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JCUMC UPDATE



June 2024

Junction City United Methodist Church

This is a Pastoral Message from Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth. I have transcribed the video for those who are unable to view the video. If you wish to view the video presentation, please click [**HERE**](#)

Greetings Greater Northwest area. I am so happy to be back in the area after General Conference. By now, you may be aware of many historic accomplishments of General Conference. You may also be wondering what any or all of it means for us. There is so much to unpack and we have time to do that. For now, I wish to highlight a few things that will be before us as we prepare for annual conference sessions and life beyond.

First, I celebrate the collective will of the General Conference delegates to approve removal of the language that caused so much harm to LGBTQ IA+, siblings and allies. That was the answer to many prayers and a balm for many souls. In the wake of that change that's already in effect, we must take note that those who are not in support of that change may feel vulnerable, left out, or concerned about the future of the church. I understand that and that's why it's imperative that we ensure that when we say the United Methodist Church is a church for all that we mean all. So, no one is expected and no one will be bullied into doing anything that contradicts their convictions and values. The removal of the prohibitions and harmful language really gets us to a neutral point. No one is being penalized and no one is bound to discriminate.

Second, the approval of the revised social principles allows us to have global conversations and perspectives on what matters around the world. We are not to be dominated by US centric ideas and principles. Our social principles are global in nature and much more inclusive of a broader perspective. Regionalization was a major topic before the delegates. It was approved and regionalization will require ratification of several constitutional amendments. And that process will take some time to complete because all Annual Conferences around the world must vote on it and the threshold of 2/3 of the aggregate of all voting is needed to approve constitutional amendments.

The delegates approved sacramental rights for deacons. They approved a compass retirement plan and closed the CRSP plan. We approved full communion with the Moravian Church and the Episcopal Church.

We did not approve many of the petitions related to voting and membership rights for local pastors. We referred several petitions related to the office of Bishop and formulas related to budgeting. One matter that will linger with us is the Judicial Council decision pertaining to the authority of the Inter Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. That committee is comprised of members of the five jurisdictional episcopacy committees. That's the group tasked with figuring out how the 32 approved Bishops will be distributed and assigned across the United States.

The jurisdictional episcopacy committee proposed no new elections, and the General Conference approved that recommendation. The Western jurisdiction is allotted five Bishops; two of the current active Bishops will retire in August, and the work between now and the jurisdictional conference in July will involve a process to determine which Bishops from other jurisdictions are willing to serve in the West. The Bishop must agree ascending jurisdiction must agree and the receiving jurisdiction must agree.

There arise many unanswered questions regarding how the five Western jurisdiction Episcopal areas will be assigned.

But all in all, the spirit of General Conference was prayerful and calm. There were tears shed for many reasons. Some celebrated the election of the first African American woman to serve as president of the Council of Bishops. We elected our very own Laurie Day of the Oregon, Idaho Conference as a member of Judicial Council.

Our delegates were active participants every day. They worked in close collaboration with the other delegations from the West and beyond. They prayed together and took care of one another. I am grateful for all the work that went into making General Conference work for the good of the whole. It was not perfect, but I can see how it is moving us toward perfection.

I'm grateful for all the legislation that was considered. But friends, legislation is not the work. Our work begins now. Our work begins with us bending our knees in prayer, calling out to God, and leaning into one another. Our work begins by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through vital and relevant worship, active discipleship formation, and direct engagement in our ministry context. We must pay attention to those outside the church.

The truth is, we've given 52 years to our internal strife and struggles. Might we give the next 52 weeks to matters beyond ourselves? We can work to make the United Methodist Church a safe and welcoming place for all God's beloved. We can invest in ministry that matters so that health and housing are priorities for all. We can consider what it means to serve beyond or outside our context. We can lift-up the Ministry of Laity and affirm that all are called to serve. We can continue the work of eliminating racism and obstacles upheld by privilege. We can be about telling the story of Jesus and his radical love. We can live the gospel without dehumanizing and discriminating against one another or defacing God's creation.

We can be great in the greater northwest. We can and we will. All the best to you as you serve and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

~ *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth*

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**A Note from Pastor Nancy:**

The red cardigan wearing Fred Rogers has taught us much and continues to teach us life lessons. Mr. Rogers was a deeply spiritual man who loved God and taught us lessons on how to love our neighbor. We are going to spend the month of June learning the lessons from the cardigan.

Recently, there's been another leader in pop culture who teaches from the cardigan, pop-singing artist, Taylor Swift. We will gain insight from the cardigans of Fred Rogers and Taylor Swift.

