



**Emmanuel United Methodist Church**  
11416 Cedar Lane  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-937-7114  
[www.eumcbeltsville.com](http://www.eumcbeltsville.com)



## The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church

# April is Holy Humor Month

Take some time

To laugh!

*"So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world"*

*-Ecclesiastes 8:15*





# The Lamplighter

## The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!



### APRIL 2021

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"If God loves a cheerful giver, why are you supposed to give 'til it hurts?"

**Got News?** Do you have something for our newsletter? Send items to the editor,

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Awesome April



For this edition of the Lamplighter, Rick asked us to submit "clean" jokes. I like a good joke. The following does not fall in that category, but here we go:

*"What has two hands and two feet and is attached to a healthy body?" I do not know because it surely is not me!*

I have had quirky health drama since mid-January. I realize I often say that we are the "hands and feet of Christ." I need to include the rest of the body parts so that my whole body would stay healthy.

When Rick made his request, I instantly joked that "clean" jokes would be a challenge. I was an athlete and in law enforcement, which eliminated a whole section of jokes. When we hung out or had downtime, we often told jokes to break up the tension or to get through a slow day. I got past the language and thought the jokes were funny. Isn't it funny – not ha-ha funny, but ironic funny - how the things that are part of our past "float" to the surface when we are triggered by a memory?

Today, many Christians put effort into finding clean jokes or clean up the dirty jokes. Ironically, we do the same with other aspects of our lives. We look past the unpleasant things or the unjust things and only consider the parts that we are comfortable with.

Wouldn't it be funny – not ha-ha funny, but ironic funny – if we could put the same effort into cleaning up the unpleasant things in our lives and our nation to make them more acceptable?

Life-changing fellowship should happen in every aspect of our life, not just during Sunday worship. Teach, volunteer, join a committee, do mission work, or lead a group. All those have a possibility of bringing pleasant experiences to a nation of people who could use some hope after a year of pandemics. With God, all things work together for the good of those who are called according to His purpose. Make our purpose the clean-up of our nation. Take time to honor the memories of those we have lost. Work towards the restoration of relationships. It is doable because we are the BODY of Christ. Make this an Awesome April. And we can use a few good jokes to get us through this challenging part of our journey in the meantime. Blessings!

In His Service,

Pastor

## Did you know that April was Holy Humor Month?

*“Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.”*  
(Psalm 126:2-3, NIV)

**YOO-HOO! April is Holy Humor Month!!!** Many folks think us Christians are too serious for our own good and we don't know how to have a good time or laugh! They don't understand that we're just more picky about what we think is funny. We definitely know how to have a good laugh though! Here are some jokes from the congregation to help you during this stressful time! Enjoy!



A man died and went to heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter, who leads him down the golden streets. They walk by mansions after beautiful estates until they come to the end of the road where they stop in front of a little shack. The man asked St. Peter why he got such a simple hut when there were so many mansions where he would be more comfortable. St. Peter replied, "I did the best with the money you sent us."

Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scripture for her answer. She said the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee. Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: "It's right here - HEBREWS."

A minister, a priest and a rabbi went for a hike one day. It was very hot. They were sweating and exhausted when they came upon a small lake. Since it was fairly secluded, they took off all their clothes and jumped in the water.

Feeling refreshed, the trio decided to pick a few berries while enjoying their "freedom." As they were crossing an open area, who should come along but a group of ladies from town. Unable to get to their clothes in time, the minister and the priest covered their privates and the rabbi covered his face while they ran for cover.

After the ladies had left and the men got their clothes back on, the minister and the priest asked the rabbi why he covered his face rather than his privates. The rabbi replied, "I don't know about you, but in MY congregation, it's my face they would recognize."



