

Programs

Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study
10:00 a.m.
Classrooms &
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday night
Dinner 6:15 pm.
Fellowship Hall
Bible Study 7:00 pm.
Fellowship Hall

Thursday
Choir practice
7:00 pm. Sanctuary

Communion
First Sunday of each
month

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From the Pastor's Desk: What is Charge Conference?

Marvin Mason, Pastor

As I sit at the desk this Friday morning the beginning of Labor Day week-end, I realize that we have come toward the end of another charge conference year as we begin to prepare for charge conference on September 27, 2015.

Year after year we hear terms such as Annual Conference, Charge Conference, Jurisdictional Conference and General Conference (every four years) and finally Charge conference. Many may be wondering what in the world is Charge Conference.

So what is Charge Conference? This refers to a meeting of the local church that includes every member of the church's governing body (such as a church council) as well as clergy appointed to serve that church. It meets at least once a year, usually in the fall, to review church goals and objectives, elect new church leaders, set clergy salaries, and recommend and continue persons for candidacy. A charge conference is typically facilitated by the district superintendent who oversees that congregation (§ 246).

In the past each church had their own individual charge

conference which is overseen by the District Superintendent. The DS would spend the fall, beginning in September thru December, traveling to each of the churches. Imagine the workload that a DS has over the course of 4 months. Especially if you had over 80 or 90 churches and over 100 pastors. The DS would not see much of their family during these four months. Just in the North Georgia Conference the United Methodist Church is comprised of 930 churches, more than 1,500 clergy members, and more than 361,000 lay members. The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church seeks to develop Christian leaders, inspire young people, provide opportunities to serve those in need and fulfill the mission of the denomination, "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Currently, it is the largest United Methodist Conference in the United States.

Today we do things a little different many of the DS's have developed what we call "Connectional Groups" comprised of an average of 10 churches or more where we come together and cele-

brate the ministries going on in each of the churches. Our group meets every other month to worship, pray and support each other in ministry. It is also a time where we plan a mission as a group to reach out to the needs of the community. At this time the mission projects in our group is Potters House and I-Serve.

Our group also meets for our annual charge conference to conduct the annual business part of the Church, as set forth in our Book of Discipline (§ 246) this year we will be meeting at The Vine Church off of highway 211.

Remember all committee meetings with the exception of "Staff Parish Relations Committee and Nominations Committee" are open. I encourage not only those who are on these committees to come to charge conference but I encourage and invite all our members to come out and be a part of our charge conference this year and worship and celebrate our past year of ministry and hear all the good things God is doing in us and among us and with other churches as well. See you at charge conference!

In Christ,
Marvin

Billy Graham on Church Music



A reader of Billy Graham's Tribune Media Services column asked about "new" songs being introduced into the worship service. This is his reply:

I know this has been a controversial issue in many churches, and I don't pretend to have all the answers, but we have a singing faith, and God has given us the gift of music to praise him. The Psalmist declared, "With singing lips my mouth will praise you" (Psalm 63:5). Instead of complaining to your pastor (or anyone else), I urge you to ask God to help you be

grateful for all music that points us to God, new or old. No, you may not like some of it, but others do, and God can use it in their lives to encourage them and bring them closer to Christ. Remember: The old hymns you like were once new, and someone probably didn't like them, either!

Sometimes, I'm afraid, a hymn can become so familiar to us that we sing it without even thinking about the words. But this is wrong, because then our singing becomes empty

and meaningless. Don't let this happen to you, but meditate on the words of the songs you sing, and even turn them into a prayer.

Your music director has probably been wise to introduce new songs slowly; completely changing everything all at once can be disruptive. Pray for him and encourage him, letting him know that you're grateful for his gifts. Yes, let him know you appreciate the old hymns, but support him also as he seeks to reach a new generation through music.

Our Connectional Churches

The churches in our connectional group are:

Arbor Pointe UMC
Hoschton
Pastor: Brad Greene

Bethany UMC
Jefferson
Pastor: Ross Wheeler

Center UMC
Hoschton
Pastor: Blane Spencer

Dry Pond
Jefferson
Pastor: Craig Davis Murray

Ebenezer UMC
Jefferson
Pastor: (Supply Pastor)

Hoschton UMC
Hoschton
Pastor: Marvin Mason

New Liberty UMC
Braselton
Pastor: Josh McDaniel

The Vine UMC
Braselton
Pastor David Walters

Holly Springs UMC
Pendegrass
Pastor: Jerry Cameron

Jefferson First UMC
Jefferson
Pastor: Chris Laskey

Wesley Chapel
Hoschton
Pastor: Johnny Dibartolo

Service Mission: The Potters House

HUMC's connectional church group has selected The Potter's House for the past two years as our joint mission project. As a group, we met with the residents and staff for a cookout, fellowship and worship service.

The Potter's House offers a long-term residential discipleship program to more than 180 chemically addicted men. Located on a 550 acre farm near Athens, Georgia, The

Potter's House offers therapeutic and vocational programming, providing services that include GED training, computer literacy, and job training. After completing a very successful New Start Capital Campaign last year, Atlanta Mission dedicated two new state-of-the-art facilities at The Potter's House to serve the needs of Atlanta and Northeast Georgia. The New Start dormitory increased the transitional housing capacity to 64

beds and features a computer lab for GED training, a community lounge, and energy efficient construction. The Client Life Center created a much-needed space for client education and community engagement. The barn-like structure houses classrooms, program offices, and a multi-purpose space that acts as gym, chapel and gathering space.