- June 2: Cardigan Lessons: Neighbors Mark 12:28-34\*
- June 9: Cardigan Lessons: Being Good Neighbors Romans 15:1-7 (Message version)
- June 16: Cardigan Lessons: Feelings Ephesians 4:25-5:2
- June 23: Cardigan Lessons: Losing Romans 8:31-39
- June 30: Cardigan Lessons: Love Luke 12:6-7, 29-34 \*

Looking forward to seeing you all in worship!

Shalom,  
*Pastor Nancy*

# WELCOME!

Please join us for worship every Sunday morning at 10:30am either in person or on Facebook Live.  
[www.facebook.com/junctioncityorumc](http://www.facebook.com/junctioncityorumc)

Stay for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

Communion is served the first Sunday of each month. All are invited to the table. Please bring a protein to be donated to Local Aid like peanut butter or canned chicken.

We are a Reconciling Congregation, welcoming all persons regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, racial or ethnic background, economic status or mental or physical abilities.



**Communion Sunday is June 2<sup>nd</sup>.** As we are fed the bread and cup of life, let us share food with those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. We are asking that you bring a protein to donate to Local Aid. Good sources of protein are canned chicken, tuna and peanut butter.

**Discipleship Group: Taking A Break for the Summer**  
We will be taking a break during the summer months. We will offer special event spiritual growth opportunities for the summer. For the month of June please watch the film, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. (Available on HULU and Amazon)

### **Pastor Nancy's June Schedule:**

If there is an emergency, I am available at any time. So, for the month of June here's my weekly schedule:

**Monday** is my sabbath. If there is an emergency I will respond, otherwise I will be available starting on Tuesday.

**Tuesday:** is sermon preparation, so I will be working away from the church. Please feel free to email me or text me and I will get in touch with you.

**Wednesday:** I will hold office hours at Max Porters from 10 to noon. Except for the third Wednesday when the United Women in Faith meet at the church.

**Thursday:** I will be in the office from 9am to noon. Thursday afternoon, I will reserve for pastoral care visits.

**Friday:** I will be in the office from 10am to noon.

**Saturday:** On days without the Community Breakfast, I will take it as my day off.

June 20-23rd is Idaho-Oregon Annual Conference. During these days, I will be available via text. I do plan on being in worship on June 23rd.

## Newsletter Schedule:

We will be publishing the Newsletter once a month, sending it out the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month for the upcoming month. Submissions for the newsletter need to be submitted no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month to be included. Please send submissions to [junctioncityumc@gmail.com](mailto:junctioncityumc@gmail.com)

**June Newsletter Submissions Due June 21<sup>st</sup>. Newsletter will be emailed June 28<sup>th</sup>.**

# OUTREACH NEWS

## Here's How JCUMC is Helping Our Community & the World in May

- Through the Soroptimist International of Junction City, JCUMC provides food donations, cash donations and volunteer hours to the **Bunches of Lunches (BOL) program**. The Bunches of Lunches program serves children in the Junction City school district. Healthy meals are distributed to Laurel and Territorial Elementary Schools, Oaklea Middle School, and Junction City High School for kids to take home with them over the weekend. They DO NOT need oatmeal packets but need fruit cups!
- We provide packed lunches for the Eugene Community Court Lunch Program. On average, Community Court receives 20-40 lunches per week, providing a reliable meal for participants as well as community members using the Community Court Provider Room on Wednesdays.
- We sent 300.00 to UMCOR for worldwide disaster relief.



**Locking Up the Church:** It has been reported that there have been doors left unlocked after worship on Sunday morning. Sometimes the unlocked door isn't discovered until Monday or later in the week. If you are one of the last to leave the church, please be sure to check ALL the doors. The most common door to be left unlocked is the door in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for keeping our building and our people safe.

**Combined Worship Service & Potluck** - We will be hosting a combined worship service with Faith Lutheran **on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**. Pastor Nancy will be preaching, and we will host a potluck lunch immediately following the service. Please bring a dish to share with your church family and neighbors. See you at 10:30am!



**Faith Lutheran will be having a Church Yard Sale on June 14-15 from 9am-3pm.** If you have items you would like to donate to their sale, please drop off during their manned **drop off times: June 7, 8, 10, 11 from 9am-2pm.** No compute or phone equipment and no adult clothing or adult shoes. All items should be in usable condition. They will be selling hotdogs, soda and water so spread the word!



**United Methodist Women (UMW) News:** Please join us on Wednesday, June 19th at 10am for our monthly meeting and guest speaker from Ophelia's Place. All women are invited to attend! To find out more about Ophelia's Place, please click [here](#)

**Leadership Team Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 23** after coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. All leadership team members are encouraged to attend. Thank you!