Three men were in line at the pearly gates. St. Peter was waiting and said to the men, "In order to get in you have to answer the question of the day." The first nodded and St. Peter proceeded to ask the question "What is Easter?" The first man answered, "Oh, that's easy, it's when you dress up in costumes and go around and get candy from your neighbors!" St. Peter said, "I am sorry, you have to go downstairs." The second man comes up and St. Peter asks him "What is Easter?" The second man says "Oh, that's easy! It's when we wrap presents and give them to our friends and family!" St. Peter, dismayed, says "I'm sorry, you have to go downstairs." The third man steps up and St. Peter asks him "What is Easter?" The third man says "Oh, that's easy. That's the day Jesus rose from the grave!" St. Peter let out a huge sigh of relief and says "finally." Just as he's about to let the man in, the man says "And if he Jesus see's his shadow it means we have 6 more weeks of winter!"

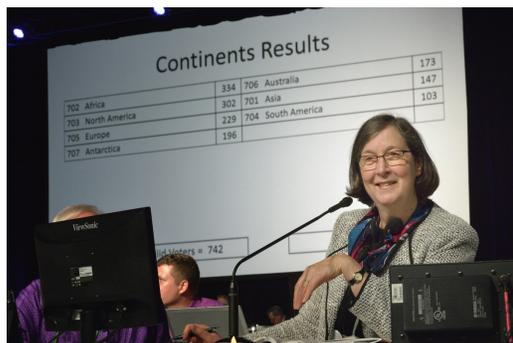
The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do all the time." No matter where I am.....in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement I ask myself, "What am I here after?"

A small boy told a Sunday school teacher: "When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you were alive — only God doesn't yell at you all the time."

**More holy humor on page 4**

## General Conference postponed until 2022

By Heather Hahn (from UMNews.org)



Bishop Elaine J.W. Stanovsky presides as delegates hone their electronic voting skills during a practice election at the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Ore. In response to the Commission on the General Conference's decision to further postpone the 2020 General Conference until 2022, the Council of Bishops has called a special session of the General Conference to be convened online on May 8, 2021. File photo by Paul Jeffrey, UM News.

General Conference organizers announced that the denomination's top lawmaking assembly — long postponed by pandemic — must wait to meet another year. The global gathering is now scheduled Aug. 29-Sept. 6, 2022, in Minneapolis.

At the same time, the Council of Bishops has announced a special one-day General Conference on May 8.

The special global gathering has only 12 pieces of legislation before it — all basically intended to help the church function until the full General Conference meets.

The virtual gathering is to form a quorum to suspend the rules, so there can be paper, mailed-in balloting. The vote on suspending the rules will be done online. But the delegates will, after adjournment of the online meeting, have an extended period in which to vote by paper ballot on the 12 legislative items. Those ballots will be mailed in, with results to be announced by July 13.

“The exclusive use of paper ballots will allow for the fullest participation of delegates from across the denomination,” said Council of Bishops President Cynthia Fierro Harvey in a statement. “This is why the convened session online must be confined solely to gaining permission for the mailed-in paper ballots.”

Not on the agenda is any proposal to split the denomination, including the much-endorsed Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation.

In October, the Commission on the General Conference named a technology team to look at virtual options for ensuring full participation. The team's report outlined several challenges before such a conference.

That includes the 16-hour time difference between delegates who live in the Philippines and on the U.S. West Coast, the inequity of internet availability and the difficulty in safeguarding voting.

With the slow rollout of vaccines, continued travel restrictions and limitations of virtual technology, the commission concluded Feb. 20 that a full, 10-day session was not possible this year either in-person or online.

“The commission shared the study team's findings and recommendations with the officers of the Council of Bishops in a collaborative effort to jointly explore how this alternative might be utilized to address critical matters until an in-person gathering of delegates can be safely convened next year,” said Kim Simpson, General Conference commission chair, in a statement.

Even planning the one-day virtual meeting comes with limitations, as Simpson told church leaders in earlier meetings.

The coming General Conference has 862 voting delegates — 55.9% come from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church. At a typical General Conference, bishops from around the globe as well as interpreters and other staff are needed for the proceedings.

That kind of meeting is not possible this year. But in the meantime, denominational ministries have been struggling to find workarounds to function in a situation never anticipated by the Book of Discipline — whose contents General Conference determines.

