



# Tower Notes

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY UMC  
Clio, Michigan 48420

MAY 2024

*From the Pastor's Desk*

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

It has been a long time waiting it seems since the last gathered body of our global church legislative body, General Conference. The session that is gathered in Charlotte, NC currently is the session that was to have gathered in 2020, predominately dealing with legislation that should have been addressed in that time frame. From conversations with friends who are representing our Michigan Conference and other conferences across the connection, there is a new spirit in the air. The week ahead will be telling as more challenging legislation goes before the larger body.

Worship has been meaningful, memorable and messages have been inspiring. If you are not an early riser worship is at 8am. You can always try to find the replays online by googling them or searching the umc.org website.

The delegates who represent each conference have full (12 hour days) every day of conference, with Sunday serving as a sabbath. They take time away from their families to prepare for this holy work as they debate legislation that has been prepared pertaining to the future of our denomination. They get to greet and engage with our siblings in Christ from other continents, they are physical representations of God's Grace in peaceful and prayerful demonstrations for Palestine. They connect with other conferences globally, to discuss, pray and celebrate the ways God is moving in different nations beyond the US.

There is a spirit of hospitality and love in the air. As I shared in worship on 4/28, the body of the conference is being challenged to share their name, conference, age bracket (youth, young adult, adult, mature adult), gender and race. This helps the body extend hospitality but also for hold the larger body accountable to hearing from all representations of Methodism across the world. In some cases, US delegates have been encouraged to let our siblings from other nations get to the microphone first as legislation began to go before the body in the first week of General Conference.

Each day a legislative book is made available with the proceedings of what happened in legislative groups, that determine what order and priority items come before the floor of the conference. Items either go to the Consent Calendar (a bulk vote of legislation when the legislative committee, a sampling of the larger body who studies, reviews, discusses, amends in some cases, in agreement for or against) or they get added to the calendar to come before the Plenary session. It is sometimes a painful reminder of the Parliamentary Procedures found within Roberts Rules of Order and every conference I'm reminded of the painful nights spent being quizzed on Parli Pro with my FFA Advisor and Parli Pro Teams that competed through high school. If you are interested in taking a closer look at the legislation and any details of general conference, you can go to Google and type in 2020 UMC General Conference on resourceumc.org. If you would like the direct link, reach out to me, I'm happy to share it with you digitally.

Some of the highlights for me so far beyond worship have been—the first Native American Bishop presiding for one of the first legislative sections of the gathered body, I witnessed a historical moment, that took far too long to be lived into. In our first week, the body passed a good portion of the plan for world wide regionalization, the remainder should be addressed in the second week:

*Legislation to provide for Worldwide Regionalization reflects the strong values of equity, respect for contextual mission settings, effective mutuality in mission, and legislative equality for regional bodies of the church. Recognizing the effects of colonization, the guiding principle for the regionalization legislation is to empower each region to make certain context-specific decisions in real-time, without being dependent on General Conference, as well as de-centralizing the influence of the United States on General Conference. (<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/values-and-purpose-of-worldwide-regionalization-legislation>)*

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The legislation that impacts the constitution of the UMC will not take effect for at least another 18 months as it will need to be ratified by each Annual Conference in the upcoming years. For example, because our Annual Conference is at the end of the month, we won't likely deal with legislation from General Conference until our 2025 Annual Conference Session. In addition to World Wide Regionalization, there are changes being proposed to our Social Principles. If you aren't familiar with what the Social Principles are—I would encourage you to consider spending some time exploring these. Inside this section of our Book of Discipline resides our stances on many difficult topics we debate in the secular world ranging from eco-justice, marriage & divorce, abortion, war, sexuality, equitable health care, the list goes on and on. It wasn't until I worked for our conference camping program that I fully realized that our church has a stance on so many topics. This section is where we often are identified as a political church. The truth is—the way we were structured makes us political, what this section does for us as United Methodists is encourage us to put our faith into practice in the world as we live our lives. You can find a copy of the proposed Social Principles: <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124> This is a great resource that helps us publicly live our faith as United Methodists.

More to come as this final week of General Conference shakes out, I will share other details in next month's newsletter to the best of my ability, along with highlights from Annual Conference. The Michigan Annual Conference gathers at the end of May into the beginning of June.

This month is sure to move quickly, even as program ministries have wound down for the season. I shared at Administrative Board that it is likely you may not catch me much in the office. There is much transition work to do. This might seem different from the transition from Pastor Cathi to me—but some of you can remember that I was involved with Bethany and the Co-operative Parish work, worship planning, in person for meetings, preparing for the transition with coaches and working to transition my former congregation to a new pastor—this time adds up quickly, especially when a pastor has a new appointment to hit the ground running at. If you need to meet or converse over the phone, please reach out to me, just know I'm trying to capitalize on the time that I have between other activities already on my calendar in this last month.

