

Sunday February 3 through Sunday February 10

- Pastor Robert continues trying to help is find Life and Peace in Christ.
- The Parsonage Group will meet Monday evening at 6:30 pm.
- The Ugly Mug Study Group will meet at 11 am on Tuesday morning at 11 am.
- Tuesday evening at 7 pm the NOW team will be meeting.
- The new Wednesday night Bible study group (formerly the Prayer Warriors) will not be meeting this week due to the Fellowship Dinner.
- Choir will follow the Fellowship Dinner at 7 pm.
- The Susanna Wesley/Wesleyan Circle will be meeting Thursday morning at 11 am.
- Pastor Robert's sermon series ends asking us to look back over the lessons over the last couple of weeks.
- Administrative Board will meet at 7 pm Feb. 10



This WEEK at Trinity

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Sunday February 3

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship

Monday February 4

11:30 am—AARP
6:30 pm—Parsonage Group
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday February 5

11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group
7:00 pm—NOW Team

Wednesday February 6

6:00 pm—Bible Study (canceled)
6:30 pm—Fellowship Dinner
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Thursday February 7

11:00 am—Susanna Wesley/Wesleyan Circle

Friday February 8

9:00 am—MEOC

Saturday February 9

NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday February 10

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
5:00 pm—UMYF
7:00 pm—Administrative Board Meeting

Change is Coming

On February 23-26, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church shall convene in St. Louis, Missouri, for a called meeting. The General Conference shall address one issue. Our denomination has become increasingly polarized over issues of Biblical interpretation regarding morals and ethics of gender and sexuality.

The Commission on the Way Forward was formed, charged, and has submitted three plans. The General Conference shall vote for one of three plans. (See the chart that outlines each of the three plans.) Please understand that the General Conference, comprised of representatives of laity and clergy, elected by each Annual Conference, sets Church-Law. No other person or group may speak for the United Methodist Church.

I have been asked where I stand in regards to The Three Plans. Again, the General Conference sets Church Law. Therefore, my opinion carries no power or authority. The Office of Pastor receives power and authority from the current Book of Discipline. Every pastor receives said power and authority when they are ordained as Elder. Every Elder vows to uphold the Book of Discipline. Until a new Discipline becomes Church-Law, I shall operate within the bounds of my office.

History reveals that about every 300-500 years the church experiences a major shift. Beginning with Jesus' resurrection, consider what happens. Note that I am merely skipping a preverbal rock across Church History. Constantine captures the Church around the year 300. Within 200 years, most of the Orthodox Fathers' of the Church were deemed heretics. Those who continued in the Orthodox way were put to death. Much of Luther's 95 thesis worked to free the Church from such political corruption. Fast forward and see that Wesley, Calvin, and countless others moved the Church into what we call the Evangelical Movement. So...it should not shock us that the Evangelical Church finds herself in great upheaval!

Shall this trial divide us? Does this one, or any of the other upheavals, change what God has done through Jesus Christ? My final answer is "NO." Does this trial test our faith in Jesus Christ? "Yes."

I confess that I too am guilty of throwing The Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil at my opponents. This is what fearful people do! But faith is greater than all our fear. Therefore, I believe in the goodness of people. However, my faith is in Christ, not good people! Only through Jesus Christ does God reveal the power and authority of Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Those who feel called to stand up and fight should fight by faith and through faith alone! (Do you hear my echo of Luther's cry?) We are saved by Grace through faith, not by the works of fearful little men and women caught up in futile fruit throwing!

Faith, my friends, has the power to set us free to Love our neighbors. But first, we must learn to love our enemies. Every morning as I brush my teeth, I stare at my greatest enemy. My greatest enemy is ME! "If you really knew me, you would know that I am so "right" that I hide my shame and guilt beneath a comfort blanket woven of shame!

But I have another Comforter. The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches me to love myself with God's patience, kindness, generosity, self control, and hope. Hope lives today as if Christ is with us. Isn't he!

My promise to you is that I shall keep the vow I made to you when I was ordained an Elder. I find it exciting to watch faith guide us through this shift. The Church has a theological word for what is happening. We are being sanctified in Christ, through Christ, by Christ, with Christ to be One in Christ.

Robert