

HUM NEWS MARCH 2023



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THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

NOTES FOR OUR MEETING WITH THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT,

REV. JENN LUCAS REGARDING DISAFFILIATION, written by Rev. Born

Our church had a properly advertised special meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023 to become informed and to inquire about disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. A few members had approached members of the Administrative Board with questions we could not answer. We held two meetings on Thursday, one at 11:00 am when Rev. Lucas was in attendance, and another at 6:30 pm in the evening showing a taped version of the morning meeting to insure all people who wanted to attend could have a choice of times. It was an informational meeting, but Rev. Lucas answered all questions posed to her about many different topics. She stayed until everyone's questions had been answered and everyone felt they had been heard. It was a pleasant time in community with one another and a refreshing approach to a difficult topic. I will do my best to, as briefly as possible, recap the meetings for you to have a record.

Rev. Lucas began with explaining the geographical reach of our district. Ohio River Valley District of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church – five counties: Hamilton, Clermont, Butler, Warren, and Clinton, housing 113 United Methodist congregations. Of those 113 congregations 9 churches disaffiliated in 2022, and another 8 are planning to disaffiliate in 2023. To disaffiliate the vote must be a 2/3 majority and three churches voted, but did not have the required 2/3 majority, so those churches are divided, struggling, and not expected to survive the division caused by the vote. Rev. Lucas further explained that what is being called a schism, a split or a division in the United Methodist Church, is actually a splinter with roughly 10% to 15% of American United Methodist Churches choosing to disaffiliate, making the problem a splinter rather than a split; but regardless of the vocabulary involved, the splinter is causing a great deal of division, ill feelings, destruction, and deflection from the true mission of the Church. As the leaders of your congregation, we believe it was necessary to present the facts to you all so that you could have truth to propel your decisions.

The discussion and tension over human sexuality is not new to the present time but began in 1970. The tension has reached an intolerable division and thus, disaffiliation has become a way to proceed. In 2016 the General Conference of the UMC, the worldwide governing body of our denomination, met to discuss same sex marriages and the ordination and placement LGBTQ clergy. A special General Conference was convened in 2019 and at that conference it was voted that the current language in the Book of Discipline would remain the same, meaning no same sex marriages and no LGBTQ clergy appointments. General Conference was not able to convene in 2020 because of Covid. The language of the 2016 Book of Discipline remains church law.

The General Conference meets every four years to discuss and make necessary changes to the Book of Discipline. This review has always been seen as a good thing because up until around 1970 women were not ordained elders in the UMC.

This new wave of dissent produced Paragraph 2553 and was written by progressives, moderates or centralists, and conservatives, for churches to gracefully exit the denomination who were unhappy with the church's stance on the LGBTQ issue. It was originally designed for the more progressive congregations, but it has become the more conservative congregations that are making the exit. This paragraph added to the Discipline will end December 31st, 2023, but there is still provision in the Book of Discipline for disaffiliation from the denomination, but paragraph 2553 will no longer be a reality at the end of this year. The General Conference will meet in 2024 and the language to disaffiliate will not be changed, but the vote on human sexuality will come to the floor. There is no way to predict that outcome.

There are financial and legal obligations and steps for every congregation to disaffiliate. This is a divorce of sorts and plays out similarly. In order to disaffiliate with the land and buildings, all past apportionments must be paid up to date and an extra year of apportionments is required to be paid in full within 10 days of disaffiliation, plus an additional \$30,925 will be required. To make this short, our church will have to pay approximately \$20,000 in apportionments. The \$30,925 to cover the pension responsibility, plus legal fees which could range from \$10,000 - \$20,000, making our entire amount to be around \$51,000 in a one time lump sum plus the legal fees. All legal documents, deeds, endowments must be handled through the legal system as well as logo changes, etc.

