



From the Pastor's Perspective

Difficult Conversations: How to LOVE
someone when you don't agree.

*"We pursue the things which make for peace and
the building up of one another." -Romans 14:19*

As we approach the holidays, we have excitement and anticipation growing within us. Starting with Thanksgiving, there be will weeks of events, parties, celebrations, meals, and get-togethers.

But we have some uneasy feelings forming as well. This is the time of year that we have to face *those people*. You know the one's I'm talking about: the people who don't think like you, who don't share the same values, who believe differently. It seems like you're coming from different planets! It's difficult to have a conversation; it's hard to know what to talk about! It's easier if you don't have to talk with them regularly or live with them! But, especially at the holidays, you get together. You tense up, watch carefully what you say, and breathe a sigh of relief when it's over.

Sometimes it's people that you don't just see a couple of times a year. Sometimes it's co-workers, or friends, or neighbors. How do you talk politics...especially with the election looming? Sometimes it's members of your own family, even immediate family! A person in my office last week said to me that there are some issues that he has learned that he just doesn't discuss with his adult children.

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Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

November 1	12:00 pm Sarah Circle
November 2	7:00 am Grow Group 7:30 pm Women's Retreat at Koronis (Nov 2-4)
November 3	9:00 am United Methodist Men
November 4	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Holy Communion 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Grow Group 5:00 pm YPA
November 5	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 10:00 am Grow Group (Knitting) 10:00 am Grow Group (Grief)
November 7	5:30 pm Shared Meal - Pot Luck 6:15 pm Grow Groups/Youth Group/ Confirmation
November 8	1:00 pm UMW Board Meeting 6:30 pm AMT Meeting
November 9	7:00 am Grow Group
November 10	5:45 pm Adult Fellowship

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

The question looms over us: What does it look like to love someone when you don't agree. How do you talk? How do you get along? How do you preserve the relationship while thinking so differently?

This is going to be our Sunday message series for November. What does it look like for Jesus-followers to have discussions ruled by God's love, with people who think and believe so differently than we do.

Also, we will be talking about how the United Methodist Church is holding a special General Conference this coming February to decide how we, as a church, are going to officially handle human sexuality, particularly homosexuality.

This is a difficult conversation! Good and faithful Christians have very different views, beliefs, and values on all sides of this discussion. There is no way to have resolution. So, how will we, as United Methodists, forge a way forward together?

We each understand this struggle, as we live it out in our own personal lives. Don't miss this message series! We'll seek a biblical grounding not only for this discussion, but for how we love those who believe so differently. Hint: It's less about getting them to agree with you, and more about how you behave and treat them. Christian unity is not based on thinking the same way. It's based on sharing together a life-giving, restoring, loving relationship with Jesus.

It's time to be honest, do the hard work of living into our faith, and embrace the unity to which Jesus calls us. May the Holy Spirit lead and shape us!

Buckle up...danger ahead...we're about to enter "the conflict zone!"

Pastor David

Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held after worship on Sunday, Nov. 18. We will be reviewing the ministry of our church this past year, and we will be casting the vision for the year ahead. Please read the articles in this newsletter from Marilee Leonard and on the AMT's Grounding Principles. Everyone is invited to attend the Church Conference and has a voice. Professing members have a vote.

November 11	VETERANS' DAY 8:45 am Grow Group 11:15 am Grow Group 11:15 am Youth Missions Trip Meeting 5:00 pm YPA
November 12	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 10:00 am Grow Group (Knitting) 10:00 am Grow Group (Grief)
November 14	10:00 am Birchwood 11:30 am Romeos and Juliets 5:30 pm Shared Meal (Youth) 6:15 pm Grow Groups/ Youth Group/Confirmation
November 16	7:00 am Grow Group 5:00 pm Unload Community Care Truck 6:00 Youth Swim Party at Rozanne's
November 17	6:00 am Community Care Set-up 8:00 am Community Care
November 18	STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY CHURCH CONFERENCE 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Church Conference 11:15 am Grow Group 5:00 pm YPA 6:30 pm Lifeline
November 19	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 10:00 am Grow Group (Knitting) 10:00 am Grow Group (Grief)
November 20	10:00 am Rebecca Circle
November 21	NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING
November 22	THANKSGIVING DAY
November 23	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 am Grow Group

KID'S CORNER

Typically, when we think of grow groups we picture some adults sitting around a quiet room with open Bibles, few distractions and hot beverages. Discussions can be conducted with the full engagement of others within the group. No noises, no spills.

