

# Cedar Crossings

January 9, 2019



We're on the web: [www.cedarcross.net](http://www.cedarcross.net) and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cedarcrossumc](http://www.facebook.com/cedarcrossumc)

## News and Events

**A new flower chart has been hung in the Narthex.** If you'd like to provide flowers for the altar for the 2019 church year you may sign up on the chart in the Narthex. If you are placing these on the altar in memory or appreciation of someone, you may make a note of that on the chart so it can be acknowledged in the weekly worship guide.

**ONLINE DIRECTORY UPDATE!** Time to review your record in the church online directory and update your family information, as well as uploading current photos. We will be scheduling a photo session soon for those who need a photo. If you are new to the church and would like to be in our online directory, pick up one of the forms from the table in the Narthex, complete it, and place it in the envelope provided. Information about the directory is also on the Narthex table. Thank you. (If you are not online, call the church office to provide us with updates.)

**The Needles Clique,** Cedar Cross knitting group will be meeting on Monday, January 14 at 2:00pm at the Spotted Cow.

**Noontimers** will meet on January 22. Program will be "Creating a Sustainable Future for All" with speakers from The Climate Reality Project.

**The Welcoming Committee will be celebrating birthdays next year with quarterly birthday cakes and a listing of birthdays by month and day.** Please let the church office know if we don't already know your family's birthdays!

**MEMORIAL BENCH:** The past 36 years I've known many special people who have passed within our church family. The most recent being the sad loss of Kenneth. I thought it would be nice if we remembered these special people with a memorial. We will be replacing the raised flower bed and bench to the left of the church entrance with one made of stone. A new drainage system will also be needed. In the middle of the flower bed will be a large stone with an engraved quote that reads, "*When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure*". Behind this large stone will be a small Japanese Maple. **UPDATE: The estimated funds needed are approximately \$750.** If you wish to donate you may make a check out to Cedar Cross UMC and write Memorial Bench on the memo line. There is a visual idea of what the committee has in mind over the coffee table in the Narthex. We will not be engraving names on the bench since the brick walkway is for that use. (Submitted by Linda States)

**Hello Cedar Cross Social Justice Advocates:** The **Women's March Seattle 2019** is set for **Saturday, January 19, 2019, 9AM – 3PM.** I hope many of you can make all or part of it. The big event starts at 9AM with a rally in Cal Anderson Park, followed by a march to Seattle Center.

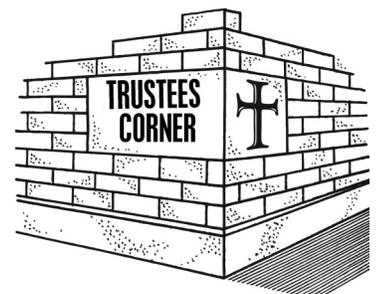
The march on January 19 is part of a three-day weekend of community activism called **BUILDING POWER.** Thus events are planned for the following two days:

Sunday, January 20: Women's March *Day of Action.* Various workshops, lectures, grassroots groups, etc. throughout the region.

Monday, January 21: Honoring the 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March and Day of Service. For more information contact Jim Swanson ([jim.swanson@alumni.stanford.edu](mailto:jim.swanson@alumni.stanford.edu)) or Pastor Jim ([pastorjimc@frontier.com](mailto:pastorjimc@frontier.com))

### TRUSTEES CORNER:

Happy 2019 to you all! The new year brings new projects! In the Spring we will be resurfacing the parking lot and laying down new strips, date and time to be determined. We are also planning an All Church Clean-up. We will be cleaning the gardens and grounds of Cedar Cross. We will also be getting our Gardening Buddies up and running again. Get your green thumbs manicured! Look for this in March. Have a wonderful and warm January. The Trustees



## Men of Cedar Cross

The Men of Cedar Cross would like to invite all to our annual Valentine's Dinner, on Saturday, February 9 at 6:00 pm. This year the food will be provided by Lombardi's. They will provide Penne Siciliana, Chicken Marsala(1 platter Gluten Free) with Fettuccini and Baked Alfredo. Also Traditional Roast Garlic Caesar salad, and Italian Pugliese bread with butter. Showcraft will return as the entertainment for the evening. The cost is \$20 per couple, \$10 for single men and no charge for single women. If you are able to contribute toward additional meals and youth programs, that would be appreciated. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex.

The Men's Group is sponsoring the third annual Men's Retreat over the weekend of March 22nd through the 24th at Camp Killoqua. The retreat will be a great opportunity for fellowship, worship and study of God's Word with other men of Cedar Cross. I hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us for this event. This theme for this year's retreat is "Your Journey with Jesus Christ". The hope is that you will be able to participate for the entire weekend. Although, this year we have structured the program to accommodate those that may only be able to be there for part of the weekend. The cost is \$85 for the whole retreat per person, but if you can only attend for part of the retreat, the fee will be pro-rated accordingly. You can contract

## Finance

**2018 Giving Statements:** Cedar Cross Financial Secretary will be sending out the year end 2018 Giving Statements by February 1, 2019. They will be sent electrically to everyone that is on the current Cedar Cross email distribution list. For those of you that does not have email you will receive your Giving Statement by the US Postal Service. If you do not wish to receive your Giving Statement by email please contact the office at 425-338-7845 and let Mary know.