“When we became aware of the need for a further postponement, we knew that some action needed to be taken in order to free the church to operate and continue to fulfill its current mission until we could gather in person,” said Harvey, who leads the Louisiana Conference as well as the Council of Bishops.

After the COVID-19 pandemic forced the assembly's postponement from May 2020, the commission rescheduled General Conference for Aug. 29-Sept. 7 this year and kept it in Minneapolis.

The commission maintained the late-summer dates even after young-adult delegates and other United Methodists urged a change because the new schedule conflicted with the start of the academic calendar. However, the commission also committed to look at ways for delegates to vote remotely.

*Continued on Page 5*

*More holy humor continued from page 2*

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said. The little girl bowed her head and said "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

A pastor was speaking to a group of second-graders about the resurrection of Jesus when one student asked, "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?"

The pastor explained that the Gospels do not tell us what He said.

The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what He said: He said, 'Tah-dah!'"

"Mom, are bugs good to eat?" asked the boy. "Let's not talk about such things at the dinner table, son," his mother replied. After dinner the mother inquired, "Now, baby, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy said. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

### Top 8 Reasons For Joining The Church Choir

1. You're running out of clean clothes and the robe saves on laundry.
2. The church is usually crowded and you want to make sure you always have a seat.
3. You've just been selected for jury duty and you want to get use to sitting with a large group of people.
4. The collection plate is never passed to the choir.
5. There's a clock in the back of the church and you want to know when one hour has passed.
6. For years you have wanted to know who sits in the back of the church but were afraid to turn around and look.
7. You've been known to nod off during the service and don't want the minister to catch you.
8. The chairs for the choir are padded and are the most comfortable chairs in the church



A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the color of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today." After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"

After having children, Adam and Eve started getting a lot of questions from their kids about why they no longer lived in Eden. Adam has a simple answer for this: "Your mother ate us out of house and home."

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mom, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."

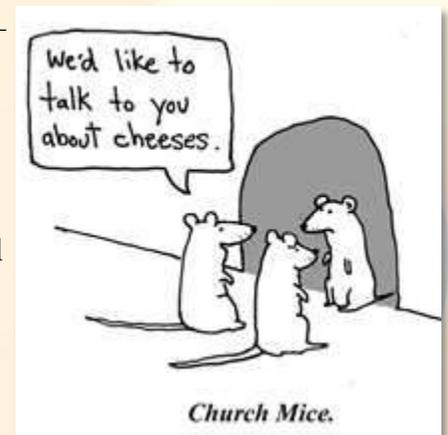
A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one actually knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "well, they certainly will in a minute!"

*More holy humor on page 6*



## Update from the Re-entry Committee

By Jane Grays

As more people are being vaccinated, the Re-entry team will meet on Thursday, April 8, 2021 @ 6:00pm to discuss EUMC re-opening procedures. This is an open meeting zoom and you are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion. We will meet on the same Zoom link as the Sunday Morning Worship Service. We hope you can join us.

*General Conference continued from page 3*

As the pandemic continued to claim lives around the globe and travel restrictions persisted, calls increased for the Commission on the General Conference to consider virtual options for the assembly.

On Feb. 20, the commission met online in closed session to review and make decisions based on its study team's report. Joining commission members and staff for the meeting was Leonard Young, who served as parliamentarian for the special 2019 General Conference.

The Discipline says that "in the spirit of openness and accountability," almost all church meetings should be open.

In Paragraph 722, the Discipline does allow closed sessions for "negotiations, when general knowledge could be harmful to the negotiation process" and "negotiations involving confidential third-party information." The commission cited the negotiation exceptions when it went into closed session.

While the commission did not disclose internal discussions, the group did face requests before its meeting, especially from traditionalists, that whatever shortened agenda it chose include the protocol for separation.

After decades of debate over LGBTQ inclusion, the protocol opens the door for new denominations to break away with property and church funds. A traditionalist coalition and a liberationist group already have plans to depart. The Wesleyan Covenant Association, a traditionalist group, has a global gathering scheduled for May 1 to discuss its plans for its future denomination.