If a church chooses to disaffiliate that church would longer have access to the trained and educated clergy who wish to remain with the denomination and would thus have to assume the responsibility of finding their own pastors and staff. The church would be single entity because at this time, even though there are options available, the Global Methodist Church is not up and running as a full-fledged denomination, so the church if it chooses, must independently find a way to affiliate with other clusters of churches across state lines who are choosing to disaffiliate. United Methodist clergy are highly trained with educational, psychological, ethical, and spiritual standards guaranteeing vetted professional clergy.

The current pastor of any United Methodist congregation has the discretion to stay United Methodist and does not have to follow the lead of the current congregation. On a personal note, I as your pastor, would remain a United Methodist clergy. I am a 7th generation prenatal methodist, baptized at Hartwell Methodist in October of 1952, confirmed at First Methodist in Hamilton, Ohio in April 1964. I will remain with my roots and honor my legacy.

As you can see there has been a great deal of misinformation circulating through discourse and internet access. We wanted you to have reliable and reasonable information. Bishop Palmer has been very gracious to those churches who wish to disaffiliate and a check list and period of prayer and discernment is required of all churches wishing to exit the denomination. Our meeting with Rev. Lucas was refreshing, sincerely personal, truthful, and succinct and upfront. All who came thanked Rev. Lucas for her time and candor.

Question and answer time:

#1 why is the church not growing?

We are not bringing in or making disciples a priority.

#2 will the new Bishop change all the decisions or protocols that Bishop Palmer instituted

No, each newly appointed bishop has his/her own vision when they are appointed.

#3 will the scripture of the Bible be changed:

No, the Bible will not be rewritten.

#4 if the language of the Book of Discipline changes in 2024 do we have to allow same sex marriages in our sanctuary or be forced to accept gay clergy

No, the local church decides.

#5 are there any currently gay pastors in the district?

Yes but he is retired as of 2023

Those in attendance Thursday morning were Paul & Carol Toms, Tom & Carol Crowthers, Nancy Meyer, Bev Paul, Joe & Nancy Bobbitt, Linda Ross, Pat Anshutz, Sue Watts, Jackie Phillips, Jack Ward, Lue Wade, Karen Timney, Dan Webb, Lynn Dykes, Alice Hughes, Cindy Hackney, Julie Dreigon, Vicki Kelly and Rev. Born.

Those in attendance Thursday evening were Terry Riggins, John & Jeanie Shilton, Keith & Melissa Norris, Linda Maegly, Nancy Bobbitt, Julie Dreigon, Karen Timney, Dan Webb, Dan Waddell, Vicki Kelly and Rev. Born.

The Leadership Board and I have decided how our church will handle this information. After having provided as much correct information from the most reliable resources and having made sure that information was made available in many venues and multiple time frames, we will be happy to hear your feedback and your decision. If you wish to disaffiliate, please inform someone on the Leadership Board or the pastor. We will keep a list of those wishing to disaffiliate and when we have 2/3 majority of people wishing this change, we will call a special church conference in order to vote, but only when we have 2/3 majority. We will not risk damaging the atmosphere, anointing, and unity of our congregation without that 2/3 majority. I and any member of the Board will be glad to discuss the proceedings and any of your concerns. Our job is not to persuade you, but to inform you so that you can prayerfully make your decisions.

Leadership Board members are Nancy Bobbitt, Vicki Kelly, Julie Dreigon, Dan Waddell, Sue Watts, Karen Timney, Brenda Schwarber, Melissa Norris and Rev. Born.

March may have come in like lamb  , but your Leadership board has been as fierce as a lion with happenings this past month.

Here are the highlights from the February board meeting.



The Board made plans to present the disaffiliation information to the congregation. Rev. Jenn Lucas, our new District Superintendent, had been scheduled to meet with the congregation to inform and answer any questions. This meeting has been recorded and reshown, and a copy has been made. It is available to anyone who was unable to attend. Please contact Rev. Deb for further information about viewing.



