

November 2019

# ***DISCIPLE EXPRESS***

Dear Friends in Christ,

On September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Marty Rieken and I attended the Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (COR) in Kansas City, Kansas along with 1,500 other lay and clergy members of the United Methodist Church from annual conferences around the US. This event is held every year in September, and centers on a different leadership focus each year. The focus of this year's institute was the future of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Adam Hamilton, Sr. pastor at COR, chose to center this year's Institute on that subject because the United Methodist Church today is at a crossroads over the issue of human sexuality. Disagreements over this issue have divided the United Methodist Church (UMC) for decades. And those divisions are getting deeper.

Proposals to resolve these divisions will be discussed, debated, and voted on at the next UM General Conference in May of 2020. General Conference is a gathering of elected delegates (equally divided between lay and clergy) representing regional conferences in the United States and throughout the global United Methodist connection. General Conference meets every four years, and is the only body that can make changes to the denomination's Book of Discipline (BOD). The BOD contains the rules that govern the life and mission of the global UMC at all levels, from the local church on up through the work of annual conferences, jurisdictions, bishops, and the UM general boards and agencies such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

At the Leadership Institute, a variety of speakers, including UM bishops, lay people, and pastors, presented their hopeful visions for what the UMC might become as we move forward after actions taken by GC 2020.

But the bottom line is, actions taken by GC on proposals to resolve the impasse in the UMC over the issue of human sexuality will bring changes to the denomination.

I believe that you need to be aware of what proposals are being brought to GC 2020, and the potential changes they would bring to the UMC.

So beginning in January, 2020, I will write a series of newsletter articles. The first one will give a brief history of the dispute over human sexuality that has brought the UMC to this crossroads point. Then, in future articles, I will briefly discuss the various proposals that delegates to GC 2020 will be considering and voting on, and how they might impact local UM churches and pastors.

I would invite you to be in prayer for our denomination as we seek to move forward following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like more information about anything in this article, or would like to talk to me, you can call or text me at 319-559-0678, or email me at

[cjbbowers55@gmail.com](mailto:cjbbowers55@gmail.com). In Christ, *Pastor Carolyn*

## **NEW MAILING ADDRESS**

We have a new mailing address for the Oakland UMC. It has been changed to 200 North Main Street, PO# 4

## ***All Saints Sunday***

*Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> will be All Saint's Sunday. Please let the office know of any loved ones you would like to have honored. –Thank you*

## **Welcome Coffee**

Anyone who would like to host a get acquainted coffee for the Pastor Carolyn please let the office know at (712) 482-5530 or Bernie Bolton at (712) 482-3386.

Recently, Pastor Carolyn and I were able to attend the Leadership Institute, at the Church of the Resurrection, in Leawood, KS. It was a fascinating experience, and I was grateful that I was able to attend.

This leadership conference was focused on the divide in the Methodist Church over human sexuality. This debate on LGBTQIA+ rights and their future in the United Methodist Church has been a highly discussed topic for some time. There are many different opinions, and several different plans that will be proposed, at the upcoming Conference.

Pastor Carolyn will be doing a series of articles on the proposed plans. All the plans are different, but all will affect the church. I would recommend that you read the articles that Carolyn writes and ask questions you have.

I took two main ideas away with me when I left the conference. The first and most important one is that God loves everyone. It doesn't matter who you are, what you do, how rich or poor you are, the color of your skin, or anything else.

The second one is that the United Methodist Church will never be the same. There is no turning back, and somebody will be left out on this issue. Because of this, I believe that the church will lose members, or the church may split into different factions.

I will stay as up to date as I can on this issue. I hope you will as well.

God Bless,  
Marty Rieken

### **November 3:**

Liturgist: Keaton R.  
Ushers/Greeters: Paul & Debbie R  
Candle lighters: Isabell & Eric  
Nursery: Suzanne P.  
Koinonia: **Volunteers?**

### **November 10:**

Liturgist: Sharon J.  
Ushers/Greeters: Alan & Connie G  
and Terry & Cyndy H.  
Candle lighters: Meg & Mattie  
Nursery: Claire H.  
Koinonia: Sue D.