Should you feel that the Giving Statement does not reflect your contributions, please contact Blaine Fritts, Janet Church, Jennifer Hobson or Tom Roe (Cedar Cross Financial Secretary & Assistant Financial Secretary's) at our worship service or

## 2019 Stewardship

Thank you to all the 110 families of Cedar Cross whom committed their financial resources to support Cedar Cross United Methodist Church during 2019. While we did not make the set goal, we came close or 96% of achieving that goal. There was an increase amount of commitment this year over last year.

The Stewardship Committee keeps a few statistical data points on giving patterns. One of those data points is the average pledge given by families of the church. To come up with that number we divide the number of pledges received with the dollar amount indicated on the pledge card giving the average dollar amount received. During this past Stewardship campaign, the average pledge per family increased from \$2,345 in 2018 to \$2,521 in 2019 or an increase of \$176 per family. We are impressed with this increase. It shows that our congregation is financial supporting Cedar Cross. Again, thank you for continued financial support. Submitted by Larry States

## Worship Schedule

<b>January 13, 2019</b> <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	Acts 8:14-24 Luke 3:14-24	"The Art of Blessing"
<b>January 20, 2019</b> <i>Human Relations Sunday</i> <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i>	I Corinthians 12:12-31	"Knee Bone Connected to the Thigh Bone, Thigh Bone Connected to the Hip Bone..."
<b>January 27, 2019</b> <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Nehemiah 8	"Even Interpretation Requires Interpretation"
<b>February 3, 2019</b> <i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i> <b>One Service at 10:00am</b>	I Corinthians 13	"A Passionate Life"
<b>February 10, 2019</b> <i>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</i> <i>Boy Scout Sunday</i>	Luke 5:1-4	"Something is Expected of Us"

### The Way Forward

In 1972 the General Conference added the language to the Social Principles that claims that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching which effectively denied LGBTQ people ordination and made officiating a homosexual wedding a chargeable offense. In 1972 I was a sophomore in high school thinking a lot about girls and totally oblivious to the fact that some of my buddies were thinking about boys. We have been in a battle since then. Next month the General Conference will meet in St. Louis to choose between three plans.



Pastor Jim Clarke

Things have changed since 1972. We have all become more aware of sexual orientation and moved toward acceptance of LGBTQ people. It is unfortunate that our church lags behind. One of the reasons for this has to do with our polity. We are a connectional church, very centralized and not allowing for local or regional autonomy. The General Conference is the ruling body of the denomination and those rules apply to all United Methodist Churches. Another reason we have had so much trouble with this issue is we are a global church. That means that churches in Africa and the Philippines have influence upon what the General Conference decides. We are a global church because we value unity across cultures. Therefore, while our culture is changing rapidly on this issue our Church remains stuck.

At our last General Conference in Portland, Oregon in 2016 we were at an impasse. A group was formed to try to come up with a solution; the group is called The Way Forward. They have come up with three possible plans:

The Traditionalist Plan: This is very simple and needs little explanation. It is to keep things the way they are leaving the language in the Discipline that condemns homosexuality. The results of this would be to prosecute those who defy the ban on same sex marriage and to defrock LGBTQ people who are open and practicing. This would likely lead to schism. One could say 'so be it' but there is much involved in a schism including pensions for clergy and other financial issues. The truth is, here in the Northwest we are small potatoes. Our numbers are going down and we have little resources or power. There is no other way to think of this plan than vindictive.

The One Church Plan: This plan offers some autonomy and flexibility. The critical language in the Discipline would be removed. Local churches would be able to choose whether they would allow same sex marriages; ordination would be decided in the clergy session of each Annual Conference. It would end trials of clergy in areas where same sex weddings are approved. For us it would allow us to be who we are in our locale, but it would not move us forward to changes in the denomination. This is the plan recommended by the Council of Bishops. What is valued in this plan is keeping the connection; remaining a unified church. It is the practical plan.

Connectional Conference Plan: This plan would abolish Jurisdictions which would be replaced by three non-geographical connectional conferences based upon theological perspectives. One of these conferences would allow for full inclusion. A second would remain as the Church is now and be exclusive. A third conference would allow for local churches to decide and live in toleration of each other. (Given how divided the Church is on this I can't help but wonder who would be a part of this connectional conference.) Each local church would vote to be a part of one of these conferences to join. This would be easy for us at Cedar Cross but imagine a church that is divided. It would likely result in many people leaving the church because of the choice that is made. Clergy also would affiliate with one of these connectional conferences. This works for me but imagine an LGBTQ pastor in a region of the country that is less accepting than we are. I can see many clergy left out, without churches to serve. Critics say that this would also likely result in a schism, but it would take longer. Those who are thinking practically wanting to preserve the institution and its connection will want the One Church Plan. Ideologues on the right will want the Traditionalist plan. Those on the left who want the church to be all inclusive to the point of favoring schism would want the Connectional Conferences Plan. I approach it by saying anything but the Traditionalist Plan. I want to believe that our culture will continue to move toward acceptance of LGBTQ people, even in the South but that may take a generation passing. (I don't have as much hope for Africa and The Philippines.) So, either the One Church or Connectional Conferences plans would be a step in the right direction and allow us in our Church to be fully inclusive.

