

## OUR PRAYERS

### Methodist North

Tom Boillot 203

### St. Francis Bartlett

Lorraine Mitchell 312

### St. Francis Memphis

Antinette Guy-Scott

### Memphis Jewish Home

Earl Galloway

Janet Milewski 303

### Apple Grove

Ray & Carolyn Escue

### Corinth MS

Virginia Kemp Jones

### Patterson, NJ

Irvin Scheirer

### Mexico

Misael Hildago

### At Home

Jim Brazile

Dorothy Goolsby

Mildred Hight

Patricia Howard

Freda Lipford

Eloise Miller

Marie Park

Aquiles Quispe

Betty Ray

Terry Williamson

### Special Prayers for

...kidnapped girls/Nigeria

...disaster victims

...General Conference

### Homebound and Assisted Care

Martha Allen	June Burton	Mava Dell Fry
Helen Griffin	Doris Hight	Marie Hughes
Margaret Kenley	Ted Lewis	Doris Palazzini
Bernice Shelby	Chris Simmons	Emmett Smith
Harold Smith	Betty Smithmier	Martha Wallace

### **OUR PRESENCE - May 1**

Sunday School	51
Worship	80
Visitors	7

### **OUR GIFTS - May 1**

Offering	\$ 3,826
Month to Date	\$ 3,826

### **OUR SERVICE - May 8**

<b>Greeters</b>	Jane Hight Betty Jones
<b>Liturgist</b>	Bruce Hughes
<b>Scripture</b>	Peggy Brightwell
<b>Children's Time</b>	Andrew Baker
<b>Lock-up</b>	Tom Lockhart

### **OUR WITNESS**

#### **May Scripture Readers**

15	Tom Lockhart
22	Faith Gbeneneh
29	Jane Hight



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# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

# The



# Flame

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## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Every four years, the United Methodist Church's highest legislative body, General Conference, meets so that clergy and lay delegates elected by each Annual Conference can work together to plan and prepare for our denomination's future. It is set to meet once again for 2016, and will take place at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon, from May 10 through May 20.

### Legislative Issues for 2016

Issues that the church will take up in Portland include a wide variety of administrative topics, including restructuring of Methodist agencies, establishing a new unit on global health for children, structure of conferences and jurisdictions, global church funding, tenure limits for bishops, changes in the ordination and licensing process, and various potential changes in the rules for General Conference. A revision of the *United Methodist Hymnal* is even on the table, with proposed changes to both content and to encourage the use of digital technology to customize the hymnal for each worship community.

Financial proposals will address budgeting and two new initiatives, one on theological education and one on young clergy issues.

Social issues will be addressed as well. While the denomination's perspective on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people is expected to draw much focus, other issues will be discussed as well. These include church policy on abortion, religious freedom, disabilities, sustainable investments, racism, immigration, and the environment.

### How Local Congregations Can Participate

The United Methodist Church is based upon our connection not just to those who sit next to us on Sundays, but also to our brothers and sisters in other Methodist congregations around the world. General Conference not only celebrates this connection, it offers us an opportunity to be aware of the larger issues in the denomination. There are several ways to keep apprised on and participate in these events.

Most opportunities for continued updates utilize digital technology: the website for General Conference, found at <http://GC2016.org>, will provide continual updates, including a "live stream" where you can watch the proceedings in English, French, and American Sign Language (keeping in mind that listed times are Pacific, not Central). There is a mobile phone app, a Twitter account, and an Instagram account. You can contact the church office for specifics on reaching these resources.

However, perhaps the most important way to connect with General Conference is the easiest — we can pray. We can pray for our delegates, bishops, speakers, and others who participate. We can pray that they are led by the spirit of Christ in planning for our future, and pray for our denomination as we move forward to bring Christ's love into the world.

