Transfer from another church, please contact Pastor Scott.

### **Charge Conference**

The Annual Charge Conference for Princeton First United Methodist Church will be held in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 pm. Rev. Dr. Joseph Kenaston, Southern District Superintendent will be the presiding officer. All elected members of the Church Council are voting members of the Charge Conference and all members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

### **Worship and Program Team**

At Charge Conference this November, the Lay Leadership Team will be suggesting that our current structure of the Program Council be revised to include the Worship Committee members as well. This new structure will be the "Worship and Program Team" for First UMC and will be led by Tom Bay. The team will meet every other month and the new structure will allow for greater communication and planning by groups within the congregation! Please keep this change in your prayers.

### **Community Thanksgiving Service**

Please join us on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Princeton First Church of God on 301 Mahood Avenue. Associate Pastor David Kephart will share the Thanksgiving message. Youth wishing to travel as a group need to meet Becky Rowe at the church at 5:15.

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Princeton First United Methodist Church will celebrate the decorations in our Sanctuary and throughout the campus with a special concert from the Princeton Senior High School Madrigals, on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please feel free to invite friends and family to this special concert! (The Altar Guild and Altar Guild Auxiliary will be decorating following worship on November 20<sup>th</sup>.)





**MORE Singular Selections** - a variety of nonrelated topics**Women's Study Group for Advent**

As Christians preparing to remember and celebrate the birth of Christ, the women of the church are invited to join together starting the 13th of November 4:15 to 5:15. The first meeting will be held at Suzy Fry's house. Email enquires about the study can be sent to [lelia.fry@gmail.com](mailto:lelia.fry@gmail.com) or call 304-922-2510.

**OPERATION LIGHTSHINE**

The Children's Choir will be collecting books for their own OPERATION LIGHTSHINE. Books for children K4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade should not be of religious content. These books will be utilized in conjunction with the December Feeding Hungry Children bags. Operation Holly coincides with the musical the children will be offering Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup>. You may give books to any children's choir member, leave in the box so marked in the lobby, or bring the night of the performance.

**Christmas Eve**

Please remember that we have two opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve again this year. The first service will be at 7:00 pm and the second at 11:00 pm. Both will be candlelight services and we will share Holy Communion at each. The second service is meant to have an informal dress code – please come as you are! *Please note that many people will be inviting guests to come and be a part of our worship experience for the very first time during one of these services. Welcome everyone around you to be sure you aren't missing the very special guest God is sending us!*

**Christmas Dinner – Program and Cantata**

This year we are once again holding a “church wide” Christmas Party/Dinner. Sunday School classes and other groups within the church are invited to celebrate together by decorating a table and then sitting together as a group during the festivities! (Applications for the Decorating Contest are due in by the end of the Hanging of the Greens Service on November 27<sup>th</sup>.)

The Children's Program will be from 5:30 to 6:30 and will be held in the Sanctuary. Dinner will start at 6:30 pm in the Family Ministries Center gym. ***You may drop off your food prior to the program as there will be people available to make sure it stays warm and gets set out in time for the dinner!*** This will be a fabulous night of fun and a great way to start the Christmas celebration as a church.

A note about the table decorations...All tables will need to be decorated by Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm to allow for judging.

**New Year's Eve**

We will NOT hold any services on New Year's Eve this year. Pastor Scott and his family will be out of town.



## **The Bishop's Commission on the Way Forward**

Washington, D.C. The United Methodist Council of Bishops has announced the membership of the Commission on a Way Forward.

"After three months of diligent and prayerful discernment, we have selected 8 bishops, 11 laity, 11 elders and 2 deacons to serve on the Commission," said Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the Council of Bishops. "This group is representative of our theological diversity."

Ough said the makeup of the 32-member commission is roughly comparable to U.S. and Central Conference membership.

All of the members of the Commission have already indicated their willingness and availability to serve. The team of moderators -- Bishop Ken Carter, Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball and Bishop David Yemba -- will soon convene the Commission to begin to organize their work and finalize their meeting schedule.

The Commission's mission is to "bring together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relationships with each other and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination in light of General Conference and subsequent annual, jurisdictional and central conference actions."

The 2016 General Conference gave a specific mandate to the Council of Bishops to lead The United Methodist Church in discerning and proposing a way forward through the present impasse related to human sexuality and the consequent questions about unity and covenant.

The Commission is a group appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the Council in fulfilling this mandate. As such, the Council has appointed bishops from across the global connection to serve on the Commission alongside laity and clergy. While clergy and laity will vote at a General Conference on these matters, the bishops have the responsibility to lead the church. Thus, the Commission is designed to inform the Council's leadership of the General Conference. After hearing concerns that the proposed composition did not include enough laity, three additional laypersons were added from the original pool of more than 300 nominees.

At their fall meeting (October 30 – November 2), the Council will make a decision about a called General Conference and will review a plan to conduct additional and complementary work in annual conferences designed to broaden the conversation with hundreds of lay and clergy members.

The members of the Commission are:

**PLEASE KEEP ALL OF THESE PERSONS IN YOUR PRAYERS IN THE  
DAYS AND MONTHS AHEAD!**



## **The Bishop's Commission on the Way Forward, continued**

**Jorge Acevedo**

USA, Florida, elder, male

**Brian Adkins**

USA, California, elder, male

**Jacques UmembudiAkasa**

Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, laity, male

**Tom Berlin**

USA, Virginia, elder, male

**Matt Berryman**

USA, Illinois, laity, male

**Helen Cunanan**

Philippines, elder, female

**David Field**

Europe, Switzerland, laity, male

**Ciriaco Francisco**

Philippines, bishop, male

**Grant Hagiya**

USA, California, bishop, male

**Aka Dago-Akribi Hortense**

Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, laity, female

**Scott Johnson**

USA, New York, laity, male

**Jessica Lagrone**

USA, Kentucky, elder, female

**Thomas Lambrecht**

USA, Texas, elder, male

**MyungRae Kim Lee**

USA, New York, laity, female

**Julie Hager Love**

USA, Kentucky, deacon, female

**MazvitaMachinga**

Africa, Zimbabwe, laity, female

**Patricia Miller**

USA, Indiana, laity, female

**Mande Guy Muyombo**

Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, elder, male

**EbenNhiwatiwa**

Africa, Zimbabwe, bishop, male

**Dave Nuckols**

USA, Minnesota, laity, male

**Casey Langley Orr**

USA, Texas, deacon, female

**Gregory Palmer**

USA, Ohio, bishop, male

**Donna Pritchard**

USA, Oregon, elder, female

**Tom Salsgiver**

USA, Pennsylvania, elder, male

**Robert Schnase**

USA, Texas, bishop, male

**Jasmine Rose Smothers**

USA, Georgia, elder, female

**Leah Taylor**

USA, Texas, laity, female

**Debra Wallace-Padgett**

USA, Alabama, bishop, female

**Rosemarie Wenner**

Europe, Germany, bishop, female

**Alice Williams**

USA, Florida, laity, female

**John Wesley Yohanna**

Africa, Nigeria, bishop, male

**Alfiado S. Zunguza**

Africa, Mozambique, elder, male

**MODERATORS**

**Sandra Steiner Ball**

USA, West Virginia, bishop, female

**Kenneth Carter**

USA, Florida, bishop, male

**David Yemba**

Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, bishop, male



Activity  
Calendar

Use the graphic link above to view the

[First United Methodist Church](#)

[Activity Calendar](#)