The Mission Team shared a plan for monthly activities to support the Christmas Baskets. Yes, they are starting early this year. See the Missions section in this HUM News and future editions.



Children and Family announced plans for Easter. Please read further to see what they have planned.



Two new Book Studies began 5 days ago. It is not too late to join! Rev. Deb will be leading *The Gift of Years*. Fridays, Wednesdays and Sundays. (Choose your day)
Julie Dreigon will be leading *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, a study for Lent, on Mondays. Please contact either leader for more information.



The Worship Team purchased new items for our Sanctuary Altar. Look for a new chalice, plate and communion cloths.



The Trustees announced final activity at the parsonage. The painting is complete. HVAC tune up complete. Deep cleaning of carpets and rooms complete. Leaves at garage removed. Garage emptied. The paperwork for rental is signed. We are awaiting new photos for the listing to be on the market.



The Sauerkraut Dinner has been approved by the board. The date has been set. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 21st. Doors open at 5pm to view bid n buy baskets. Dinner at 6pm. Look to future HUM news for more details on how you can support this *all church* event. Proceeds will support the Christmas Baskets.



Congregational Care and Rev. Deb have continued to make calls and to visit our shut-ins and members. If you know of someone in our congregation who would benefit from a visit, please contact Sue Watts. She and Rev. Deb will coordinate from there.



Important Dates for March/April

Choir practice every Sunday in Lent – after Worship

March 16 – Young at Hartz – Movie and lunch at church 11:30am. Cost: \$5.00

March 19 – Missions fund raiser – Brunch after Worship (read further in the HUM News for details)


March 26 – Egg orders **due** (read further in the HUM News for details)

April 2 - Easter Flower orders **due**

April 2 - Palm Sunday and egg pick up

April 7 – Good Friday Service 6:30pm

April 8 – Egg Hunt noon-1pm

April 9 – Easter Sunday 

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact a member of your Board.

Blessings!

Your Leadership Board



The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 8 from Noon – 1. There will be pizza, cookies, prizes, Kona Ice, music and plenty of eggs.



We need donations of plastic eggs, small wrapped candy and \$1 prizes for boys and girls. Please leave donations in the office.

STUFFING PARTY

If you would like to help stuff eggs, there will be egg stuffing parties on Monday, April 3 from 1-2 and Wednesday, April 5 from 7-8 pm. Dessert will be served both dates.

ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

The One Room Sunday School is now happening. Thanks to the teachers who assist with that each week



VBS theme this year is Hero Hotline. Please mark your calendars for the week of July 9. More details of VBS will be forth coming.



If your child will be completing third grade this May or June, please let me know. The children will receive Bibles on Sunday, June 4 during the Worship Service.



June 4 will also be Graduation Sunday. If your son/daughter will be graduating from high school or college, please let Vicki Kelly know at Vicki.kelly916@gmail.com or 513-324-8137. Graduates will be recognized during the Worship Service also.

MISSIONS

across the street & around the world

Habitat for Humanity – will start up in April or May. They will have volunteers on site this year. Mission Committee will help by providing lunch to the volunteers. Jeanie Shilton will let us know the Saturdays available. Thanks for your support.

N.E.E.D.S. – North East Emergency Distribution Service provides food and non-perishable items, as well as assistance with rent and utilities. Located in the Kenwood Baptist Church, it is convenient to the area it serves. The Food Pantry accepts canned goods and other nonfood items. They are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accept your donations, or you can bring them to the church.

Jail Ministry – We go to the Talbert House the first Sunday of each month. In February we met with almost 20 women to offer encouragement and the love Jesus has for them.

OTHER WAYS OF GIVING

MISSIONS MEETING AND EVENTS

Our next meeting of the Missions Committee will be Sunday, March 12th following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is part of the Missions at Hartzell. Please, if you see a project, you might be interested in, let Julie Dreigon know.



Save the date of Saturday, October 21st for our delicious dinner of pork roast, sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce, green beans, rye bread, drinks and dessert.

