



Faith news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ALDA UNITED &
WOOD RIVER FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCHES
JANUARY 2019

SPECIAL CALLED GENERAL CONFERENCE

INFORMATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2:00 & 7:00 PM, AT WOOD RIVER UMC

The special called General Conference, set for Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis, will consider three plans proposed by the Way Forward Commission that was established after the 2016 General Conference to help the United Methodist Church move forward in its impasse on same sex marriage and the ordination of "self-avowed" practicing homosexuals. Currently the Book of Discipline of the UMC does not allow for same sex marriages or ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" within the denomination. There has been disobedience to the Book of Discipline and that is one of many reasons why the church is trying to find a way forward. It is important to know the General Conference is the decision-making body of the UMC and at this Special Called General Conference they will be addressing 3 plans and many petitions and, in the process, help the UMC find a way for the denomination to stay together or there is the possibility for a split or a breaking away of groups in the denomination. There is also the possibility that nothing will change.

It is important as a local church that we are informed as much as possible before this General Conference meets so we can begin processing the implications. We don't know what will happen at General Conference in February, but most would agree that whatever happens the church will no longer look the same. There are many strong feelings on both sides, even in our local church, but we want to be able to come together in love and respect to hear and listen to one another. This is primarily an informational meeting. No decisions about how the church will move forward in the future will be made till after the General Conference meets in February. Pastor Trudy welcomes conversation and encourages people to come and talk to her about their questions or concerns. This is a difficult topic to discuss when there are strong feelings, but the church is called to address and work through difficult topics and decisions and it is important we do so in a way that shows the love of Christ to one another. Please come to one of the informational meeting times scheduled.

WINTER OPEN HOUSE

January 13, 2019, 3:30-6:30 pm

Pastor Trudy and Jeff's Home

1408 Main

ALL ARE WELCOME!

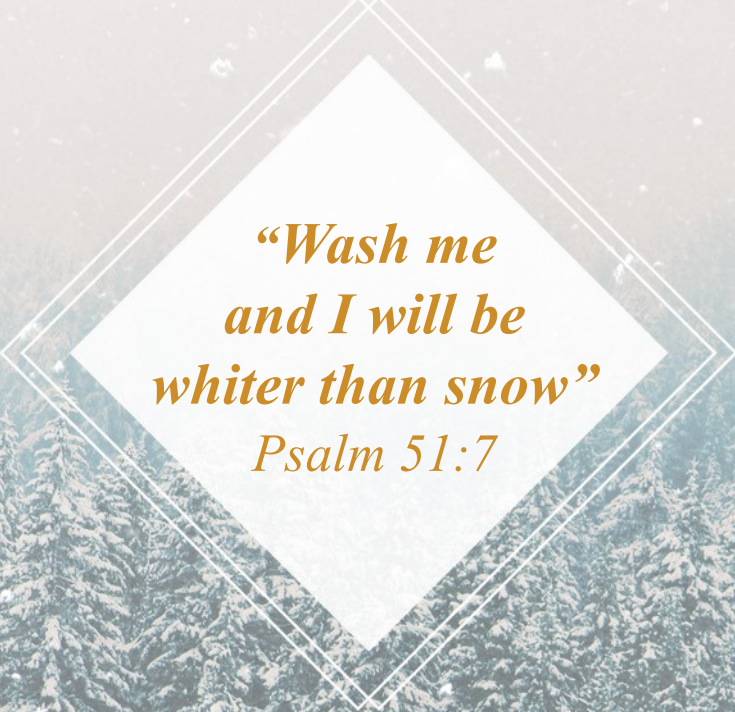
We want to say thank you for all you do,
so come hang-out at our house.

There will be snacks, desserts and great
conversation.

Bring a friend. All ages are welcome.

ALDA LEADERSHIP TEAM SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, AFTER WORSHIP

We will have a Leadership Team (Formerly Administrative Council) following worship on January 6. Bring a sandwich or snack to share. We received our Ministry Grant and it is time to make plans for implementation of that new Ministry. If we have time, we will take down the Christmas decorations following the meeting.