However, the process outlined in the protocol hinges on General Conference approval. For now, the Judicial Council — the denomination's top court — has the bishops' request to review the protocol's constitutionality on its current docket.

The agenda for the coming May 8 special General Conference includes legislation to:

- *bring the Discipline in line with a recent Judicial Council decision*
- *maintain the current denomination's budget until the full global lawmaking assembly can meet*
- *to give the Commission on General Conference and other bodies more flexibility in dealing with delays caused by war, political upheaval, natural disaster, disease outbreak, travel restrictions or other developments.*

Crucially, the new legislation would allow bishops planning to retire to do so this year — potentially relieving some strain on the denomination's finances.

Originally, after the delay in General Conference, the Council of Bishops announced that jurisdictional conferences would meet in November, and central conferences began scheduling their meetings. The five jurisdictional conferences elect bishops who serve in the U.S., and central conferences elect the bishops who serve in Africa, Europe and the Philippines.

But the trouble was, the Discipline sets the retirement date for U.S. bishops on Aug. 31 following a regular session of the jurisdictional conference — meaning any U.S. bishop planning to retire before the coming jurisdictional conference would have to wait until August 2022 to step down.

Now, the Council of Bishops is offering legislation to eliminate the Aug. 31 mandate and instead replace it with 60 days after jurisdictional conferences adjourn.

The bishops also have set a new timeline that includes special sessions of the jurisdictional conferences to be held virtually in July 2021.

The Episcopal Fund that supports bishops' work is already financially strapped. The Council of Bishops has recommended delegates not elect any new U.S. bishops until 2024, although some delegates are discussing at least electing some successors for retiring bishops.

The denomination has 24 bishops who plan to step down as soon as possible, including 16 in the U.S. Ultimately, the number of bishops is in the hands of delegates.

## Congratulations to Elizabeth Galloway!



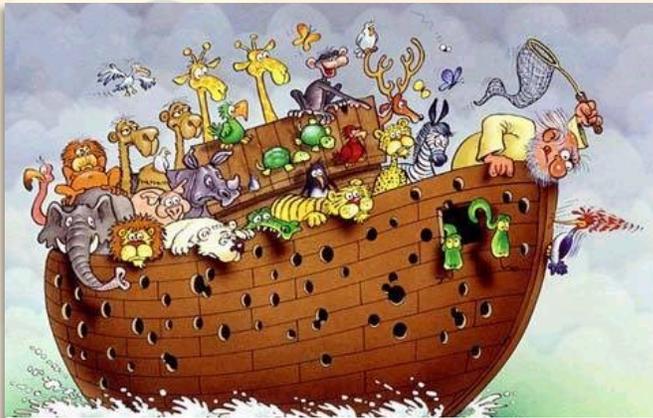
Elizabeth Galloway vaccinates a DC firefighter during an event celebrating the 50 millionth Covid vaccine. (Dr. Fauci can be seen in the background.)

**Congratulations to Elizabeth Galloway! On February 25 she participated in a White House event for the administration of the 50 millionth Covid vaccine. She vaccinated an educator from a local school, two DC firefighters, and a manager from the Bethesda Safeway. We appreciate all that Elizabeth and other front line workers have been doing for us during this time.**



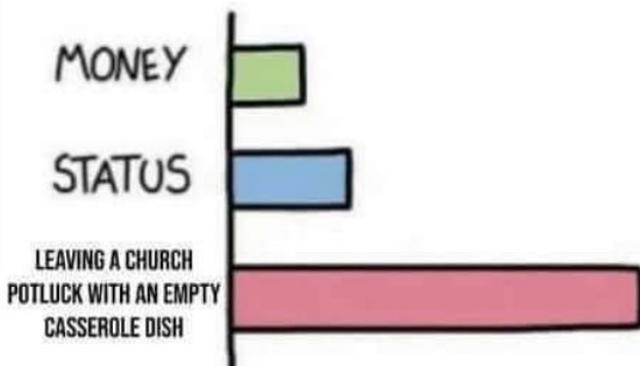
Elizabeth Galloway with president Biden during an event celebrating the 50 millionth Covid vaccine.

