



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK. . .

I normally try to come up with something inspirational or at least theological for you to ponder in my monthly articles. This month, I thought I'd do something a little different.

As you read this, over 850 delegates from around the world are meeting in North Carolina for the United Methodist Church General Conference to decide matters of church law. These conferences happen every four years and serve as the ONLY place where official matters of our denomination's official laws, policies, and procedures are debated and decided upon. Whereas we meet every year in our Annual Conference to vote on things relating to our local church operations, it is at the General Conference where the official stances of the denomination as a whole are decided.

This General Conference has actually been eight years in the making instead of the usual four. The last planned meeting in 2020 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two additional attempts, in 2021 and 2022, were also cancelled before they could happen due to continuing travel and health concerns by some of the delegates. So, the last General Conference actually happened in May of 2016.

A lot has happened since May of 2016. In the US alone, we have had two presidential elections. There have been some major changes to policies and laws in our political and social spheres. And, in our own local Annual Conference, over half of our United Methodist Churches have chosen to disaffiliate from the denomination and either join a different denomination or become independent. This particular trend hasn't been quite as pronounced in other areas of the country, but it still has taken its toll on our numbers. Nationwide, approximately 25% of local churches have left the United Methodist Church. In other parts of the world, United Methodist Churches are raising questions of autonomy, local church influence, and how the church should conform to or fight against changing societal norms.

What this means is that the delegates who would have been present in 2020 to make decisions for the Church are not necessarily the same delegates who are meeting right now. The delegates who are representing the clergy and the laity of the church may have different ideas on the direction the church should take than the delegates originally selected to attend the meeting IN 2020. And, with more on the line concerning the outcomes of their decisions, it almost certainly means that it will be even more difficult for the delegates to set aside personal agendas and seek and move with the Holy Spirit's guidance because each delegate now has a much deeper personal interest in the outcome of the conversations. It will be much more tempting (and much easier than in previous conferences) for the personal will of the delegates to take precedence over the will of the body and, dare I say, the Will of God.

I don't mean to sound pessimistic. I have great respect for the processes we have set up as a denomination. But I also feel that we have to muster as much prayer coverage as we possibly can for the discussions and the decisions arising at this conference. Just as we must constantly pray for our political leaders, now, more than ever, we need to be in prayer for our church leaders.

The decisions that these delegates make will affect things like: apportionments (as the number of conferences and bishops may change), church procedure and policy on property ownership, methods available for churches who wish to disaffiliate, United Methodist relations with other denominations (which could further influence our stances on some issues), and our official church law and stances on some of the issues that have been dividing us as a denomination for years.

My ask of you during this time of General Conference is simply that you pray for God to lead our denomination into its next season. And, I believe the best way to do that is with one simple line from The Lord's Prayer:

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven...Amen"

In Christ,
Scott



7-13
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Dist. by King Features Synd.
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"Was the world in color when you were little, Grandma, or was it still just black and white?"

YOUTH MINISTRY

UMYF will meet at
5:00 pm on the following
dates:

May 5

May 19

SUPPORT THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT SHSU



SHSU WESLEY

Potato Fundraiser



Name your own price! Any size donation will be greatly appreciated

SUNDAY MAY 5 | 10:45AM-1PM

HUNTSVILLE FUMC

The baked potato comes with your choices of barbeque pulled pork, green onions, butter, sour cream, and shredded cheese (all in to-go boxes).

Wesley Memorial members can fill out a pre-order form (available in office) by end of day May 1st for delivery to Wesley Memorial that morning.



Your donation helps fund the ministry at SHSU. We provide a place for college students to connect deeply with each other and with God.



Wesley is a sponsor for the **May Blood Drive**. I would like to see at least 10 members sign up to donate blood on **May 11th**. The hours are from 8:00am to 12:15pm. It is held at the Church of Christ on Hwy 30 West. I will have information on signing up this Sunday, April 28th, and on May 5th at church. Thanks in advance!!

--Wanda Hassman, Church's Blood Drive Coordinator for Wesley



FISH FRY

HONORING

SCOTT MOORE

Doctorate and

Wesley Appointment Anniversary



SATURDAY, JUNE 1

at 5:30 PM

Wesley Memorial United Church

RSVP by May 19 to Church Ofc. 936-295-7459, leave msg. or

wesleymemorial1938@gmail.com



CAMP FIRELIGHT. . .

We are gearing up for **Vacation Bible School**. If you would like to help with VBS there will be a **planning meeting on May 19th** right before Sunday School at 9:30am. Our Vacation Bible School will be held one day on August 3, 2024 so mark your calendars now and join us on May 19th to help plan this year's VBS.