These idealistic dreams however overlook the reality of children! In our last round of grow groups we wanted to be realistic. We wanted to acknowledge our kids as important and incorporate them into the grow group experience. We knew it would be challenging, but Christians should never think they are owed comfort. In the interest of living as a true faith family, we thought it might be worth the effort to keep children in groups. I think in some way, it was worth the effort. At the very least it was worth a try. This time around however, we are having kids meet together in their own grow group. This will allow greater freedom for adults to pursue their own lines of conversation, while kids get to engage in more age-appropriate lessons and enjoy some active games. Most importantly, we think this adjustment allows for the development of disciples! We will be returning to our ECHO model come January. I want to encourage everyone to attend! Invite others! Invest in kids! We all share a stake in the future of our church.

For now, even though kids are spending time in their own group, parents and other adults are still crucial to their faith development. Every week kids will have a take home sheet with an overview of what was discussed, a memory verse and an activity that families can do together. Make sure one of these sheets makes it home every week. Continue the application of the Bible at home, everyday.

Our job is to make disciples. We are all in this together. We depend on the Holy Spirit to make it all happen!

For the King,

-Andrew

November 25	STUDENT DAY 8:45 am Grow Group 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Grow Group 5:00 pm YPA Dress Rehearsal
November 26	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 10:00 am Grow Group (Knitting) 10:00 am Grow Group (Grief)
November 27	5:00 pm YPA Dress Rehearsal
November 28	5:30 pm Shared Meal (Pancakes) 6:15 pm Grow Groups/ Youth Group/Confirmation
November 29	5:00 pm YPA Dress Rehearsal 6:30 pm Grow Group Host Feedback Session
November 30	7:00 am Grow Group 7:00 pm YPA Show - Elf the Musical



Forest Hills Youth Group

This past month the youth group discussed getting outside their comfort zone. We talked about what that would look like in their youth group, school and community. It was a good conversation as we start looking towards our next topic. "Looking Back at our Friends Future" the importance of sharing our faith with our friends for their eternity.



We also had a trunk or treat. It's so great watching the teens interact with the kids in our community.

November, we will be starting our first fundraiser for the 2019 Mission Trip. This trip will truly be life changing for those that go. If you are a teen and interested in going, or if you are an adult and interested in helping fund or chaperone, please contact Cassi Betker youth@foresthillsumc.net.

Cassi



AMT

Visioning: AMT's Grounding Principles

The Action Ministry Team (AMT) is the senior leadership group of our church. This team has been leading our church through this past year's pause and this year's visioning for the future. Marilee Leonard, our church's Lay Leader, chairs AMT, and she has been writing articles in the Edge to provide updates of AMT's work this past year. Check out her article in this edition, too.

Since February, AMT has been using our church's motto (Love. Grow. Serve.) to shape all that we do as a church. They've established three grounding principles for all activities and ministries of our church:

Love: People are finding a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Grow: People are growing in faith.

Serve: Christ's love is more visible in our community.

The intention is that all the ministries and activities of our church are held to all three of these grounding principles, not just one or two. As we move into the future, every ministry we consider and evaluate will be interpreted through them. We believe that this is how God is leading us, and we want to be faithful to it. If you have any questions or thoughts, feel free to talk to anyone on AMT or staff. Also, please come to the Church Conference following worship on Nov. 18.

AMT UPDATE

Christ centered with focus on making disciples by meeting spiritual needs of church family, community and the world.

This is the vision that the Action Ministry Team felt God gave us in June. With that focus in mind, our church already started our fall programming with a new Family Discipleship group called "Echo". Parents, kids and other adults were welcome to attend. The purpose was to teach our children about living for Christ. Pastor Andrew led this with singing, a message, fun skits, a scavenger hunt, games, prayer and more.

Now, we have begun our Fall Grow Groups. We are offering about eight classes with subjects ranging from spiritual disciplines to grief support to practical living through knitting to Bible study. Everyone is welcome, so invite a friend and come. You can get more information from our church website

<http://www.foresthillsumc.net/fall-grow-groups/> or come into the church office.

At our request, our HCI (Healthy Church Initiative) coach, Rev. Jim Haun went over some coaching skills to help us as we talk to current ministry leaders. We learned an effective coach has a positive attitude, an open heart, an open mind, and holds the ministry accountable for what they say they will do. The goal of this process is to help teams develop a plan to grow into implementing the congregation's mission and values through their work/activity. Some questions we may ask are, "How do we raise the bar? How do we make what is good into something great?"

As the AMT team moves forward, we know there is much work to do as we continue visioning.

We have the opportunity to be part of training sessions hosted by Hilltop UMC in Mankato titled "Invitation to a Journey: Welcoming others into Discipleship." We want to continue exploring ways for our church to grow more disciples.

This is only the beginning. Thank you for continuing to support AMT through this process. We need your prayers.

