

May 12, 2024

Weekly Communique



Blair First United Methodist Church



www.blairumc.org



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DAVID WILSON

On the same day I preached about considering how decisions will impact people as many as seven generations later, our General Conference delegates provided for new possibilities for The United Methodist Church when they chose to remove language that restricted openly LGBTQ+ clergy from serving as pastors.

The delegates here in Charlotte, North Carolina, also voted to eliminate penalties for clergy or churches who hold — or refrain from — holding same-gender weddings. And it is the spirit of that latter piece of legislation that I want to share with clergy and churches today.

The people joining together here from around the world to do the work of the church have been removing various punitive pieces of the Book of Discipline added during the 2019 special session of General Conference, as well as language inserted into the Discipline as long as 52 years ago.

These votes offer us a tremendous opportunity as the church to live up to our standards for social justice. I, for one, am excited about the possibilities for ministry that we can do together as we focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I believe we will be more inclusive because we no longer will be marginalizing a group of people.

We will be much fairer because we will no longer disqualify people for ministry based on a single factor, but instead we will fully consider a person's gifts and graces for ministry.

We will exhibit love for all persons, as Jesus continues to direct us to do.

And, finally, we will have freedom to fully enter our diverse mission fields across the Great Plains and beyond.

It's important to note that the work here does not shift the church in general or any local congregation into a position of promoting any group or stance. Instead, it moves the denomination to a place of neutrality. As I will address further in the weeks and months ahead, no church will have to do anything that makes it uncomfortable regarding aspects of human sexuality. Nor will any pastor be forced to do anything that goes against that person's conscience.

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Ways to Serve



Altar Flower Sign-Up

More than one person or family may sign up for a Sunday. Sign up on the counter in the narthex or call the office 402-426-2165.

We are collecting toiletries for Joseph's Coat: We have an ongoing collection of travel size toiletries that we donate throughout the year. Follow the link to see list: [Volunteer/Serve | Blair First United M \(blairumc.org\)](https://www.blairumc.org/volunteer/serve-blair-first-united-m)

All Church Volunteer Sign Up for May 11, 2024

8am-Noon

@ Washington Co. Recycling Center. Sign Up near the Church Office.

Children are welcome with parental supervision.

Sign up for 2-hour shifts or all morning (8-12:00).

Would like a minimum of 12 people for each shift

Announcements

Save the date for Summer Book Study

Beginning on June 3rd we will delve into the life of Corrie Ten Boom reading her story, "The Hiding Place".

Signup at the church office and stay turned for more information.

Books may be purchased through: Christian Book Distributors -<https://www.christianbook.com>, or Amazon

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP (Continued from Page 1)

The Cabinet and I strive in every appointment to make the best match for each pastor and congregation. To allay any concerns, I want to be clear. The Cabinet and I would not send an openly gay pastor to a church that would not be accepting because doing so would not be healthy for the local church nor for the pastor.

Also, local churches have the authority to determine wedding policies. That does not change with any of the decisions made at General Conference.

Bishop David Wilson
Great Plains Conference

Thank You!

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for the gifts I received at the surprise recognition at the April 28th worship service. It was amazing and I am humbled at the generosity of everyone!

I truly enjoy my work here and I feel blessed that I am able to continue my duties here. (most of the time).

Speaking of which, there are some people I would like to thank for giving their time and energy to fill in for me during my recovery: Bill Goodwin, Monica and Sammie Hirschert, Rich and Marty Buckingham, Debbie Foust, Pastor Gina and Steve, Susan and Keving Poling, Diane Highfill, Greg Stewart and any others that I am sorry if I missed!! Also a special thank you for the support given from Pastor Gina, through surgery, injury,

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illness, she helped keep me going in many ways!

Again thank you everyone and God Bless you all!!

Kevin Fleming

SAVE THE DATE

We would like to invite you to **Save the Date** for Sunday, June 16th. This will be Pastor Gina's last Sunday. The farewell festivities will be held in the Outdoor Worship Pavilion. There will be a time of gathering and fellowship beginning at 9:30. Coffee and donuts will be available. Around 10:00 there will be time set aside for music, farewells, stories, and such. Around 11:00 we will begin to transition to a picnic. Everyone attending is invited to bring a side dish to share.