More holy humor continued from page 4



The Woodpecker might have to go!

### WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER



Old Satan thinks he's in control.  
He rubs his hands in glee.  
But Jesus has the final word!  
Just you wait and see!  
Put your faith in Christ, alone!  
For there's NO other way!  
Don't let your soul be sent to Hell when comes the Judgement Day!

Thank you to Debbie McNitt for submitting this prayer.

## a prayer of thanks FOR MY CHURCH

Dear Father,  
Today I thank you for my church.  
While some might think  
of doors and windows,  
I'm praising you  
for spirits and hearts.

The people whose lives you've intersected  
Are remarkable through your grace.  
I can't praise you enough  
for the unique way  
You've blended the talents of individuals  
Into beautiful masterpieces of joy.  
May we love one another to the fullest  
And be evidence of your ultimate love  
To advance the work of your kingdom.  
Amen.

rachelwojo.com

## April Memory Verse

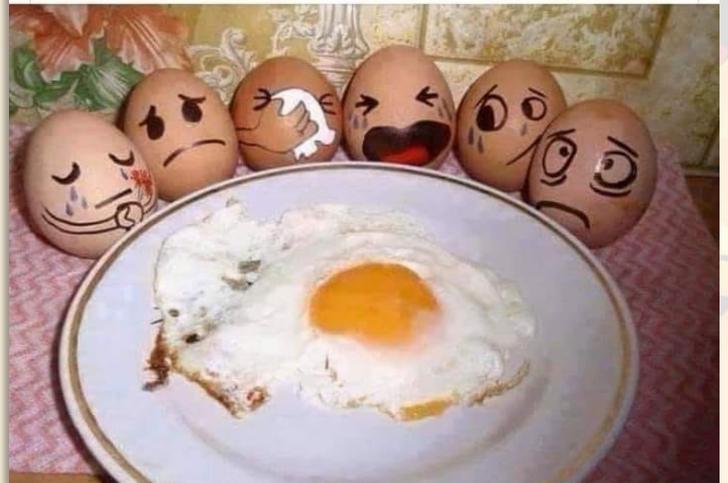
But those who wait for the LORD shall  
renew their strength, they shall  
mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.”

~Isaiah 40:31



More holy humor continued from page 6

She died last Fry Day. Thank God she wasn't beaten.  
Dont worry, she went over easy. She's now on the sunny  
side. She's definitely in a better plate.



## Living Cross on Easter Sunday

By Jane Grays

Although we won't worship in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, you are invited to bring flowers to place on the outside cross, located on front lawn, as you enter driveway. You may bring your flowers on Saturday or Sunday. Help us keep the tradition alive in celebration of our risen Christ.



## Church responds to chaplain's call to help soldiers

By Jim Patterson



**The Rev. Tom Berlin (left) presents a copy of his book, "Courage," to Massachusetts National Guard Chaplain Chad McCabe in the chapel at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington. McCabe, whose unit was assigned to help provide security at the U.S. Capitol after the January riot, contacted Wesley Seminary asking for Bibles, novels and board games for troops stationed there. Photo by Lisa Helfert for Wesley Theological Seminary. Copyright 2021. All rights reserved. Used with permission.**

United Methodists responded generously when an Episcopal priest put out word that National Guard soldiers deployed in Washington needed help occupying themselves during downtime.

Bibles, novels, decks of cards and board games are in the hands of more than 600 National Guard soldiers from New England after the Rev. Chad McCabe, a chaplain in the Army National Guard, contacted Wesley Theological Seminary, his alma mater.

The soldiers are there to keep the peace in the aftermath of insurrectionists storming the Capitol building on Jan. 6. Five people died and at least 250 people have been charged in connection with the attack.

"I reached out to some of my friends such as Chip Aldridge at Wesley," McCabe said. Aldridge is associate dean for admissions at the Washington, D.C., seminary.

"(Aldridge) put the call out, and we had a wonderful response from Pastor Tom Berlin at Floris United Methodist Church in Virginia."