God is Good, All the time!

Marilee Leonard

Lay Leader

Paul Sarver's Address in Kuwait

Paul Sarver

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Dulac Missions Trip - February 25 to March 1st 2019



Join our group as we go to Dulac, Louisiana for our yearly missions trip to help the Dulac Community Center, which provides a great deal of help to the community. This is a great way to give back, and experience missions work firsthand! Costs include a \$250 charge for room and board while there, as well as the cost of transportation (which includes a hotel room on the way there and back, and food while travelling). This will be our 26th year of making this trip. Please see Kay Bergerson for more details. There are also scholarships available. If you haven't been on a missions trip with the church yet, this is a great opportunity. We will also be collecting Relief Kits (Cleaning, School, and Hygiene), and the details for assembling kits are on the UMCOR web page at www.UMCOR.org. If you are interested in a scholarship, please talk to Pastor David.

Missionary Family Support

We have adopted the "Tim and Kristina Lewis" (alias names) family, serving in central Asia. We cannot provide their real names, as it is illegal to be a Christian missionary in the area they are serving.

Tim and Kristina are husband and wife, and have four children. Their missions work includes providing education and discipleship among the unreached in central Asia. They work through World Venture, and they have been working in Kazakhstan for 11 years.

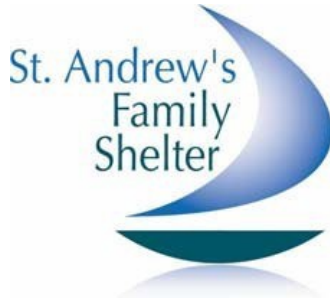
Most of their work is done in their home, as they open it to their neighbors for meals and discussion that leads to talk about the message of Jesus.

Their desire is to see God establish and grow his church in central Asia, by changing how people see Jesus Christ. Their long-term mission is to see Central Asian families transformed by Christ into having a biblical worldview that changes not only their own lives, but society as well.

If you would like to help support Tim and Kristina financially, you can give or sign up to be a monthly sponsor through our website at World Venture, instructions above. Central Asia has historically been closely tied to its nomadic peoples and the Silk Road. It has acted as a crossroads for the movement of people, goods, and ideas between Europe, Western Asia, South Asia, and East Asia. It is an extremely large region of varied geography, including high passes and mountains, vast deserts, and grassy steppes.

Islam is the religion most common in the Central Asia Republics. The form of Christianity most practiced in the region is the Russian Orthodox Church.

Emails can be sent to the family at someday@freckletune.net.



We will be volunteering at St. Andrew's Shelter during the week of Christmas! (December 23rd through the 29th). The sign up sheet will be available soon. Please consider volunteering if you didn't participate in September. It was a lot of fun, and gave us a great opportunity to work with each other to provide meals, conversation, and share stories with the residents of the shelter! The sign up sheet will be available on the website, as well as in the lobby. Also, please check the website for the Safe Gatherings video, and the volunteer application.



Happy Birthday to our November born! This month we celebrate:

Gary Lavigne - November 1
Darrell Benson - November 6
Carter Rosenbaum - November 9
Matt Lindholm - November 9
Lillian Kilgore - November 11

JoAnne Benoy - November 14
Andrew Bonsell - November 15
Sue Lavigne - November 18
Jerry Gustafson - November 23
Lee Dugdale - November 28

Happy Birthday to you all, and we hope you have a wonderful day, filled with much love and joy!

If your birthday is in November, and you don't see it listed here, make sure you contact the office to give it to them. Please do not assume that if you are a member, we should have your birthday!





Our meals for November are as follows:

November 7th - Pot luck

November 14th - Youth

November 21st - NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING (or Thanksgiving Eve Service)

November 28th - Pancakes (UMM)



Events and Info

Adult Fellowship

**Saturday, November 10th, 5:45pm See
Rozanne Foster for more details!**

Romeos and Juliets

**Romeos and Juliets meet on
November 14th at 11:30 am.**

Church Conference

**Sunday, November 18th after Worship
All church members should attend**

Youth Swim Party!

**Friday, November 16th after helping
unload the Community Care truck**

Lifeline Sunday November 18th at 6:30 pm

**Lifeline is a way for us to come together to be
with God. There will be songs to sing and
prayers to pray, but you can simply come to
enjoy the presence of God. All are encouraged
to attend. because we need Jesus! Our church
needs Jesus! Hang on tight to the lifeline.**

Community Care

**5pm 11/16 - Unload Truck
6am 11/17 - Set-up 8 am Distribution**

Student Day

**Sunday, November 25th is Student Day!
We will be doing an offering to help our
United Methodist College Students**