



Lisbon United Methodist Church

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Pastor Joshua Swaim

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School 8:30 am
(September-May)

Worship 9:45 am

From the Pastor's Desk

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.” Matthew 10:34

Jesus didn't just come to just show us the truth. He came to be the truth. He is the truth. The thing about truth is... it divides. May you find Jesus' truth and hold on to it with your life.

Many of you are aware that the United Methodist Church is facing an impending divide theologically. It primarily involves theological differences in two areas. Those areas are Scriptural Authority and Scriptural Interpretation. Due to these fundamental differences surrounding the Bible, the UMC is now at a place where changes are necessary. To help you better understand WHERE we are at and WHY, I am including an article below by Rob Renfroe who is a leader of the traditional movement within United Methodism who believes change is necessary. I hope this article will help give you information as to why we have to have this conversation.

God bless you,
Pastor Josh

Hard Things By Rob Renfroe

When I speak to churches about the problems dividing the United Methodist Church, I begin by saying, “If you are not aware of what I am about to tell you, it will be hard for you to believe. I'll sound like an ancient astronomer trying to convince you the earth revolves around the sun when everyone is certain it's the other way around. I'll come across like the 'lunatic' of an earlier era proclaiming the world is round when everyone 'knows' it's flat. Some things are hard to believe even though they are true.”

Then I describe to them the deeper issues that divide the UM Church. I tell them we are divided about the Bible. Over the years, there have been UM pastors who've made statements about how the Bible cannot be trusted to tell us God's will and how they scoff at those of us who believe the Scriptures are the inspired word of God. I recount our differences about the work of the Holy Spirit and how many UM pastors have told me the Spirit is revealing new truths that contradict and override what the Bible teaches.

I tell them about my conversation with a highly respected tall-steeple pastor who told me, "Rob, the Church created the Bible. So, we can re-create the Bible." I tell them that worst of all we are divided on Jesus. Some of us believe Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life for all humankind. But we have a bishop who has warned us not to make an idol (a false God) out of Jesus. We have a UM seminary professor who told me, "God is wholesale; Jesus is retail," meaning Jesus is just one of many religious teachers, not really different from Mohammad or Buddha. We had a UM seminary president who said if you feel a need to tell persons of other religions about Jesus, you don't understand Jesus. These are hard things to believe if you have been in your local church with a pastor who is faithful to the Scriptures, where you repeat the historic creeds and mean them, and where you pray for your nonbelieving neighbors to come to faith in Jesus. These are hard things to believe, but they are true.

Now, there is another hard truth we must accept. The Commission on General Conference delayed General Conference for political reasons. The Commission did not simply disappoint us by deciding not to hold General Conference. They chose not to hold General Conference and they chose not to do the work that could have made it possible. Trusted members of the Commission report that the international delegates who spoke up during the deliberations concerning General Conference argued that it could be held and that delegates from around the world could find a way to travel to the United States. Those who argued otherwise were primarily white, American, and liberal (see article on page 16).

It's hard to believe that a desire to sabotage the Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation was the reason many Commission members voted against holding General Conference. But it's even harder not to. The Episcopal Church, the Lambeth Conference of Bishops, the United Methodist Women, and the Wesleyan Covenant Association are all holding large in-person meetings this spring and summer with delegates coming from around the world.

Where there is a will to meet there is a way. Where there is a will to undermine the one solution that would have led to a just and orderly resolution of the problems that divide us – well, the institutional members of the Commission found a way. Ironically, the Commission announced at its March meeting the formation of a task force to explore the possibility of a hybrid General Conference in 2024. This change of heart comes too late and shows what the Commission thought impossible could have been done a year ago.

Again, I know that's hard to believe for persons in their local churches who assume all church leaders are honest, fair, and well-meaning. But the truth is the earth revolves around the sun, the world is round, and power politics led to the postponement of General Conference.

Here's something else that will be hard to believe. There will be some bishops who will mislead the church and many pastors who will deceive their congregations in the coming months about the future of the UM Church. As local churches consider their options for leaving, they will be told they are overreacting. Some bishops and pastors will tell United Methodists in the pews that "there is no reason to depart because nothing will change – the UM Church will continue to be a big tent denomination that respects all persons and all points of views. You and your church will never be made to do anything you do not want to do." If it's hard for you to hear this, I'm sorry. But statements claiming there will be no change in the local church are untrue. And many who say these things know they are.

