



Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Christ's compassionate community in Tecumseh;
Loving and serving prayerfully and unconditionally

Wednesday 26 August 2020

And the Trustees said, “Let there be light” . . .

. . . And behold! Light filled the chancel (the area from the communion railing to the organ pipe screen), and all shadows were banished therein!

We have replaced the floodlights in the front of the sanctuary with dimmable LED floodlamps. They now provide a lot of light, which not only brightens the chancel area but will provide more light for the handbell ringers. The floods also fill the area where Pastor Mark usually stands to preach.

. . . And those of us who have seen the lights turned on saw that it was good.

Coronavirus Update

Another week . . . another update letter from the Lenawee County Health Department (“60 Second Update, August 20, 2020”). Two items are of interest:

- Both the state of Michigan and the Lenawee County Health Department are conducting contact tracing. Thus, if you receive a call concerning this effort, your cooperation will be appreciated.
- The following is verbatim text:
“As a reminder, **indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people total. Outdoor gatherings are limited to 100 people total.** Total refers to the number of people for the *ENTIRE* event, not at any given time. Individuals attending gatherings should maintain 6 feet of social distancing between individuals not of the same household. Masks should be worn indoors and outdoors when unable to consistently maintain six feet of distance.”

We will continue to worship outdoors as long as we need to and are able. What will we do when the weather no longer allows this? We have not decided yet. What would you like to do?

Let's Zoom - Midweek Evening Virtual Gatherings

We need more time together and to help us get it we are bringing church back to Wednesday evenings.

Beginning last week—Wednesday 8/19—a virtual gathering using Zoom has been available. Each gathering begins at **7:30pm** and will last for **about an hour**.

Good News! – A generous parishioner has funded the purchase of a fully-featured Zoom license which allows unlimited meeting time and telephone dial-in (voice only).

Each gathering will have a different purpose and here's the current schedule:

- Wednesday 8/19, 7:30pm
Fellowship – no agenda, just an opportunity to get together, reconnect and enjoy some good conversation.
- **Wednesday 8/26, 7:30pm**
Hot Topic – this is intended to be similar to Pub Theology, which gathers people to discuss a topic of current interest, allowing all the people around the table a voice. Notably, while someone moderates the discussion, there is no discussion leader or resident expert. When a pastor shows up, they are just another participant. The discussion topic will be offered prior to the Wednesday evening gathering.
This evenings hot topic/question: **What does it mean to be a Christian?**
Anyone can call themselves a Christian. Is claiming to believe in Jesus Christ enough? If so, then what is it that one believes?
- Wednesday 9/2, 7:30pm
Fellowship
- Wednesday 9/9, 7:30pm
Brief Bible Study – Pastor Mark will lead a short exploration of scripture. Don't worry about this getting complex and boring, there isn't enough time for any of that.
- Wednesday 9/16, 7:30pm
Fellowship
- Wednesday 9/23, 7:30pm
Hot Topic
- Wednesday 9/30, 7:30pm
Fellowship

To participate: Like all Zoom meetings, you need a password to join in (a necessary inconvenience to prevent "Zoom-bombing" by internet trolls). Send an [email to Pastor Mark](#) and you will receive a Zoom link, meeting ID, and password.

United Methodist Trivia

Two factoids about Methodism's founder, John Wesley:

- Although we think of John Wesley as a towering figure within Methodism, his physical proportions were a bit less monumental. For almost his entire adult life John was a whopping 5 ft. 3 in. tall and weighed in at just about 100 pounds.
- John had no intention of founding a denomination. He was a loyal clergyman in the Church of England who felt he was leading a reform movement within his church. The movement spread to North America, and he sent fellow clergyman, Francis Asbury, across the pond to the 13 Colonies to commission lay ministers. We might have been a part of the Church of

Midweek Newsletter

England had the American Revolution not taken place. When the colonies broke away, Asbury was stranded on our side of the Atlantic and Wesley was stuck in England unable to send ordained clergy to the Colonies, where there were very few ordained ministers to administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. Hastily, and against his own judgment, Wesley elevated Asbury to be Methodism's first bishop so that he could ordain American Methodists who could then administer the sacraments. Thus, the American Methodist movement became, with its first general conference shortly after the American Revolution, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the break from the Church of England became permanent.