

A Message from Pastor Bob

“We Are Going Somewhere”

Every year our resident bishop, Bishop Devadhar, gives a list of the recommended readings to encourage more effective ministry. This year he suggested just one book *Piloting Church* by Cameron Trimble. Trimble is a professional pilot who first learned how to fly from her grandfather. She is also a pastor and coach of ministry. She insightfully compares performing a fruitful ministry with operating an airplane. I find her argument in the first chapter very insightful. She holds, “Your congregation is going somewhere. It’s spending lots of time and money on staffing, buildings, ministries, and community impact. The question is, are you going somewhere on purpose?” As we can imagine, it would be disastrous if the pilot does not know where her airplane is going eventually.

What I strongly agree with Trimble is that the congregation is never static. The life of the congregation is always on the move. Some churches thrive in their ministries bringing new people who wish to follow the way of Christ. Some churches decline in attendance and finance to the point they finally close their doors. I have encountered in the past some people often argue for their implicit mission statement, “Our mission is to make sure that our church keeps its door open in this community.” Sadly, churches do not stay too long on what many call a “survival mode.” Unless the congregation is clear about their identity, knows the needs of their community, and actively reach out to make disciples and transform people, they easily lose the vitality in the life of their church.

So, while reading Trimble’s book, my question was this, “Where is Living Faith UMC going?” “What will our church look like in 5 years, 10 years, and 20 years from now?” While many United Methodist congregations seem anxious about the unknown future of our denomination at the moment, I wish to draw you to an image that I found in the public library when I moved to Putnam in 2016. When I entered the library, I saw there was a book about the history of Putnam. In 1955, our town greatly suffered a disaster from fire and flood caused by Hurricane Diane. And there was a picture of nurses from the American Red Cross treating patients at our church because it opened its door to people as an emergency shelter.

For me, our church has such an image of shelter for those who are hungry and in need of clothing, who are lonely, and seek a loving relationship with God and others. When I went to a hair salon to get a haircut, the hair designer seemed surprised to hear that I was a pastor in the town. Well, how many pastors of an ethnic minority do people encounter in this town? When I told her the name of our church, she said, “I have heard of your church. You people do many wonderful things!” Whether Daily Bread, Clothing Closet, Community Café, Critical Need Ministry, or ministry with the oncologists, we will always discern the needs of people in the community and the world, welcome them, and share the love of God passionately.

Ultimately, I believe that it is the Holy Spirit who navigates and pilots our church as God knows where we are going. It is said in Proverbs 16:9, “The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.” While we as pastor, leadership, and church plan our ministries carefully, we always need to discern the voice of God prayerfully who calls us to proclaim the good news of Christ and share the radical love of God with our neighbors. We as a church are going somewhere. I pray that God is helping us navigate our way to an abundant and thriving place full of joy, peace, faith, love, and service.

--Pastor Bob

Things to Remember Worship Support Team

February 2 Communion

Liturgist: Craig Jones
Hosts: Jay Wade & Everett Shepard
Communion Steward: Barbara Jones
Children's Story: Cathy Taylor
Coffee Fellowship: Rick Roy

February 9

Liturgist: Judy Gehrig
Hosts: Laura Lefevre & Bev Shaw
No Coffee Fellowship: SOS
Children's story: Bev Shaw

February 16

Liturgist: Cathy Taylor
Hosts: Rachael & Shawn Johnston
Coffee Fellowship: Linda Pariseau
Children's story: Lorna Wade

February 23 – Scout Sunday

Liturgist: Scouts
Hosts: Scouts
Coffee Fellowship: Scouts
Children's story: Scouts



February 3	Laura Lefevre
	Andrew Peterson
February 4	Adam Lehmann
February 5	Wendi Hopkins
February 7	Morgan Bentley
February 9	Emma Canas-Strama
February 10	Peggy Weaver
February 11	Jocelyn Harrison
February 15	Eric Mauer
	Jim Peterson
February 16	Ryan Wade
February 22	Mateo Sanchez
	Rick Roy
	Dustin Deojay
February 23	Margarita Flores
February 24	Richard Lefevre
	Olivia Sanchez
February 26	VJ Strama

Don't forget SOS

(SOUP ON SUNDAY)

Every 2nd Sunday after worship!
Delicious homemade soups, breads,
grilled cheese sandwiches, beverages
and desserts – all for your generous
donation to our Relay for Life Team
Living Faith!
February 9TH this month!



STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Bob (Song Bok) Jon
Treasurer: Ann Kathi Peterson
SPRC Chair: Craig Jones
Trustee Chair: Doug Taylor

Office Manager/Editor: Bev Shaw
Music Director: Svetlana Morse
Lay Leader: Lorna Wade
Finance Chair: Shawn Johnston

Telephone: 860.928.9705 Email: livingfaith53.umc@gmail.com Website: www.livingfaithumc.net



Join in the fun at our next **MESSY CHURCH**

Event on Friday, February 14, 2020

5:30 – 7:30

Living Faith Fellowship Hall

LOVING & SERVING

Messy Church is all about fun, food, fellowship in the presence of God. On this Valentine's Day, we invite you to join us as we look together at how we might show and serve others in our communities in a real and meaningful way

DAILY BREAD NEEDS

CEREAL

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, January 12, 2020, we welcomed through baptism, Joseph and Madison Eriksen and through Profession of Faith, Edward Schneider. We are delighted to welcome them into the full fellowship of LFUMC and hope that they will all feel loved and nurtured. Let's make that happen!



WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Charlotte Rose Martel born January 6, 2020 and weighing in at 7 lb. 10 oz.! Charlotte is daughter of Summer Jeffs and Mark Martel and great granddaughter of Sherwin Smith! Congratulations one and all!



3.

We invite you to pray for: Becca Eriksen (surgery), Pat Hall (recovering from pneumonia), Ed Vonderheide (a fall), Ron Pariseau (health and family), Matthew Parker (surgery), Mark Brodeur (continued healing), Christine Georgio (healing), Victims of natural disasters and many others....

Living Faith UMC Messenger— February 2020

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 AM Sunday School and Worship	3 6:00 – Game Night 7:00 – Dart Ball	4 Noon – Community Kitchen 6:00 – Boy Scouts	5 7:30 – AA	6	7 9:00 – Game Day 11:30-1:00 Community Café 5:30-7:30 Messy Church	8
9 10:00 AM Sunday School and Worship S.O.S. – after Worship	10 6:00 – Game Night	11 Noon Community Kitchen 6:00 – Boy Scouts 7:00 - IHSP	12 7:30 – AA	13	14 9:00 – Game Day 11:30-1:00 Community Café	15 YOUTH GROUP
16 10:00 AM Sunday School and Worship	17 6:00 – Game Night	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Noon – Community Kitchen 6:00 – Boy Scouts	19 7:30 – AA	20	21 9:00 – Game Day 11:30-1:00 Community Café	22
23 10:00 AM Sunday School and Worship Scout Sunday	24 6:00 – Game Night	25 Noon – Community Kitchen 6:00 – Boy Scouts	26 6:00 – Trustees meet 7:30 – AA	27	28	29 YOUTH GROUP