Berlin, also chair of the Board of Governors at Wesley, thought McCabe's request "was a fantastic opportunity for our congregation."

"We have a Master of Divinity degree for military chaplains (at Wesley)," Berlin said, "so we have a culture that's

very interested in helping military chaplains and the military."

The request was for 150 Bibles and devotional resources. As it happens, Berlin recently published a new book, "Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith."

"It occurred to me that a book titled 'Courage' is one that people in the military might be interested in reading," Berlin said.

Abingdon Press, the book-publishing arm of the United Methodist Publishing House, which released "Courage," agreed to donate 150 copies to the effort.

"I think the travesty of an insurrection at the nation's Capitol building ... was such a shock to all of us that everyone is very interested in supporting the troops who are preventing that from happening again," Berlin said. "I think Abingdon demonstrated that when they said, 'We'll donate the books.'"

In addition to pocket-size copies of the New Testament, the soldiers also got Bibles and devotionals from the Baltimore-Washington Conference and Turner Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, and rosaries from a Roman Catholic diocese. "So it's a very ecumenical effort," McCabe said.

Members of Floris United Methodist in Herndon wrote notes of appreciation and support to put in copies of "Courage."

McCabe, also pastor of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Northborough, Massachusetts, is a doctoral student at Duke Divinity School. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, he's been able to continue much of his ministry online while he is deployed to Washington.

"Most of us are worshipping remote and I'm still able to contact parishioners to counsel them, to speak with them and check in with them," he said. "I'm still leading our small group courses. I'm still there. I'm still able to be present."

McCabe has a background that lends itself to commiseration with soldiers. A veteran of the Iraq War, he was an agent at Homeland Security for 12 years before entering the ministry. As a chaplain with the National Guard, he has counseled soldiers in Boston in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd while in police custody, and at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts, during the current coronavirus crisis.

*Continued on page 10*

*Soldiers continued from page 9*



National Guard chaplains are assigned to provide spiritual support and counseling for guard members stationed at the U.S. Capitol. From left are U.S. Army Capt. Chad McCabe, chaplain with 101st Engineer Battalion, Massachusetts National Guard; Spc. Justin Clark, chaplain assistant with 164th Transportation Battalion; and Capt. Luis Alvarez, chaplain with the 164th Transportation Battalion. Photo by National Guard Capt. John Quinn.

“When I come to these soldiers who are my denomination or different faiths, I’ve got two things to guide me: Love God and love people, and to be present with them during their tough times. So for me, it’s been a blessing to be able to minister to people that maybe never see a clergy member.”

Chaplains help the soldiers deal with loneliness and keep them connected with their spouses and families.

“Just keep people encouraged while they’re a long way from what they know,” he said. “I remind them that God is still present, and God is a god of justice. He hears the cries of his people. What we’re doing is to help those voices be heard.”



## Planned Denomination Gets A Name

By Sam Hodges



**A group of traditionalists committed to leaving The United Methodist Church has chosen "Global Methodist Church" as the name for the denomination they are planning to form. They also unveiled this logo. Logo courtesy of the Global Methodist Church.**

Traditionalists committed to leaving The United Methodist Church have chosen “Global Methodist Church” as the name for the denomination they plan to launch. The group also unveiled on March 1 a logo and website. The work toward a new denomination is guided by a transitional leadership council, which includes some retired United Methodist bishops.

“The primary mission of the Global Methodist Church will be to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly,” said the Rev. Keith Boyette, chair of the transitional leadership council.

But the official start and legal organization of the Global Methodist Church may well be more than a year and a half away.

Boyette and other leaders are counting on passage of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, a plan negotiated by centrist, progressive and traditionalist United Methodist leaders to end the denomination’s longstanding conflict over how accepting to be of homosexuality.

The protocol would let traditionalist churches and even annual conferences vote to leave and form another denomination, with \$25 million to start. However, the protocol requires approval by General Conference, The United Methodist Church’s global

lawmaking assembly.

The 2020 General Conference was delayed for a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic and has been postponed again — until Aug. 29-Sept. 6, 2022 — because the public health emergency continues.