*“Wash me
and I will be
whiter than snow”
Psalm 51:7*

WOOD RIVER LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY TEAM KICK- OFF, JAN 9, 6:30 PM

A New Year brings changes to the church as we begin to live into our new Leadership and Ministry Model. With changes in leadership that come with a new year and a new Leadership and Ministry Team Model, we are gathering on January 9 beginning at 6:30 pm to make sure we are all moving in the same direction. It is important to understand that the ministry of the church is interconnected, and we need to support and

encourage one another. We also have mission goals that will involve the whole church being involved in order to gain traction. There will be a strong focus on worship, children's, and youth ministry, because that is the focus of our Mission Goals for the year. After the initial meeting we will then have a short Leadership Team (formerly called Administrative Council) meeting to discuss any priorities and Financial Reports, starting around 7:30 or 7:45.

January 9, starting at 6:30 with Leadership Team and Ministry Teams together and then finishing with just the Leadership Team by 7:45. Looking forward to serving alongside each other, in order to impact our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Parish Nurse - Mary Bilslend

We are getting ready to greet 2019 which means the time has come to get our lives in order for the new year. We consider all the changes we want to make and what we need to consider to be all we want to be in the new year.

The news services, including newspapers, magazines, Television, radio and all other forms of media are more than willing to share all the diet and health tips that are available but who has anything to say about the rest of us. Let's consider our life as Christians. What we can do to become purpose driven Christians. Here are a few tips I found.

1. Change your thoughts. Acknowledge the positive and the good things about yourself and your intensions. If you become negative, stop yourself and reinforce with something positive. This also goes for those around you-family, friends etc.
2. Consider your media choices. We watch the same choices and not consider how it is wiring our minds. Much we watch is not aimed at improving our thoughts, minds or actions. Pure Flix was listed as a better choice. I have not watched this personally so am not speaking from personal information.
3. Change your music. Do the music you listen you bring you closer to the values you cherish and value? If not, make some changes-at least for part of your listening time. What a great way to start your day and get your worship on....
4. Change your conversations. Talk to people about their lives and what is valuable and important to them. I also read that a great habit before bedtime is to do the practical exercise: Rose, Rose, Thorn, Bud. With a loved one or friend, share two positive events in your day (roses), then something that bothered you (thorn) and then something you are looking forward to the next day(bud). This combination can trigger great, meaningful conversations with those closest to you.
5. Change your attitude. We have been built to look for and solve the problems that are presented and this has helped us stay alive. It can however make us very miserable. We need to be aware of these thoughts and know it is okay to have them but to focus on them can just cause bad feelings and not help if we have no control over these things so be aware and reprogram your mind to see and focus on the positive.
6. Change your focus from getting to giving. Practice passing it on. It has been shown that giving makes us happy and improves our wellbeing over all. By so doing, we can create a world with more love and hope to those we give to.
7. Change your language to praise and uplift others. As Christians, we have a responsibility to ourselves, our families, our friends and neighbors to help them toward finding Jesus and the love and support he has for us. We can use words of praise instead of put downs. Words are very powerful and can lead others especially if they see us as Christians to or from wanting to be like us as we try and be more like Jesus.

These are just a few tips to consider as we strive to be the best we can be in 2019. Happy New year and remember to live as a Christmas person every day.

