

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION



Reaching Up To Christ and Out To Each Other
July, 2024

From the Pastor:

“Cutting edge” is a term used to label techniques and organizations that provide progressive and innovative change to the status quo. Generally speaking, it is a positive term for individuals and groups who are blazing new trails in terms of technology, communication, medicine, efficiency and ability to connect with people.

Scientists, company leaders, municipalities, even churches and charities would all like to be labeled cutting edge in their respective pursuits.

Some in the United Methodist Church feel this way about legislation passed recently at General Conference and affirmed by annual conferences. Approval of gay marriage and gay pastors is termed “progressive” with regard to affirming human rights and a person’s identity. Others feel the change is one more step down the road of regressing into questionable morals and sin.

When both views are taken into consideration, rather than cutting edge, it feels like the UMC is balancing on a knife edge. Going too far one way, we risk falling into pharisaical bigotry with no empathy for those who have been marginalized. Going too far the other, there’s a concern that advancement of the progressive turn in the UMC could lead to increasingly liberal decisions that may slowly damage our moral compass. Also, some feel that with the promotion of a gay agenda the UMC is allowing the tail to wag the dog, as only 9% of the U.S. population has identified as LGBTQ.

But there are also those in the middle who feel overreaction to the UMC legislation by conservatives will lead all gay laity to no longer feel welcome in the Church. I feel very strongly that is not what Jesus would want, and we must always do what we can to emphasize that in our words and actions.

As I’ve said before, I do not think people “choose” to be gay, since they may be genetically predisposed to be that way. That fact has been reinforced to me because I have some gay friends and relatives and they will tell you that it was not their choice. They’ve always had this orientation. It is part of who they are, and if any choice were involved, the only choice would be to become straight, which would be against their nature. *(continued on next page)*

(Pastor's letter, continued)

It would be like asking a heterosexual person to become gay. At different points during college and graduate school, I had three gay friends commit suicide. I was told they could not take the societal pressure of who they were.

We need to remember that Jesus often went against the grain and many of the religious prohibitions and Bible of his day. He sought out those who were most marginalized as unclean and sinful outcasts. We need to ensure a turn toward Biblical morality is not a turn away from Jesus teachings and his love.

We're sitting on a spiritual and ethical knife edge, and falling either way could lead us away from Christ's command to avoid sin and to love God and love our neighbor. There are other issues like this in the Church – abortion, gun control, climate change. Good Christians are on both sides of the issues.

Please remember, the decisions that were made at General Conference are only with regard to pastoral appointments and performing same-sex unions. Churches in the UMC still have a choice on whether to receive a gay pastor (at the Bishop's request) and host same-sex weddings. We will continue to be a Church that is welcoming to all people and abide by the United Methodist call to have open doors, open minds and open hearts.

The Cornerstone trustee committee will be voting at a future meeting whether to allow gay marriages to be performed here and whether we would accept a gay pastor. In the meantime, let the trustees know how you feel. Additionally, if you feel there is a need to have another informational meeting to answer questions, please let me know!

Peace,
Irvin

Lectionary Study for July:**Sunday, July 7th:**

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
 Psalm 48 (UMH 782)
 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
 Mark 6:1-13

Sunday, July 21st:

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
 Psalm 89:20-37, 45b (UMH 807)
 Ephesians 2:11-12
 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 14th:

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
 Psalm 24 (UMH 755)
 Ephesians 1:3-14
 Mark 6:14-29

Sunday, July 28th:

2 Samuel 11:1-15
 Psalm 14 (UMH 746)
 Ephesians 3:14-21
 John 6:1-21

July Birthdays:

3rd Howard McCallum
 24th Greg Lytton
 25th Becky Hasenjaeger

27th Gavin Sliva
 27th Emery Sliva
 30th Kenneth Jones
 30th Steph Pilecki

Coming Up Next Month**August Birthdays:**

1st Mark Haldeman
 1st Elijah Henke
 5th Valerie Lytton
 8th Barbara Brown
 11th Chris Starnes
 13th Johnny Starnes
 27th Jeanine Stovall
 28th Marlene Dial

August Anniversaries:

5th Randy & Lynn Hayes
 21st Ken & Sharron Jones
 30th Johnny & Kathy Starnes

Please contact Church office if there are any additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list.