We will also feature our Bid and Buy Baskets. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Linda Ross, Sue Watts, Pat Anshutz. We need donations to make the baskets and gift certificates to area businesses.

MISSIONS EVENTS



Thank you for your donations to the Pennies From Heaven fundraising campaign. While we didn't reach our goal of \$200, we came very close.



HOMEMADE EASTER EGGS

Get your order in now! We are offering Opera Cream and Peanut Butter Eggs that are homemade by Vicki (same as we had at the Fish Fry). PREORDERS ARE NEEDED. They are \$1.50 each and will be available on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.

ORDER FORM FOR EASTER EGGS

NAME _____

PEANUT BUTTER EGGS _____

\$ _____

OPERA CRÈME EGGS _____

\$ _____

ORDERS NEEDED BY MARCH 26, 2023

PICK UP ON PALM SUNDAY

LUNCHEON

Join us for lunch on Sunday, March 19th following worship. There will be a variety of goodies for you to choose from. This is a FREE WILL OFFERING and a way to say thank you for your support.



FILL THE POT

Join us the month of March as we fill the pot with coins to help support Missions. Located in the Gathering Area, you will find a POT to collect your coins.



We prepared and delivered to the students at the Wesley Foundation on the campus of UC, dinner for Fat Tuesday. The dinner included homemade vegetable soup, chili, salad, bread and crackers and for dessert, King Cake. Thanks to everyone who prayed for this outreach and those involved in preparing the food.



Sunday Brunch

THE MISSION COMMITTEE
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO
JOIN US FOR BRUNCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

WE WILL BE OFFERING A VARIETY
OF BREAKFAST/LUNCH ITEMS

FREE WILL OFFERING



REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

AJ Jessen – being measured for a mold and marked for chemo.
Bonnie Flaig and her son, Jeff. He needs a kidney. Illness has left him off transplant list.
Scott Hauffs – afib – friend of Sue Watts
Cheryl Ashe Bishop – mother of Kelli Coffey – nursing home
Daniel Goodall – Brookwood
Christ Stone – former custodian - Brookwood
Karen Timney – severe back pain - having concrete inserted between vertebrae.
Lisa Creiger – recovering – niece of the Lough's.
Steve – friend of Pastor Deb – pacemaker
Steven Neihaus – throat surgery – friend of Pastor Deb
Brenda Schwarber – recovering from ankle replacement.
Bill Wade – Brookwood for rehab – fall
Kim Bryant – tumor on her vocal cord – friend of Jeanie Shilton
Russell Schweitzer – brain tumor – friend of Linda Maegly
Tom Bennett – double lung transplant – friend of Vicki Kelly
Terrence Born – shoulder surgery – son of Rev. Deborah
Donna Bertline – sister of Sandy Ingram
Bill Anshutz – home recovering from surgery
Cindy Orf – daughter of Pat Anshutz
Austin Norris – kidney transplant
Shelia Anderson – chemo and radiation – cancer of the spine
April Truitt – pulmonary hypertension – Vicki Kelly
Tristan Willison and Sarah Willison – family of Vicki Kelly
Billie Simpson – health concerns
Anna – daughter-in-law of the Timney's – awaiting to hear of a kidney transplant.
John Carpenter and family – health issues
Carol Persinger - mother of Melissa Dennis – failing health.
Carl Buschhaus is in the Ohio Veterans Home in Monroe, Ohio. Suffering from dementia.
Pastor Deborah and Hartzell Church

SHUT INS – Flo Patterson, Dolly Lyons, Manda Allen, Carol Crowthers, Mary Joyce Davenport, Carl Buschhaus, Stan and Myrtle Lough and Billie Simpson.