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:30 Bible Study <i>Matt Thompson Patty Camp</i>	3 7:00 Alda Solutions Group	4 Office Closed - Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting <i>Donna Burr Deb Baxter</i>	5 One Event <i>Tyler & Rachel Lucas Joyce Miller</i>
6 9:30 WR Worship 10:30 WRSunday School 11:00 Alda Worship 12:00 Alda Leadership Team Meeting 6:00 Girl Scouts	7 8:30-12:00 Pastor Trudy in Office 7:00 Cub Scouts 7:30 Ruth Circle	8 <i>Shad Smith</i>	9 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 WR Ministry Teams 7:30 WR Leadership Team <i>Cole Arnett</i>	10 7:00 Alda Solutions Group <i>Dick & Marilyn Webster</i>	11 Office Closed - Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting	12
13 9:30 WR Worship 10:30 WRSunday School 11:00 Alda Worship 3:30-6:30 Pastor Trudy Open House <i>Arturo & Rachelle Valdez</i>	14 8:30-12:00 Pastor Trudy in Office <i>Owen Lemburg Rod & Nina Skeen</i>	15 12:00 Alda Meet & Eat	16 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 MFY Meeting <i>Charlie McLamb Maggie Brandt Jennifer Henrichs Jim & Kim Thompson</i>	17 7:00 Alda Solutions Group <i>Ron Rickert</i>	18 Office Closed - Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting	19 <i>Alison McLamb Dylan Mayfield Christi Burnett</i>
<div> <div>Pastor Trudy to Kansas City Orders & Fellowship</div> <div>←</div> <div>→</div> </div>						
20 9:30 WR Worship 10:30 WRSunday School 11:00 Alda Worship 6:00 Girl Scouts <i>Noah Landanger</i>	21 8:30-12:00 Pastor Trudy in Office 7:00 Cub Scouts <i>Paisley Hayes</i>	22 6:00 District Network <i>Nathan Burnett Susie Powell</i>	23 9:30 Bible Study <i>Cindy Howe Kent & Mona Luebs (1988) Jane Clampitt Julie Burkhardt</i>	24 1:30 UMW Meeting 7:00 Alda Solutions Group <i>Mona Luebs</i>	25 Office Closed - Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting <i>Sue Uhrich Inez Rohrich Calvin Henrichs</i>	26 11:00-2:00 Prairie Rivers District Epiphany <i>Ray Apfel Braeden Oster</i>
27 9:30 WR Worship 10:30 WRSunday School 11:00 Alda Worship 2:00 & 7:00 Special Conference Meeting <i>Dave Reeder Jessica Rauert AJ Valdez</i>	28 8:30-12:00 Pastor Trudy in Office <i>Marilyn Denman Buck Jackson</i>	29 <i>Ryan Camp Jim Skeen</i>	30 9:30 Bible Study <i>Nina Skeen Bill Heise</i>	31 7:00 Alda Solutions Group Network Clergy Leaders <i>Morgan Foltz George Mead Dave Sidders Shannon Ellison</i>		

Join Camp Fontanelle for Legacy Dinner, Saturday, January 12

Whether you have been supporting Camp Fontanelle for decades or just a short time, you have certainly seen what a difference Christian camping makes in the lives of children and youth. Some families have asked how they can do more.

Camp Fontanelle and the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation invite you to attend a delicious, FREE dinner which offers information about how to maximize your gifts in a cost-effective, tax-advantaged manner. You will also hear a Mission Moment offered from members of the Camp Fontanelle family.

Date: Saturday, January 12, 2019

Time: 4 pm optional reception and camp tour; 5 pm supper

Location: Camp Fontanelle, Riverview Lodge

There will be no solicitations or products sold at this complimentary event. Contact Kristine Roberts [chair of the Camp's Site Council] at (402) 660-1744, or by email, kr Roberts_84@zoho.com. For this valuable, adults-only session, RSVPs are required by Wednesday, January 9.

Church Events

- Jan 6 - Alda Leadership Meeting
- Jan 7 - Ruth Circle
- Jan 9 – Wood River Ministry & Leadership Meetings
- Jan 13– Pastor's Open House
- Jan 24 - UMW Meeting
- Jan 26 - Prairie Rivers District Epiphany
- Jan 27 – Special Conference Meetings

Seek his will
in all you do, and he will show you
which path to take.

Proverbs 3:6





Walk to Emmaus

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road...?” Luke 24:32

The Walk to Emmaus is a transformational three-day weekend open to people of any denomination, designed to strengthen the faith of Christians and, through their discipleship, to strengthen their families, their congregations, and the world in which they live. Emmaus is a partnership between lay and clergy for the renewal of the church. The 72 hour weekend focuses on discovering the abundance of God's grace in our own lives and learning to live in that grace fully, while sharing that grace with others. This is an amazing weekend!

Where: Camp Comeca, by Cozad, NE, And you do not have to drive, we drive you there and pick you up as your sponsor.

Cost: \$125, scholarships available if needed. All lodging and meals provided and the lodge is a very nice comfortable place to stay.

Men's Weekend: February 7th-10th, starts at 7:00 pm on the 7th.

Women's Weekend: February 14th-17th, starts at 7:00 pm on the 14th.

Jeff and I attended Walk to Emmaus with a few people from our church in 2002. It was an amazing weekend for both of us and the friends we attended with. It was at Walk to Emmaus that I came to a greater understanding of what God's grace is and means for my life, and the world. Also, a deeper understanding of God's love for us and the call we have as those who proclaim to be followers of Jesus Christ. Notice there are two different weekends for women and men. I realize the name has "Walk" in it, but there is minimal walking. Only the amount you would like to do around the camp and going from your room, conference room and lunch. There is also lots of laughter. I invite you to be a part of this retreat, in order to learn about and experience God's amazing grace. Jeff and I would love to talk to you about the Emmaus weekends.

~Pastor Trudy