For prayer e-mail and/or bulletin prayer list requests please notify the church office, 328-1496 or crnrstone@comporium.net (office hours are Mon-Thurs 9-2 p.m.). When the church office is closed, leave a voice mail on office phone or you may also email, call or text church secretary, Cary Bartelmo, cbartelmo@comporium.net; 803-372-7923.

Debbie Jackson has a Card Ministry—please contact her if you would like someone to receive a greeting card. 803-417-3510

Cornerstone's **Instagram** page: [@umc.cornerstone](https://www.instagram.com/@umc.cornerstone) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

To view the worship service each Sunday on Cornerstone's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CornerstoneUMCRockHill/>

Scripture reader schedule for July:

July 7th: Randy Hayes
July 14th: Steve Pilecki
July 21st: Diane Brewer
July 28th: Steph Pilecki

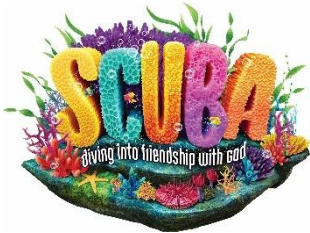
If you are interested in being a scripture reader for worship services, contact church office.

Acolyte Schedule for July:

July 7th: Elijah Henke
July 14th: Gavin Sliva
July 21st: Emery Sliva
July 28th: Teresa Boehme

Schedule for offering counters (Sunday mornings):

July 7th: Linda McCallum; Daniel Sliva
July 14th: Debbie Jackson; Diana Deyton
July 21st: Dale Williams; Randy Hayes
July 28th: Debbie Jackson; Howard McCallum



Vacation Bible School

July 15-18 5:45-8:30 p.m. Ages pre-K thru 5th Grade.
Registration forms are also available on the table in back of Sanctuary.
For questions or if you'd like to volunteer contact Linda McCallum
Mccallum.linda.m@gmail.com

We are collecting men's white socks and also gently-used men's clothing for the Bethel Men's Shelter during the month of July. There is a basket in back of the Sanctuary to collect these items.

Reminder: Wings of Faith Circle collects Keurig coffee pods and individually-wrapped snacks for the Hospice House. A basket to collect these items is in the Wesley classroom.

CORNERSTONE UNITED METHODIST

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC</i>	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> <i>(Office closed)</i>	5	6
7 Communion <i>-9:45 S.S. -11 am Worship -12:15 Trustee meeting</i>	8 <i>10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC</i>	9	10	11 <i>6:00 pm Addie McClintock Circle at Cornerstone</i>	12	13
14 <i>-9:30 Good Eats -9:45 Sunday Sch -11 am Worship</i>	15 <i>10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC</i> VBS 5:45-8:30 pm	16 VBS 5:45-8:30 pm	17 VBS 5:45-8:30 pm	18 VBS 5:45-8:30 pm	19	20
21 <i>-9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship</i>	22 <i>10:30 am Devotional study at Cornerstone</i> <i>6:30 pm UMM meeting</i>	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>-9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship</i>	29 <i>10:30 am Devotional study at Cornerstone</i>	30	31 <i>6:00 pm Choir practice</i>			
		<u>Offering Counters</u> <i>7th: L. McCallum Dan Sliva 14th: Debbie J.; Diana Deyton 21st: D. Williams Randy Hayes 28th: Debbie J.; H. McCallum</i>	<u>Scripture Readers</u> <i>7th: Randy Hayes 14th: Steve Pilecki 21st: Diane Brewer 28th: Steph Pilecki</i>	<u>Acolytes:</u> <i>7th: Elijah Henke 14th: Gavin Sliva 21st: Emery Sliva 28th: Teresa Boehme</i>	<u>Opening & Closing:</u> <i>Johnny Starnes</i> <u>Altar Guild</u> <i>Maxine Smith</i>	<u>Sunday Worship Schedule:</u> <i>9:30 am Good Eats fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School</i> <i>11 a.m. Worship Service</i>

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11 -9:30 Good Eats -9:45 Sunday Sch -11 am Worship 5:15 pm Finance mtg 6:00 pm Church Council mtg	12 10:30 am Devotional study at CUMC	13 6:00 pm Wings of Faith Circle meeting	14	15	16	17
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