In the upcoming weeks during worship, we will be wrapping up 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations Series. On Mother's Day, mission banks will be distributed. We will celebrate Pentecost on May 26th and that will be my last Sunday preaching. My final Sunday in worship will be June 2nd to preside for communion (tentatively also save this date for Strawberry Brunch!). Following June 2nd, I'll be "on vacation" finishing packing up the parsonage. The moving truck arrives on June 13th and unloading will begin on June 14th in Grand Ledge. In this time, I appreciate your prayers and I ask that you continue to hold Rev. Sarah Elliott & her family in prayer as they prepare to make a move to Michigan.

Together in Ministry,

*Pastor Kayla*



This has certainly been an exciting month, hasn't it? And yesterday, Sunday, April 21, 2024, we also learned the name of our new pastor—Pastor Sarah Elliott!!! Having met Pastor Sarah, I found her to be personal, intelligent, and ready to assume her new duties with us! I hope you will continue to keep her and her family in your prayers. And we will be planning a celebration of the time that Pastor Kayla has spent with

us—so watch for that!!!

I want to take this opportunity to say a great big THANK YOU to Sue Hilgris, Carol Bookout, Betty Short, Debbie and Nick Cousineau, Joe Ewing, Les Randall, Kory Sanger, Barb Nickerson, Nancy Frazier, Laveta Laurilla, and anyone else that I have forgotten for all of their help in making our Community Dinners a success! It DOES take a village—not only to raise children, but to make a meal!!! This is a wonderful part of our mission and I enjoyed working with each of you!

Soon we will starting our Summer Hours for Worship and many other things, so keep watching your announcements/Tower Notes for that!

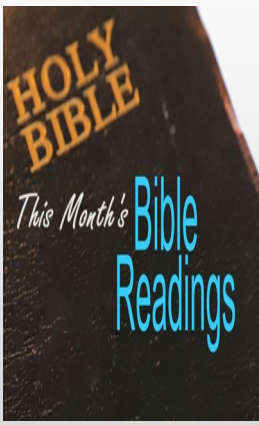
There is a new front door that has been installed at the Parsonage—It looks really nice! Great job in the selection of the door, Trustees!

The M&M's will be hosting a trip to Genitti's Hole in the Wall Dinner /Theatre on May 10th. The cost is \$59.00 per person. If you are interested in going, please contact Carol Jones. I hear it is a really fun evening!!

It finally looks like spring is here and will be staying!!! I hope you are all ready for new things and will find a place that you can share your expertise by volunteering to help out—the Food Pantry can always use another set of hands to put the "groceries" away or pack some bags that will go to someone who needs them. Richard and Laura could use some hands to help them clean up sticks around the front lawn, clean the Garden of Life, and clean the space outside at the back of the Fireplace Room. There is always something that needs to be done and maybe, Jim has some ideas on how you could help him out with some easy janitorial jobs. Whatever way you choose, know that it is greatly appreciated by the rest of your church family!!! Thanks for volunteering!!

~ Diane Weaver

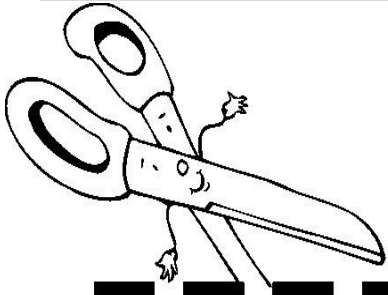
***Check Calendar Page for Weekly Events***



## May Bible Readings

- |               |                 |                 |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Ps 51-53   | 7. 2 Sam 10-14  | 17. Jer 37-41   | 27. Ex 33-36    |
| 2. Job 35-36  | 8. Ps 54-56     | 18. Luke 3-4    | 28. 1 Kings 1-4 |
| 3. Jer 27-31  | 9. Job 37-38    | 19. 2 Cor 11-13 | 29. Ps 63-65    |
| 4. Mark 15-16 | 10. Jer 32-36   | 20. Ex 29-32    | 30. Prov 1      |
| 5. 2 Cor 6-8  | 11. Luke 1-2    | 21. 2 Sam 20-24 | 31. Jer 47-52   |
| 6. Ex 21-24   | 12. 2 Cor 9-10  | 22. Ps 60-62    |                 |
|               | 13. Ex 25-28    | 23. Job 41-42   |                 |
|               | 14. 2 Sam 15-19 | 24. Jer 42-46   |                 |
|               | 15. Ps 57-59    | 25. Luke 5-6    |                 |
|               | 16. Job 39-40   | 26. Gal 1-3     |                 |

I hope you continue to enjoy these daily Bible readings and find some direction or peace in them.



# Geraniums For Pentecost & Memorial Day - 2024

Continuing the Bethany tradition, geraniums will decorate the sanctuary for Sunday, May 26, 2024 and then will be planted on the church property to be enjoyed by our church family and the community throughout the summer months. You may use this order sheet or you may find one on the table in the gathering room and also available on the table outside Kory's office.

The cost for each 4 1/2 inch red plant will be \$4.50 and you will need to specify how many plants you wish to order. You may also wish to dedicate them in honor and or/memory of someone.

Orders with payment are requested by Sunday, May 19 as we will be picking the plants up from the nursery and placing them in the sanctuary by the 25th.

I wish to buy \_\_\_\_\_ geraniums at \$4.50 each.