If you believe the progressives (who will be in control of the denomination when many traditionalists leave) will allow you to deny "justice" to same-sex couples who want to be married in your church; if you believe liberals will permit your annual conference to discriminate

against partnered gay persons who feel called to be pastors; if you believe a bishop will never send a progressive pastor to your congregation to make you into “a real Methodist church,” then you are in denial.

The progressives have told us who they are. They have been open about their agenda. And after the Commission’s decision to cancel a General Conference that could have allowed us to go our separate ways in peace, it is obvious that some church leaders will do anything necessary to reach their goal of a woke liberal denomination, even if it means harming traditional churches.

It’s time to believe hard things. And it’s time to do a hard thing: Prayerfully consider leaving the UM Church. I hope you and your congregation will join other traditional Wesleyans in the Global Methodist Church. It may take time to do that. We have hard decisions in front of us. My prayer is that traditionalists will step into a better day with others who believe in the Lordship of Jesus, the truth of the Scriptures and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

Rob Renfroe is the president and publisher of Good News.

Small Group Studies

These studies are open to ALL. Come join one or more to hear the word of God and build a lasting relationship with Him and fellow Christians.

Men’s Breakfast @ VJ Reinken 108 Grant Ave Lisbon

This group meets for a devotional reading from My Utmost for His Highest, prayer, breakfast, and Christian Fellowship.

Sisters in Christian Study (SCS)-We are currently reading Max Lucado’s book Be Anxious About Nothing. Our next meeting will be June 21 at 7:00pm in the Church Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to attend.

Women in Christ (WIC)-WIC met May 6 in the Fellowship Hall with 7 present. Diane Miller was hostess and Nancy Forbes was lesson leader. Sue Gradwell led us in a time of prayer. Roll call was “Who was your best friend growing up?”

Michelle Platt gave a presentation about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library that the Lisbon Library is participating in. The group decided that in June we would each give money which will fund the program for one child the entire year.

Our mission outreach will continue donating items each month for SE Linn's pantry. They currently have over 60 families in need of assistance.

Nancy Forbes led our lesson in Galatians. We are left to ponder the question, "Is Christ's approval more important than human approval?"

The next meeting will be on Friday June 3 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sheri O'Donnell will be the hostess and Sue Gradwell will lead the lesson.

Looking for a way to get involved?

- Summer Camp
 - Campers and Counselors wanted
 - Check out the opportunities to be involved at camp this summer!!!
 - Campership applications for Lake Okoboji are available in the overflow room.
 - UMW is currently accepting applications for camperships that may be used for any Christian based camp.
 - Applications are available in the overflow room.
 - Please return your application to the church office or to Peggy Bock no later than July 1, 2022.
- Vacation Bible School is happening July 31-August 4 from 6-8pm. Volunteers are needed before and during this week. There is a sign-up sheet in the Overflow Room, or you may contact the church office for more information.

Community Services

Southeast Linn Community Center will be hosting a free backpack distribution with school supplies on August 3. They are seeking donations for backpacks and school supplies. We will be hosting a supply drive at Lisbon UMC. All donations may be placed in the bin in the overflow room by July 17, and we will deliver the donations to SELCC. If you have any questions, please ask Alex Bock or Abby Bock.

Scholarships:

The Mary Kettering Endowment Scholarship is accepting applications for students that have completed at least one year of college. Applications are available in the church office or by emailing a request to Lisbonumc@netins.net. All applications must be returned to the church office no later than July 15, 2022.

Dates to Remember:

- Every Wednesday Men's Breakfast @ VJ Reinken 108 Grant Ave Lisbon
- **June 3**-WIC Meeting 1:30pm at the Church
- **June 19**-Ad Council
- **June 21**-SCS 7pm at the Church
- **June 26**-Town Hall Meeting following worship regarding the future direction of our church
- **July 31-August 4**-Vacation Bible School (VBS) This year's exciting journey is "A Jewish Marketplace (6-8pm)



Congratulations!