Blessings always, Virginia

**Scriptures for the Week:** Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

- Sun. 5/8 **LOOKING AHEAD**  
**Ascension Sunday**  
**Festival of the Christian Home**  
**Mother's Day**  
 10:15a Sunday School  
 11:30a Worship
- Mon. 5/9 Noon Newsletter Deadline  
 6:00p Prayer Walk @ **Asbury**
- Tue. 5/10 General Conference begins in  
 Portland, Oregon  
 10:00a Koinonia Group  
 6:30p Love/Hope Pot Luck  
 (Bring Recipe)
- Wed. 5/11 10:00a Bible Study @ **Asbury**  
 10:30a Meth. Hospital Auxiliary  
 6:45p Choir Rehearsal  
 10:59p One Harvest Order Deadline
- Thu. 5/12 9:00a Food Pantry @ **Asbury**  
 10:00a Bible Study  
 11:00a Golden Cross Key Women  
 11:15a Bingo & BBQ  
 5:00 Girl Scouts
- Fri. 5/13 Offices Closed  
 10:30a Sr. Games Day @ **Asbury**
- Sat. 5/14 Change the World Weekend  
 9:00a AFLS  
 6:00p Spanish Service @  
**El Redentor**
- Sun. 5/15 Day of Pentecost  
 10:15a Sunday School  
 11:30a Worship



### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Minister for God and your church family by being a Worship assistant. Currently needed are: Liturgists, July-Dec; Greeters, June-Nov; Scripture Readers in rotation, and Children's Time Leaders, July-Dec.! Sign-up sheets are on the office window. If you prefer, you may call the office, 683-8861, and give Kathy your preferences.

**PRAY WITHOUT CEASING**  
 ...for the leaders and delegates  
 at General Conference



### Y.E.S. CAMP COMING TO ALDERSGATE

Ages 4-14 are invited to sign up for Youth Empowerment **Summer Camp** coming to Aldersgate May 31—July 29, 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. A fee of \$75, **due before camp begins**, covers registration, activities and t-shirt. In addition, the weekly fee is only \$65. Complete information is available at 901-488-1112 or [www.a1empowerment.com](http://www.a1empowerment.com).

### ✠ THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK ✠

The art of true giving goes beyond the dollar factor to expressions of kindness and friendly smiles.



### BINGO AND BBQ

BBQ lunch and Bingo will be on Thursday, May 12, right after Bible Study (about 11:15). Please sign up on the office window or call the office, 683-8861, to make a reservation so we'll know how much BBQ to order. No charge for lunch but donations will be taken. Bring prizes, beautifully wrapped, for our bingo winners. Remember, the more prizes you bring, the longer we get to play! You are more than welcome to join us at 10a and sit in on our Bible Study!



**Methodist Hospital Auxiliary**  
 ...meets on Wednesday, May 11, at 10:30a.m.

**Golden Cross Key Women**  
 ...meet on Thursday, May 12, at 11:00a.m. Personal care and household items are always needed and may be left in the Golden Cross basket near the Sunday School office. Thanks!

**UMNC Key Women's Luncheon**  
 ...is coming up on Wednesday, May 18th. Registration is at 10:30 a.m. at St. Luke's UMC, 480 S. Highland St. The speaker is Dr. Charley Braswell-Williams. A potluck salad lunch will follow the program. The "Sweet Offerings" event at the luncheon will offer cakes and desserts from bakeries across Memphis for sale with all benefits going to United Methodist Neighborhood Centers.



### FOOD PANTRY FOR MAY

Pastas and Sauces  
 Cash is always appreciated and will help purchase goods at a great discount.  
 (Make checks payable to Aldersgate and write "food Pantry" in the memo line.)  
 Thank you.



### THE UPPER ROOM

...for May/June is available on the tables outside the Sanctuary. Pick one up and don't miss a day of the great devotionals.



### BIBLE STUDY

Give us an hour-ish of your time each week and we will help you grow in spirit and knowledge through Bible Study. Join us Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. for a variety of studies through the year. Each program is for 6 to 8 weeks and you may join anytime. The current study is 'Introduction to the Old Testament'.

### IN THE WORDS OF WESLEY

"The longer I live, the larger allowances I make for human infirmities. I exact more from myself, and less from others. Go thou and do likewise!"  
 ~ John Wesley ~

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **Aldersgate Church Council** will meet on Monday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m.

**Asbury's Flea Market** is on Saturday, May 21, from 7a to 2p. Please call Debbie Williams, 901-355-5397, if you would like to be a vendor.

A **Pre-Conference Briefing** for the Metro District (Asbury & McKendree) will be held on Sunday, May 22, at St. Luke's UMC at 2 p.m.

**Memorial Day** is Monday, May 30th. The church offices will be closed.

**Vacation Bible School at Asbury** will be June 27-June 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. If you can help with classes, set-up, etc., please contact Leandria Smith, 901-489-6821. Thanks so much.

Did you file for an extension on 2015 taxes???