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



Madelon Sipler  
Brookdale Grand Blanc  
5080 E. Baldwin Rd.  
Holly, MI 48442  
810-687-0248

Ron Lemmon  
1126 Pinehurst  
Mt. Morris, MI 48458  
810-686-5739

Norma Gillette  
3056 Wilman Dr.  
Clio, MI 48420

Wilma Thoms  
Genesee Gardens  
4495 Calkins Rd.  
Flint, MI 48532

Jack and Mary Edwards  
4480 W. Lake Rd.  
Clio, MI 48420  
810-686-0364

Dorothy Isbell  
12063 Sara  
Montrose, MI 48457  
810-639-1055

Juanita Woolworth  
2105 S. Center Rd.  
Burton, MI 48519-7670  
810-730-7670

John & Pat Corder  
4029 W. Dodge Rd.  
Clio, MI 48420  
810-730-7670

Margaret Gray  
4165 Willard Rd.  
Birch Run, MI 48415  
810-686-9143

Darlene Morgridge  
P.O. Box 446  
Clio, MI 48420

Chris Longueil  
Mission Point  
G-3201 Beecher Rd.  
Flint Township, MI 48532

Carol Wilson  
11365 Runnels Dr.  
Clio, MI 48420  
810-686-8737

Don Cain  
461 Selkirk Dr.  
Mt. Morris, MI 48458  
810-265-6162

Madonna Phipps  
712 Park View  
Clio, MI 48420  
810-686-1429

Connie Phelps  
526 Poplar St.  
Clio, MI 48420  
810-516-3833

Joyce Dunlay  
11493 N. Bray Rd.  
Clio, MI 48420  
810-813-2270

Janet Smith  
Maple Wood,  
Room 63, Bed 2  
810-218-0568

Kathleen Stadler  
3200 Rosalie Ann Ct  
Clio, MI 48420  
810-686-0817

Janet Robertson  
4099 W. Vienna Rd  
Clio, MI 48420

# PRAYER list...

## Remember in Your Prayers

- ⇒ The Family of George Boyse
- ⇒ The Family of Gerald Stadler
- ⇒ The Family of LeRoy Shumaker
- ⇒ The Family of John Matthews
- ⇒ Ron and Nonie Lemmon
- ⇒ Those who have been ill
- ⇒ Virginia Heller
- ⇒ Charlotte Mowl
- ⇒ Ben Wildfong
- ⇒ Pastor Kayla
- ⇒ Our Church Transition
- ⇒ Bishop & Cabinet

And please continue to pray for anyone who crosses your mind or heart—we all need everyone's pray-

Please remember our college students and other youth who might enjoy hearing from a church member. (contact Kory for an address or phone number)

Please remember the members of Bethany's community who passed onto Glory and continue to pray for their families who remain behind: Jerry Stadler, Leroy Schumacher, John Matthews, and George Boyse.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Kayla as she continues on her ministerial journey and for our new pastor, Pastor Sarah Elliott, as she and her family join our church family while leaving behind friends and another church family.

If you know of someone who is not a church member, but would just like to receive a card or a message, please get me their name and address and I will add them to our list—everyone is welcome and needs a kind word.

Thanks, Diane Weaver



# BETHANY MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Choir 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30 Communion	6 UWF 10:30am  Trustees 7:00pm	7 COE 10:00am  Cultivating Presence 10:15am Men's Night Out 6:00pm	8	9  AA 6:30pm	10 M&M's -going to Genitti's Hole in the Wall Dinner Theatre—\$59/per person—Contact Carol Jones	11
12 Choir 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am	13	14 Cultivating Presence 10:15am Men's Night Out 6:00pm	15	16  Finance 6:00pm Grief 6:30pm AA 6:30pm	17	18  Women to clean the kitchen
19 Choir 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Purposeful Potluck	20	21 Cultivating Presence 10:15am Ruth 1:00pm—Olive Garden Men's Night Out 6:00pm	22 Tabitha 10:00am	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Peace with Justice Pentecost	27 MEMORIAL DAY  OFFICE CLOSED	28  Men's Night Out 6:00pm	29  ANNUAL CONFER- ENCE	30 Food Truck  ANNUAL CON- FERENCE AA 6:30pm	31  ANNUAL CON- FERENCE	

# Tower Notes

Bethany United Methodist Church  
353 E. Vienna St.  
Clio, MI 48420-0327  
810-686-5151

Guiding Spirit, FILL us with YOUR fire, Lead us by YOUR Light, Unite us in YOUR calling.....Amen

**BETHANY UMC WORSHIP SERVICE**  
10:30 am  
Adult Sunday School at 9:15am

Please call 989-948-1390 to schedule an appointment with Pastor Kayla if you wish to talk or meet with her.



**Bethany UMC**  
**Church office hours**  
**Mon.—Thurs. 9 a.m.— 4p.m.**  
**Fri.—Closed**

**Our goal is to motivate and equip all people to:**

- **Accept Jesus as the Son of God and choose Him as their personal Savior**
- **Engage in a lifelong relationship with Jesus**
- **Use all means to share the love of God with others**

**STAFF MEMBERS**  
**Pastor: Kayla Roosa**  
**Admin: Kory Sanger**