To the 11 youth that were confirmed on May 15, 2022.

"May God always be in your life so that you have someone to lean on as you grow, learn, and become who you're meant to be."

Prayers

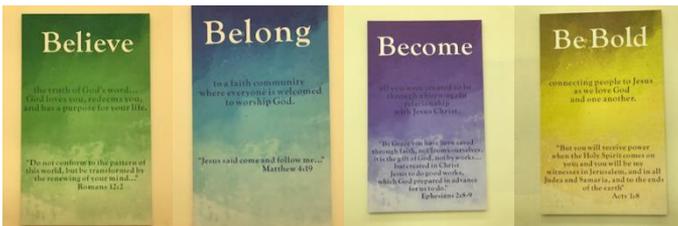
Please keep the following in your prayers

Betty Stoneking's family; Ben Jamison; Nancy Rottman; Dale Johnson; Jeff DuCharme; Zelah Logue; Stephanie Boggs; Diane and Tim Miller; Emma Bock and Kendra Schmidt during their mission work.

Thank you, Jesus, for the answers to our prayers! We praise and thank You for new life, healing of the injured and sick, providing our daily needs! We lift up prayers for our family members who are sick, hospitalized, injured, and those who are in need. We ask for Your Presence in our community and in our world. Amen

Did you notice?

- Our welcome sign at the corner of the church has been updated.
- The beautiful yard work that has been done. Thank you to everyone who worked on it.
- The new wall hangings in the fellowship hall that show our pathway to discipleship.



Member's Musings

Doug Morningstar

I've been thinking about "church" lately. What is church? What's the point or purpose of church? Over the years I have been a part of many churches of various denominations. I grew up in the Lisbon United Methodist Church, then a Minnesota-Iowa Baptist Conference church, an American Baptist church, a non-denominational church and back to the Lisbon UMC. All those churches had some theological differences

that each group felt was important and separate from other churches and denominations. But they had several things in common which I like to summarize as a group of people who gathered to worship and serve God and Jesus together. Yes, we can worship and experience God alone or in the forest or during a beautiful sunset. But we are also asked to not give up meeting together (Hebrews 10:25). And Jesus reminded his disciples and us that when two or three of us are gathered in His name, Jesus is right there too. Matthew 18:20.

The United Methodist Church may separate into at least two groups, based on how scripture, tradition and culture form the policies and decisions of each. Local Churches will be asked to choose. Pastor Josh and the Administrative Council will make strong efforts to explain the differences of the groups. The timetable for this is likely within the next several months. There are good reasons for these differences, but the purpose of all the groups will remain the same, a group of followers of Jesus gathering to worship and serve God.

So as the denominational issues become more defined, I hope and pray we will all consider the purpose of "church."

In Search Of:

Please save your 1-gallon plastic containers from any plants that you are purchasing this spring/summer, as I will be making some Christmas evergreen floral arrangements to sell at our Christmas Treasures for Christ event in December. You may drop them off at the church by the office. Thank you very much! Wendy Johnson-President, United Women in Faith.

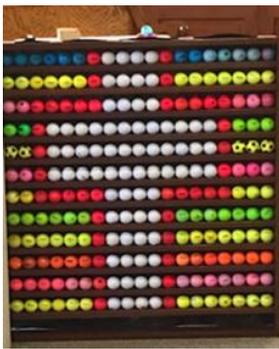
Reminder-If you would like a copy of the new Our Daily Bread, Mike and Dawn Morgan will deliver them to your home. Please call the office at 319-455-2000.

Another incredible day at the Lisbon United Methodist Church!

On April 30th we had an excellent turnout for the Master's Mother/Son Mini Golf and Fun Day. Over 50 participants came out to enjoy the course and have fun with us!!

The Men's group put their skills and imagination into building a memorable a nine-hole course throughout the area. Thank you to everyone that helped with building, working during the day, providing the food, and helping with the games. And THANK YOU to everyone that came and played.

Enjoy some of the sights!!!





***Reminder: Please have all articles/information for the July newsletter to the church office by June 26.**

We will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows, and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:15-16