May

2024

Greeters: Alan Peet

Assist with Communion: Pat Taliaferro

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			01  <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u>	02	03	04 
05 <u>SHSU Potato Fundraiser @First UMC-10:45 am</u> <u>Handbells—9:15am</u> <u>Sunday School—10am</u> <u>Worship—11am</u> <u>UMW - 12pm</u> <u>UMYF - 5pm</u> 	06	07 <u>Administrative Council - 6pm</u>	08 <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u>	09	10	11 <u>Blood Drive @ Church of Christ 8am-12:15pm</u> <u>SAVE A LIFE</u>  GIVE BLOOD
12  <u>Handbells—9:15am</u> <u>Sunday School—10am</u> <u>Worship—11am</u>	13	14	15 <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u>	16 <u>SOAR - 11am</u>	17	18
19 <u>VBS Planning Meeting—9:30</u> <u>Handbells—9:15am</u> <u>Sunday School—10am</u> <u>Worship—11am</u> <u>UMYF—5pm</u>	20	21	22 <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u>	23	24	25
26 <u>Handbells—9:15am</u> <u>Sunday School—10am</u> <u>Worship—11am</u>	27 	28  <u>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</u>	29 <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u>	30	31	01  FISH FRY honoring Scott Moore 5:30pm

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 87
Huntsville, TX 77320
(Physical address: 700 Hwy. 30 East)
(936)295-7459
www.wesleyememorialhuntsville.com
wesleyememorial1938@gmail.com
wesley_finsec@gmail.com

Rev. Scott Moore
revwmumc@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Closed Monday
Tue.-Thur. 9:00am-2:00pm
Closed Friday

Sundays

Worship Services:

9:15am Handbell Rehearsal
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
5:30pm Youth (every other Sunday)

Wednesdays

11:00am Canasta Club
5:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Monthly Meetings

1st Sunday

12:00pm UMW

1st Tuesday

6:00pm—Administrative Council

3rd Thursday

11:00am SOAR

Please check with your
group leader each month
for any changes
in the regular schedule.



*"In the merry month of May, when green leaves begin
to spring, little lambs do skip like fairies, birds do cou-
ple, build, and sing."*

We think this traditional nursery rhyme really sums up
the beautiful spring month of May.


*Happy birthday to all of you
born in MAY*



T. J. Martin	05/09
Susan Martin	05/15
David Easley	05/17
Jim Moore	05/18
Kathleen Jones	05/22
Wes McMillan	05/25
Brady Wilson	05/27
Mattie Wilson	05/28

Here are some **May Birthday Fun Facts**

for you to enjoy:

May's Birthstone - If you were born in May then your birthstone is the vibrant deep green emerald. Emeralds have the same green shade as a thriving spring garden, and in French, the name for emerald is *jardin*, literally the French word for garden.

May's Birth Flower - We think one of the best things about the month of May is the blooming of spring flowers. The official birthday flower of May is the delicate and fragrant lily of the valley. The lily of the valley is said to represent sweetness, motherhood and humility.

Astrology Zodiac Signs of May - If you were born in the month of May, then your zodiac sign is Taurus (May 1st to 20th) or Gemini (May 21st to 31st). People born under Taurus, an earth sign, are known to be intelligent, dependable and stubborn. People born under Gemini, an air sign, are known to be whimsical, talkative and adaptable.

- The grandest horse race in the world, The Kentucky Derby, takes place on the first Saturday in May every year. This is one of the oldest horse races in the world and has been running every year since 1875. There have been only two years when the race wasn't ran in May. In 1945 during a wartime ban on horse-racing and in 2020 when the race was delayed until September due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While many associate Cinco de Mayo with margaritas and partying, the origins of the yearly celebration is the 1862 Mexican victory over the French during the second Franco-Mexican War. Americans spend over \$600 million each year on beer for Cinco de Mayo. That's more than the Super Bowl or St. Patrick's Day! Let's raise our glasses and say ¡Salud! to this May celebration!
- Led Zeppelin sings about her in Stairway to Heaven, Florence Pugh becomes her in the horror film Midsommar but what is a May Queen anyway? In Paganism, the May Queen is the goddess of spring who would be awakened each year to fight the Winter Queen, to allow nature to return to bloom and blossom, and provide its bounty.
- It was on May 8th, 1945, that German high command unconditionally surrendered to allied forces bringing an official end to World War II. May 8th is now considered Victory in Europe Day, or VE Day. It is commemorated each year in countries like France, UK and Poland with remembrance ceremonies.
- WE LOVE YOU MAMA! May is the time to celebrate mom, and she definitely deserves it! In over 100 countries across the world, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May. And May is the perfect time of year to shower our mothers with beautiful bouquets of fresh spring flowers.
- Here is one of the more intriguing fun facts about May: the Old English name for the fifth month of the year was *primilce*, which translates to "three milkings". Apparently due to the abundance of fresh grass in May, cows could be milked three times a day. Would this make May a cow's favorite or least favorite month? Either way its udder-ly fascinating. (please forgive us for this cow pun).



P.O. Box 87
Huntsville, TX 77342

Sent with love & prayers to:

ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE

NEWSLETTER ARE DUE NO LATER THAN

May 28th

Office Hours:

Tue-Th. 9:00a-2:00p

Closed Monday & Friday

E-mail: wesleymemorial1938@gmail.com

Phone: (936) 295-7459

website: wesleymemorialhuntsville.com

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCHuntsville)

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