A special one-day, online General Conference has been called by the Council of Bishops for May 8, but it’s only to deal with 12 legislative items whose passage will help the denomination carry on administratively until a full General Conference can happen.

The protocol is not on the limited agenda for May 8.

“We’re proceeding according to plan, which is we would legally form and operationalize the Global Methodist Church upon adoption of the implementation legislation for the protocol,” Boyette said by phone.

*Continued on Page 12*



## WE ARE THE CHURCH

This Month's Member is Jenny Kresge



Jenny Kresge

### How long have you been a member of Emmanuel?

I've been attending church at Emmanuel my entire life. I was baptized here as a baby in 1978.

### Who was the Pastor when you began attending Emmanuel?

Although there were several pastors when I was very small before him, the first Pastor I remember was Reverend Karpal.

### What is your fondest memory of being a member?

Having grown up in the church, I have lots of fond memories of Emmanuel. As a child, I remember loving the special events like the Hanging of the Greens service at the beginning of Advent and the Halloween parties. As an adult, Emmanuel is where I met, and then later married, my husband Doug.

### What ministries have you been involved with at Emmanuel?

As a child, I sang in the Maranatha and Youth Choirs. As an adult, I've helped lead Vacation Bible School. Currently, I am the church's liaison to Boy Scout Troop 1033.

### What is your favorite thing about Emmanuel?

My favorite thing about Emmanuel is the people. Everyone is friendly and welcoming and I know that when I come to church, people are happy to see me.

### What is your favorite scripture?

One scripture I like is: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24) I like it partly because I can sing it and partly because it reminds me that God made every day, so there's got to be something good in every day.



Jenny with her oldest son Kevin and her youngest son Ian making Christmas Cards for shut-ins in 2017

### More holy humor continued from page 7

A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time the pastor walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell. Kneeling down next to the child, the pastor smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Run!"

A Sunday school teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" One little boy shouted, "Thou shall not kill."

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The Pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching." On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want -- God is watching the apples."

Dear Heavenly Father, So far, today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, or self centered. I'm really happy about that so far. But in a few minutes I'm going to be getting out of bed and then I'm going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen



**The Rev. Keith Boyette addresses the 2020 Pre-General Conference Briefing in Nashville, Tenn. Boyette is chair of the transitional leadership council for the Global Methodist Church, a planned denomination for traditionalists planning to separate from The United Methodist Church. File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.**

*New Denomination continued from Page 10*

He added that if, in the meantime, there's erosion of support for the protocol among those who negotiated it, the Global Methodist Church will consider going ahead with an official launch.

Boyette said he has seen no such wavering. He noted that the Reconciling Ministries Network — which advocates for full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in The United Methodist Church, and whose executive director, Jan Lawrence, was on the protocol negotiating team — reiterated support for the protocol in a recent statement.

The RMN statement also expressed support for the Christmas Covenant, a restructuring plan for The United Methodist Church that allows for more regional policymaking.

For decades, The United Methodist Church has faced conflict over same-sex weddings and the ordination of “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy. Church law bans both those practices, but there has been widespread defiance in churches and conferences in the U.S. and western Europe.

The 2019 special General Conference in St. Louis saw a major effort to pass legislation allowing more local church control on LGBTQ inclusion, but delegates reinforced the current bans in a meeting whose levels of conflict, protest and emotion drew national media coverage. Traditionalists have long maintained that the denomination's sexuality divide

can't be overcome.

can't be overcome.

The Wesleyan Covenant Association, led by Boyette, formed in 2016 and has been planning for a new denomination.

Boyette said the WCA will continue to exist even though the Global Methodist Church has a name, logo and transitional leadership council. “I've often described (the WCA) as a midwife to bring to birth a new denomination. We will continue to pursue that objective,” Boyette said. “Our expectation is that once the Global Methodist Church is functioning and has its convening conference, the Wesleyan Covenant Association will have fulfilled its mission.”

The name “Global Methodist Church” is in the spirit of Methodism founder John Wesley's statement “The world is my parish,” a press release said. The logo brings together circles representing the Trinity, with the cross in the center.