SYMPATHY

To Jennie and David Moses and family on the death of Jennie's mother, Gloria Thierauf.
To Kathie Bates on the death of her sister-in-law, Karen Ruckriegle.
To the friends and family of Tiffany Lutz friend of Jeanie Shilton
To the family of Harry Bridge, Godfather of Jan Tubbs' daughters.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Last year Hartzell received \$163.03 from the Community Rewards program from Kroger. There were 13 families enrolled in this program. I realize everyone doesn't shop at Kroger, however we have 81 households listed in our church directory. I would like to encourage those who shop at Kroger to enroll in this program, because it does not cost you anything.

If you have the Kroger App on your phone, **go to three bars on top left of screen** and select **Rewards**. Then select **Community Rewards**. When searching for organization type in **Hartzell** then search. Once Hartzell United Methodist Church appears, simply select the **Enroll** button.

If you don't have the Kroger App, go to your computer and **type in: [www/thekrogerco.com](http://www.thekrogerco.com)**. You must have a **Kroger Plus** card to participate in this program. Once the site is opened, **go to three bars in middle of screen** and select **Community**. From there select **Community Rewards**. Follow instructions on **2. Link your card to an organization and follow the prompts**.

Again, this is free money for Hartzell. Thanks for your time and consideration!

Brenda Schwarber



COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN

Hi Potential Gardeners. Spring is fast approaching. Who is interested in having an Applewood Drive Community Garden Spot for 2023?

Let me know as soon as possible. Prior members have dibs on their spots if they want them. Please let me know. Price is being held for \$25 for a 4X8 foot plot. Share a plot if you wish. The fee goes to pay for water. We will be adding soil to the beds. It will be delivered in the next week. There will be wheelbarrows and shovels on hand to assist in filling the beds.

You can respond to me by emailing or text at 513-739-9344.

Harold Dreibelbis

Garden Co-Ordinator

Applewood Community Garden

On the campus of Hartzell UMC



- 1 Heather deBord
Paul Toms
- 2 Clay Berling
- 3 Randy Watts
- 6 Julia Lynn Dykes
- 9 Imajean McKinney
- 11 Khris Watts
- 17 Rain Penley
- 19 Wyatt Jessen
- 22 David Sand
- 27 Caleb Ross



ANNIVERSARY
MARCH
TY & SONJA OWENS

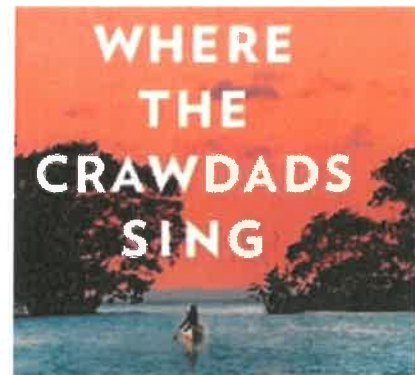
YOUNG @ HARTZ

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

11:30 AM

LUNCH \$5

MOVIE



SEE SIGN UP SHEET IN GATHERING AREA

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

JACKIE HOWARD

Jackie is transferring to Hartzell UMC
from Norwood Grace UMC

She is retired from UPS. She has 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Jackie enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Her interests include playing the Handbells, reading and being part of the Red Hats.

Please take every opportunity to welcome Jackie into our family of faith.



FRESH FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR IN
 CELEBRATION OF EASTER
 PLEASE SPECIFY THE TYPE OF PLANT YOU WISH
 THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER WORSHIP

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER:

___ LILY @ \$13

___ TULIP @ \$15

___ HYACINTH @ \$15

___ DAFFODILS @ \$19

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

YOUR NAME WILL BE ON THE TYPE OF PLANT YOU ORDER

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK OR CASH WITH YOUR ORDER

PREPAID ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, APRIL 2



ORDER FORM FOR EASTER EGGS

\$1.50 EACH

NAME _____

PEANUT BUTTER EGGS TOTAL _____

\$ _____

OPERA CRÈME EGGS TOTAL _____

\$ _____

PRE-PAID ORDERS NEEDED BY MARCH 26, 2023

PICK UP ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2