ONE & DONE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Have you been looking for an opportunity to serve at HPCUMC?

"One & Done" are opportunities to serve, usually for just an hour or so at a time, and when you are done...it's done.

Sound simple? It is! Opportunities are listed below. *Please check the one you like, fill in your contact information and place it in the offering plate.* We will contact you asap. Thank you for your willingness to serve with us in Christ.

Provide a meal for Sunday Evening Youth fellowship

——Yes! I will help with Sunday Evening dinner for 25 people. Diane Dinsmore will contact you specifically to see what date works best for you.

Sunday Morning Volunteer for Preschool or Elementary

____ no long term commitments or teaching responsibilities! Just come assist the lead teacher and share God's love with our little ones. Contact spease@hpcumc.org to set up a date.

Name
Email
Phone #
Please return to the offering plate or contact Dave Jennings at

djennings@hpcumc.org or 979-8192 with any questions.

CONTACT OUR CHURCH STAFF

WORSHIP

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Rev. Doug Johns

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HOSPITALITY AND CONNECTING MINISTRIES

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MISSION & OUTREACH/YOUNG ADULTS

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PASTOR EMERITUS

Don Dixon

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

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FAMILY MINISTRY

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YOUTH AND COLLEGE-AGE

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ENDOWMENT

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Dutch Clergyman Henri Nouwen stated that, "Spiritual identity means we are not what we do or what people say about us. And we are not what we have. We are the beloved daughters and sons of God." This is the only sure foundation upon which Christ followers stand, particularly through the vicissitudes of life on earth. Every day we are seeing wars and rumors of war, political upheaval, earthquakes and fires that are destroying countries

earthquakes and fires that are destroying countries and lives. People are anxious, depressed and even suicidal at younger and younger ages. King Solomon described the fleeting nature our time here, and the relative worthlessness of most of our pursuits in terms like 'vanity and vexation of spirit,' and 'chasing after the wind.'

Apostles Paul and Peter categorized us as 'strangers and pilgrims' on the earth. We are traversing this world for a brief stay without even the wisdom or the power to pinpoint the exact moment of our arrival at birth, or our departure into eternity upon death. James said we are even prideful and presumptuous about the business plans we make for tomorrow and next year, when we don't even know what will happen each day.

We have only been charged to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment: to represent our LORD as a citizen of Heaven while on this temporal terra firma. How would our lives change were we to really embrace this perspective on our identity? Might we be more engaged with laying up intangible treasures that cannot rust, wear out or be stolen? Would we be so consumed with the politics and issues of the world and of the church? Or would we be doing all that we can to offer the awesome privilege of knowing Jesus Christ to those who have not yet experienced the blessing of His love, grace and mercy?

Sadell Bradley

Update on United Methodist Church Denomination and General Conference 2020

The United Methodist Church, and its potential separation, made the national news last week. Some reporters faithfully told the story while others wrote sensational headlines that were misleading. This letter is offered to inform you of what happened, and what did not, as well as provide tools for understanding the road ahead. No official separation has occurred to date in The United Methodist Church. Conversations, however, are continuing that seek ways for persons with diverse theological understandings of to serve God faithfully, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A diverse, faithful group of United Methodists from around the world produced a plan for amicable separation in the United Methodist Church. Bishop Gregory Palmer, the Bishop of West Ohio, was a member of the group that produced "The Protocol." Through a mediation process they arrived at consensus, offering another option for General Conference delegates to consider during their work in May. General Conference, composed of lay and clergy representatives elected from their annual conference around the world, is the only body that can make changes to the United Methodist Book of Discipline that governs our life together.

Bishop Ken Carter offers these highlights of the proposed plan:

- +the ongoing existence of the United Methodist Church
- +a gracious departure for a traditionalist conservative Methodist Church with a financial settlement
- +The creation of four regional conferences (Africa, U.S., Europe, Philippines each with its own ability to adapt

The Book of Discipline

- +The removal of restrictive language related to LGBTQ identity and practice in the U.S. post-separation United Methodist Church
- +Holding in abeyance any administrative or judicial processes regarding restriction in the Book of Discipline related to LGBTQ persons as of January 1, 2020.
- +Creation of a fund to strengthen the Black Church and ministries with and among marginalized persons
- +No annual conference or local church is required to vote on departure from the United Methodist Church
- +No one is asked to leave or separate from the church
- +Annual Conferences and local churches may vote to depart from The United Methodist church with their property in order to participate in another Methodist expression.
- +Wespath(pensions) will offer a continuity of service across the various Methodist expressions.