“As a whole, the logo communicates God's sending of the church into the world,” the press release said. “The sky blue color reminds us that even though Global Methodists live all around the world, they are united together in God's great creation.”

The transitional leadership council includes retired Bishops Lindsey Davis and Robert Hayes of the U.S., and retired Bishop John Innis, who led the Liberia Conference. “I am convinced the Global Methodist Church will be a vibrant, vital expression of Methodism in terms of its teaching and ethics,” Hayes said in a press release.

The Rev. Philippe Adjobi, a district superintendent in the Côte d'Ivoire Conference, and the Rev. Andrei Kim, a district superintendent in the North West Russia and Belarus Conference, are among the other members.

“I believe the Global Methodist Church will fulfill the expectations and aspirations of local churches throughout Africa,” Adjobi said in materials provided by the traditionalist group.

But some United Methodists in Africa are strongly opposed to a breakup of The United Methodist Church, and a variety of voices continue to weigh in about the denomination's future.

Boyette said traditionalist advocacy groups in The United Methodist Church, including Good News, submitted nominees for the transitional council.

Another group of traditional leaders met in Atlanta about a year ago to cast a vision for the new denomination, and the group recently met virtually, calling for passage of the protocol as soon as possible.

That group includes active bishops, but Boyette said he “can't speak for them” as to whether they would leave The United Methodist Church for the Global Methodist Church.

Nor would Boyette estimate how many churches will be a part of the Global Methodist Church at its launch.

The group has a “Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline,” available in English, French, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish, but various organizational and operational details remain to be worked out.

“True to our roots, we're a patient and methodical people,” Boyette said.

Late last year a group of progressive United Methodists launched a new denomination called Liberation Methodist Connexion, or LMX.

## How Can I Give?

**Online:** You can now give online through Emmanuel's website at [www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving](http://www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving) or scan the QR Code below. This is a great way to keep up with your giving if you are out of town, are sick or if you can't come to church. If you have any questions, contact Kemi Oluwafemi.

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GOD CAN RESTORE WHAT IS BROKEN  
AND CHANGE IT INTO SOMETHING  
AMAZING. ALL YOU NEED IS FAITH

- JOEL 2:25

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## Christian Love and Sympathy To:

- The family of Barbara Hampton (Sister of Jane Grays in the Kairos Ministry) on her death
- The family of Joseph Morris (cousin of Abel Martin) on his death
- The family of Brian Jackson (friend of Tammy White) on his death
- The family of Evelyn Adkins on her death
- The family of Mike Eccard (brother of Kathy Mellott) on his death
- The family of Gerry Rhoades (long time friend of Ernie Kilbourne) on her death

**HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS!**

1. Natalie Corman, Lil Mizzer
4. Monica Hatton
8. Lea Claye
9. Deji Bello
11. Lacey Fadely, Dan Webb
15. George Urick
16. Cale Fuller Jr., Grace Rodeffer
18. Ernie Kilbourne
19. Ted Ladd
21. Sharon White
25. April Ademiluyi
26. Glenna Pavelka

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

April 4: Christopher & Virginia Butcher

Please pray for our sick and shut in

Homebound  
Harry Cottman  
Norma Hall  
Carolyn Scarcia  
Dottie Gilbert

Out of state  
Lil Mizzer

Keep up with the all the latest info on our Facebook page  
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The Pastor is available for appointments on Tues. & Thurs.  
Email [office@eumcbeltsville.com](mailto:office@eumcbeltsville.com) or call 301-937-7114

## Start your week off with Virtual Worship at Emmanuel!

Join us on Sunday mornings in virtual worship through Zoom. Join us for 30 minutes of fellowship from 9:30-10 am followed by worship at 10. Use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85125785976?pwd=bExodVh2SE5XckxGVjB3N3A0ZFd2UT09>

or go to [zoom.us](http://zoom.us) and click join a meeting.

**The meeting number is 851 2578 5976. The Password is 850888**

You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1-301-715-8592