Read the Bible in a Year: September 2015

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|---|---|---|
| 1 Micah 5,6,7; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Proverbs 21:17-26 | 12 Isaiah 29-30:18; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21; Psalm 107:1-9 | 23 Isaiah 55-57:13; Ephesians 2; Psalm 110:1-7 |
| 2 Isaiah 1,2; 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2; Psalm 105:1-11 | 13 Isaiah 30:19-32; 2 Corinthians 13; Proverb 22:17-27 | 24 Isaiah 57:14-59; Ephesians 3; Psalm 111:1-10 |
| 3 Isaiah 3-5:1-7; 2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1; Psalm 105:12-22 | 14 Isaiah 33-35; Galatians 1; Psalm 107:10-22 | 25 Isaiah 60-62; Ephesians 4:1-16; Proverbs 23:19-28 |
| 4 Isaiah 5:8-8:10; 2 Corinthians 7:2-16; Psalm 105:23-36 | 15 Isaiah 36-37; Galatians 2:1-10; Psalm 107:23-32 | 26 Isaiah 63-65:16; Ephesians 4:17-5:7; Psalm 112:1-10 |
| 5 Isaiah *:11-10:19; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; Proverbs 21:27-22:6 | 16 Isaiah 38-40; Galatians 2:11-21; Psalm 107:33-43 | 27 Isaiah 65:17-66; Ephesians 5:8-33; Psalm 113:1-9 |
| 6 Isaiah 10:20-Isaiah 13; 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5; Psalm 105:37-45 | 17 Isaiah 41-42; Galatians 3:10-25; Proverbs 22:28-23:9 | 28 Nahum 1-3; Ephesians 6; Psalm 114:1-8 |
| 7 Isaiah 14-16; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Psalm 106:1-15 | 18 Isaiah 43-44:23; Galatians 3:26-4:20; Psalm 108:1-5 | 29 Zephaniah 1-3; Philippians 1:1-26; Proverbs 23:29-24:4 |
| 8 Isaiah 17-19; 2 Corinthians 10; Psalm 106:16-31 | 19 Isaiah 44:24-46; Galatians 4:21-31; Psalm 108:6-13 | 30 Jeremiah 1-2:30; Philippians 1:27-2:11; Psalm 115:1-11 |
| 9 Isaiah 20-23; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; Proverb 22:7-16 | 20 Isaiah 47-49:7; Galatians 5:7-26; Psalm 109:1-20 | |
| 10 Isaiah 24-26; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33; Psalm 106:32-39 | 21 Isaiah 49:8-51:16; Galatians 6; Proverbs 23:10-18 | |
| 11 Isaiah 27-28; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Psalm 106:40-48 | 22 Isaiah 51:17-54; Ephesians 1; Psalm 109:21-31 | |

UMC: The Church as Connection

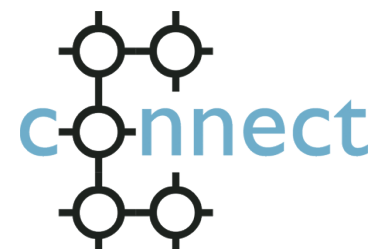
United Methodist leaders often speak of the denomination as “the connection.” This concept has been central to Methodism from its beginning.

The United Methodist structure and organization began as a means of accomplishing the mission of spreading scriptural holiness. Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, recognized the need for an organized system of communication and accountability and developed what he called the “connexion,” an interlocking system of classes, societies, and annual conferences.

Today, our denomination continues to be organized in a “connectional” system, which “enables us to carry out our mission in unity and strength” (Book of Discipline, ¶ 701). Every local church is linked to an interconnected network of organizations that join together in mission and ministry, allowing us to accomplish far more than any one church or person could alone.

Within the connectional structure of The United Methodist Church, conferences provide the primary groupings of people and churches for discernment and decision-making. Wesley described Christian conferencing as a spiritual discipline through

which God’s grace may be revealed. At every level of the connection, church leaders and members come together in conversation, or conferencing, to discuss important issues and discover God’s will for the church. The word, conference, thus refers to both the assembly and organization of people as well as the process of discerning God’s call together.





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UMC Connectional Table: Four Areas of Focus

1. Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.
2. Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.
3. Engaging in ministry with the poor.
4. Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

Event Calendar Fall 2015

SEPTEMBER

- 6 First Sunday Communion
- 7 Labor Day
- 9 Dinner (6:15); Bible Study (7:00)
- 13 Women of Faith (2:30)
- 16 Dinner (6:15); Bible Study (7:00)
- 23 Dinner (6:15); Bible Study (7:00)
- 30 Dinner (6:15); Bible Study (7:00)

OCTOBER

- 4 First Sunday Communion
- World Communion Sunday
- Women of Faith meeting 2:30 pm
- 7 Dinner (6:15) & Bible Study (7:00)
- 12 Columbus Day
- 14 Dinner (6:15) & Bible Study (7:00)
- 18 Laity Sunday
- 21 Dinner (6:15) & Bible Study (7:00)
- 25 Dinner (6:15) & Bible Study (7:00)
- 31 Reformation Day
- All Hallows Eve (Halloween)

NOVEMBER

- 2 First Sunday Communion
- Women of Faith meeting
- All Saints Day
- 4 Dinner (6:15) & Bible Study (7:00)
- 8 Day of Prayer for Persecuted Churches
- 11 Dinner (6:15) & Bible Study (7:00)
- 18 Dinner (6:15) & Fellowship
- 22 Christ the King Sunday
- 26 Thanksgiving
- 29 First Sunday of Advent