For now, we are called upon to pray, seek understanding, and continue to be a place where all God's beloved children are welcome. Please pray for our Bishops, delegates to General Conference, and all laity and clergy. May we seek to be faithful as God calls us to love God and one another, reflecting the light and love of Christ.

Peace,

Pastors Cathy and Doug

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Join Pastors Cathy and Doug as they lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land **July 21-31, 2020.** The group will visit sites sacred to the Judeo-Christian faith, read Scripture, sing songs of the faith, and walk where the patriarchs, Jesus, and His disciples walked. This Spiritual Pilgrimage will be transformational as the Bible comes alive, using all our senses as we encounter the Holy sites.

There will be an Informational Meeting, Sunday, January 12th at 3:00pm in the Library. Brochures can be found in the literature racks throughout the Church. Invite a friend to join you; all are welcome! For questions contact Pastor Doug Johns: djohns@hpcumc.org or 513-979-8195.

PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION AND GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION

A livestreamed panel discussion with members of the team that developed a new proposal for The United Methodist Church's future is set for **Monday, January 13th.**

The panel interview, conducted by UM News, will be streamed on UMNews.org on January 13 beginning at 9:30 am Eastern U.S. Time. It can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2wZQyAjU 6M&feature=youtu.be. The panel discussion will last approximately one hour and will be recorded and archived on the site.

2020 WINTER CLASSES

New Ventures Sunday morning class will discuss a book by Quaker Pastor, Philip Gulley, "If the Church Were Christian—Reclaiming the Values of Jesus."

Gulley makes a poignant statement at the beginning of his book—"If you call yourself a Christian Church, then the things that mattered to your founder (Christ) should matter to you." It is clear that the Christian Church, and the United Methodist Church included, is going through change. Where do we begin to set the course for where we will go? "Reclaiming the values of Jesus" sounds like a good place to start. The New Ventures discussion group meets at 11 a.m. in the Kilgour Parlor each Sunday. *Questions? Contact Michael Vilardo at mpvilardo@gmail.com or (513) 316-1540*.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

We wanted to inform you that the 2020 offering envelope boxes *have been delayed* at the printer due to their new equipment. As soon as they arrive, we will make them available. In the meantime, please use a pew envelope.

SUPER SERVE SATURDAY

This New Year brings new opportunities to engage your faith through action! We are doing an experiment called Super Serve Saturday which will take place the first Saturday of every month starting in February until May. The first Super Serve Saturday will be February 1st. The focus is alleviating hunger for our neighbors in Cincinnati. Super Serve Saturday is for ages 6 to 96 and is a great way to get to know other people by serving alongside them!

No need to sign up, just show up at the church on February 1st at 9:00am and learn about the different opportunities you can serve. You will get to choose what partner you would like to serve with and will be deployed from there. The time commitment is 3 hours with projects ending at 12:30pm. Contact Pastor Kate (ksmith@hpcumc. org) with questions.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you struggling from the Holiday Blues? Are you feeling alone or going through a difficult time? Do you need someone to walk with and talk with you? Stephen Ministers are here to serve. We care. Stephen Ministry is a Christian one-to-one caregiving ministry. Trained lay ministers companion those who are going through life's more stressful or emotional transitions. Compassionate listening and confidentiality are core principles of our program. These relationships are male-to-male and female-to-female. No cost.

If you, a loved one or a friend would like to know more about this ministry, *please contact Bonnie Stowell at twinklingb@yahoo.com or* 984-5347 Rev. Dave Weaver at dweaver@hpcumc.org or 979-8184.

MISSION TRIP TO RUSSIA IN 2020

The rumors are true, there will be a Russia trip in 2020! Right now, we are still finalizing the dates, but the block of time is August 19 - August 31.

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There are informational meetings about the trip on Sunday, January 26 at 10:30am and 12:00pm in Room 210. If you are interested in going, please plan to attend one of the meetings even if you have gone to Russia before as each trip is unique. Tell a buddy, bring a friend!

If you have any questions before the meeting, please reach out to Kevin Betts, Russia guru, at betts.k@gmail.com or at church.