### **November 17:**

Liturgist: Eric D.  
Ushers/Greeters: Mark & Mischa M.  
Candle lighters: Isabell & Maverrick  
Nursery: Kristy R.  
Koinonia: Bernie & Norma B.

### **November 24:**

Liturgist: Craig H.  
Ushers/Greeters: Barb S.  
Candle lighters: Kyler & Kort  
Nursery: Joan S.  
Koinonia: **Volunteers?**

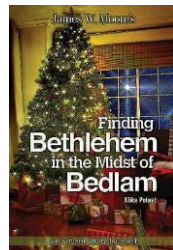
### **Riverside UMYF Pancake Feed**

Rescheduled until November 17<sup>th</sup>

12:00PM

Carson UMC

Free will donation.



Starting  
November 7<sup>th</sup>  
Every Thursday  
at noon.

Our church is asking for any clean, plastic grocery sacks that you have available to share. We will be making mats for the homeless in the near future. It takes approximately 500 bags for one mat. Please leave them in the front foyer and I will put them away. Thank you.

### **RCA FOOD PANTRY**

Item of the month is ***Peanut Butter***



## Calendar Corrections

Anyone wishing to add their anniversary to the church calendar please let the office know and I will add it. Also any birthdays that need editing or added. Thank you.

Brrrr.....Winter Weather is coming. With it comes an additional problem for the homeless in our area. Warmth is a gift we can give with the production of as many wrap/blankets as we have time and fabric to produce. Pastor Carolyn has a pattern to cut and sew from **100% cotton sheeting or quilting fabric and 100% cotton flannel**.

If you have either of these fabrics or bedsheets lying around and would like to donate to this project, please bring it to the church by November 13<sup>th</sup>. Any size/length will work as we can sew smaller pieces together to create the size needed. The fabric/sheet must have been washed at least once since purchase.

If you would like to donate to this cause, every penny will be spent on fabric and thread.

If you would like to join Veva and Carolyn in cutting and sewing of the project, join us at the church on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Sewing 'skills' not necessary – come to learn and share Christian love.

## Pictures – Pictures – Pictures

If anyone has any pictures of our church events they would like to share for the newsletter please email them to [oaklandumc@frontiernet.net](mailto:oaklandumc@frontiernet.net) or bring them to the office. Thank you.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

- Persons who are ill and those who have lost loved ones
  - Our Nursing Home and Assisted Living residents
  - Our military
  - ReAnn & Ryan Hildebrand
  - Jeff Young
  - Anita McMartin
  - LuEllen Littleton
  - Debbie Kester
  - The farmers
- Our homebound family  
Pat Eyler  
Kevin Feuring  
LaVinna Blanchard  
Brian Turner

### ***Oakland Manor:***

- *Margaret Alff*
- *Marvin Clark*
- *David Smith*
- *Janice Harris*

### ***Oakland Heights:***

*Neuonia Timberman*  
*Anita Killion*  
***Heritage House:***  
*Connie Busse*

## Oakland United Methodist Church

- 200 North Main Street, **PO Box 4**, Oakland, IA 51560
  - Office telephone: (712) 482-5530
- Church's e-mail: [oaklandumc@frontiernet.net](mailto:oaklandumc@frontiernet.net)
  - Web page: [www.oaklandiaumc.org](http://www.oaklandiaumc.org)
    - Pastor: Rev. Carolyn Bowers
    - Lay Minister: Merlin Jones
    - Organist: Marilyn Hackett
    - Choir Director: Veva Larson
- Custodians: Trevor & Megan Jefferson
  - Secretary: Martha Isaacson
- Pastor in office 9:00 a.m. to noon Mon.-Thur.