**There will be an orientation class on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00am – 12:00pm.** This class is designed to familiarize people with our Church in order to be able to join the Church. We will talk about United Methodist history, policy and governance and theological emphases. We will also talk about Cedar Cross and our vision, mission and values. But before we do that we will spend some time getting to know each other. It will be an enjoyable and interesting time. If you need childcare, we will provide it upon request. Please let me know if you are interested. P.Jim

**Woman's March:** Last year a number of our members participated in the Seattle Woman's March; we would like to do it again. It will be on Saturday January 19. Members of our Social Justice committee will be going and everyone is invited. These are perilous times and any way we can let those in power know our concerns is an opportunity. Please contact Jim

Other Meetings and Events

Recurring Meetings and Events

**Wednesday, January 9**  
*Cedar Crossings*

**Sunday, January 13**  
*Baptism of the Lord*

**Monday, January 14**  
 2:00pm: Needles Clique [OS]

**Tuesday, January 15**  
 5:30pm: Girl Scout Troop #44073 [13]

**Wednesday, January 16**  
 9:00am: Mission Quilters [12]  
 7:00pm: Finance Meeting [13]

**Saturday, January 19**  
 9:00am: Woman's March and Building Power [OS]

**Sunday, January 20**  
*2nd Sunday after the Epiphany*  
*Human Relations Sunday*  
*Woman's Day of Action*  
 6:30pm: Children's Ministry Meeting [13]

**Monday, January 21**  
*Martin Luther King Day - No Preschool,*  
*Church Office is closed.*  
*14th Annual Martin Luther King March [OS]*

**Tuesday, January 22**  
 12:00pm: Noontimers [C]

**Wednesday, January 23**  
 5:30pm: Girl Scout Troop #44248 [13]

**Saturday, January 26**  
 9:00am: Orientation Class [13]

**Sunday, January 27**  
*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

**Monday, January 28**  
 7:00pm: Church Council [13]

**Saturday, February 2**  
 10:00am Cub Scout Pack 21 Pinewood Derby [C]

**Sunday, February 3**  
*4th Sunday after the Epiphany*

**Tuesday, February 5**  
 11:30am: Friends in Transition [OS]

**Wednesday, February 6**  
 9:00am: Mission Quilters [12]  
 5:30pm: Girl Scout Troop #44248 [13]

**Saturday, February 9**  
 6:00pm: Men of Cedar Cross Valentine Dinner [C]

**Sunday, February 10**  
*5th Sunday after the Epiphany*  
*Boy Scout Sunday*

**Tuesday, January 8**  
*Cedar Crossings Articles Due by Two*  
 9:30am: United Methodist Women [12]  
 7:00pm: Worship Committee [PO]

**Wednesday, January 9**  
*Cedar Crossings*

**Sunday**  
 8:45am: Worship Service [C]  
 10:00am: Sunday School for all [VR]  
 11:00am: Worship Service [C]  
 6:00pm: Youth Group [C]

**Monday**  
 10:00am: Caring Committee [13]

**Tuesday**  
 7:00pm: Boy Scout Troop #221 [C]

**Wednesday**  
 9:30am: Wednesday Bible Study [13]  
 7:00pm: S Anon [12]  
 7:30pm: Chancel Choir Rehearsal [C]

**Friday**  
 5:30pm: Serenity - Alanon [13]

**Saturday**  
 8:00am: S Anon [13]

☞ [EF]: Entire Facility, [OS]: Offsite,  
 [number]: specific room,  
 [C]: Centrum, [N]: Nursery,

The Cedar Cross Statement of Inclusion

*We the people of Cedar Cross United Methodist Church regard the love of God to be the foundation of our life and ministry.*

*We believe in the ever present love of God as witnessed through Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

*We believe that each person is loved by God and is of sacred worth. Therefore, by God's grace:*

*We welcome all persons to our Church without regard to race, ethnic or cultural background, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, theological perspective, political affiliation, or other means people use to categorize and discriminate against others.*

*We express God's hospitality by creating a safe, healing and transforming place for all to enter.*

*We celebrate the gifts of all who come seeking God, Christian community and justice in our world, and we welcome all into the life and ministry of our church.*



**Cedar Cross United Methodist Church**

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Office Hours: Monday—Wednesday 10:00am - 3:00pm

PASTOR: REVEREND JAMES CLARKE • pastorjimc@frontier.com

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