Recently we have learned that the best way to log into your Vanco account is to first go to the Church Website: www.blairumc.org

Use the "Give" tab or scroll to the bottom of the home page to "Online Giving" and log in either place.

You may also contact the Church Office for assistance.

Weekly Happenings

(Please submit any entries to the office by Wednesday, 3:00pm.)

Sunday, May 12: 9:30 AM 7th Sunday of Easter, Graduate Sunday & Mother's Day. Worship - In Person and Live Streaming; **9:30 AM** Sunday School.

Monday, May 13: 1:00 PM Interagency Meeting (Fellowship Hall); **7:00 PM** Family Ministries (Parlor).

Wednesday May 15: 9:30 AM United Methodist Women (Parlor)

Thursday, May 16: 5:30 PM TOPS (Fellowship Hall); **5:30 PM** SPRC (Parlor); **7:00 PM** Leadership Team.

Friday, May 17: Office Closed.

Graduate Sunday

Sunday, May 12, 2024

We will be giving prayer shawls to our graduating Seniors during the 9:30 service.



Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, June 2, 2024

We will be acknowledging our 2023/2024 Confirmation Class at the 9:30am service.



VBS Noisy Offering

Save the dates and your change to add to our VBS fund. Collection pails will be passed around during the 9:30am service on 5/19 and 6/2.

Children and Youth can also bring their change to Sunday School on 5/12, 5/19.

There's still two more Sundays this Spring to meet after Children's Message for Sunday School. 5/12, 5/19 @ 9:30am

On 5/19, **WEAR RED!** And we will celebrate the Pentecost, (and our final day) with games and treats in the Outdoor Pavilion. (weather permitting)



Sunday Fundays!

Once or twice a month in June, July, and August, Pre-K—6th grade will meet in Fellowship Hall after the Children's Message for a fun-filled activity tied into the day's Bible theme.

June 2nd—Letting God's light shine (who likes things that glow-in-the-dark?)

June 23rd—Music Day (a morning of songs and instruments to play!)

Gateway to the West

Saturday, June 8th in the Outdoor Pavilion.

We will have crafts, temporary tattoos, (maybe games) and VBS signup available all morning before the parade that afternoon.

VBS will be at the First Lutheran Church.

June 24-28, 9:00am-12:00pm

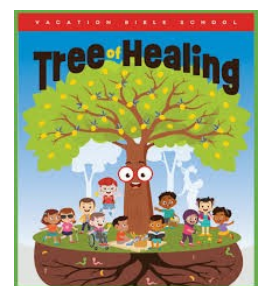
Lunch will be served at noon,

families welcome.

Current Pre-K—5th grade

6th—12th grade and

Adult Volunteers needed!



We will need lots of volunteers this summer from our older youth. Especially for those in Junior High and High School, you'll start to join groups that will want to know how many hours/places you've put in your volunteer hours. And helping at our church activities is a great way to get those hours in!

We will need helping hands at our Sunday Fundays, Gateway to the West tables, and tons of help during **Vacation Bible School.** Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Weekly Communique for more opportunities and when to sign up.

Let me know if you're wanting to help out so we can contact you as we get more information to get you signed up.



Save the Date:
June 8th

Blair 1st UMC
4th Annual
Gateway to the West
Breakfast Fundraiser.

**Sign up Genius - You do not need to LOG IN,
Just choose your task and submit.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D45ABAC2FA1FD0-gateway>

Or Sign Up near the Church Office.

Volunteer Help/Jobs Needed

Making Burritos (6/6/24)

Bringing Frozen Rhodes Cinnamon Rolls (6/2/24)

Or bake fresh for (6/7/24)

**Day of Breakfast (6/8/24) - Food Booth Volunteer,
Kid Zone Volunteer, Set Up and Clean Up.**