## Newsletter Delivery

\_\_\_\_\_ Continue Postal Delivery

\_\_\_\_\_ Email – please email the church office at  
[oaklandumc@frontiernet.net](mailto:oaklandumc@frontiernet.net)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pick up in church lobby

We need to have these options in effect by February 1, 2020. Our purpose is to save nearly \$1000 per year in postage, bulk mail permit, copier fees and paper.

Thank you, Church Office

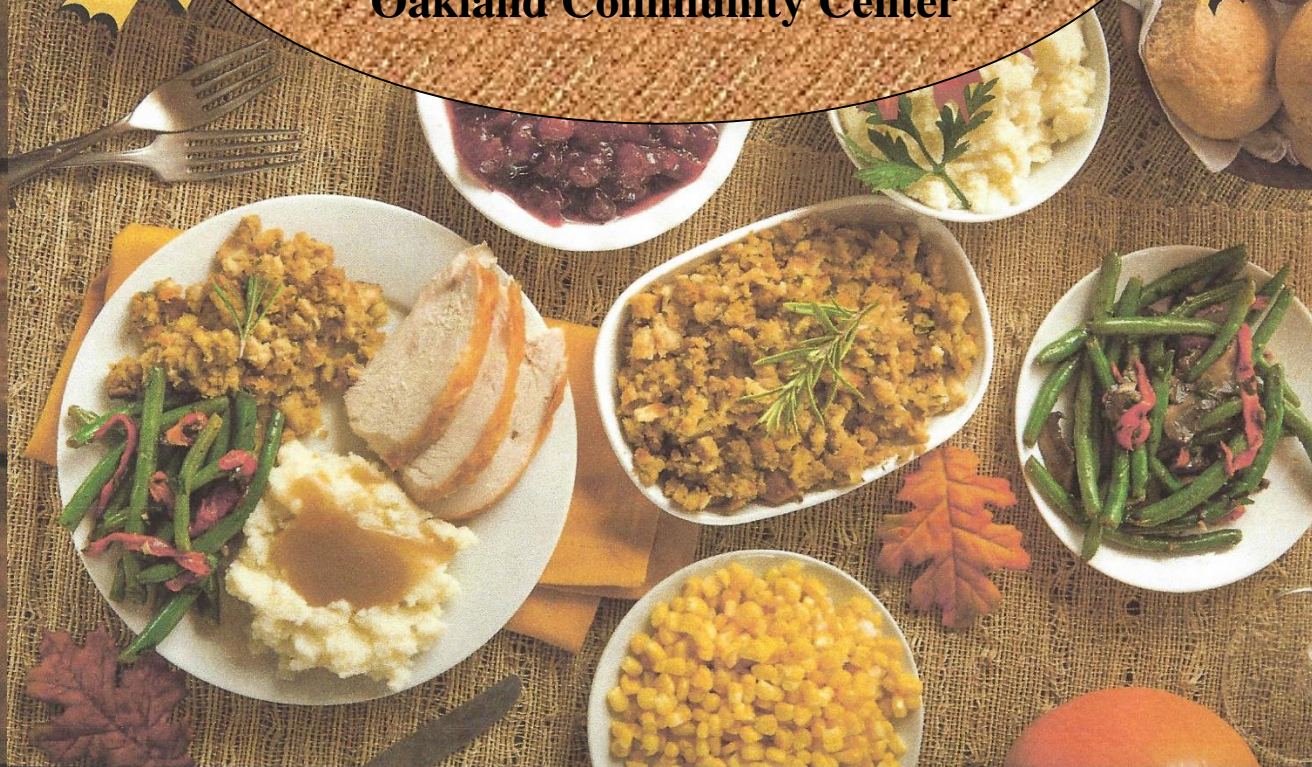


# FELLOWSHIP

**RCA Presents**  
*Community Thanksgiving*  
*Dinner*

**November 24, 2019 at 5:30pm**

**Oakland Community Center**



**Turkey, dressing, & mashed potatoes are furnished.**  
**Please bring a side dish to share.**





# Oakland United Methodist Church

November 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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