

- Methodist Church GC
- Theologian's Corner
- Pack the Backpacks Benefit
- Concern needs
- YD at Play
- Connect to Realm
- Check out the bookstore
- St Crispin's Summer Camp
- Faithful Innovations
- Happy St Philip & St James Day

The Steeple



May 1, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Full communion with Episcopalians gets closer

By Jim Patterson

April 30, 2024 | CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Delegates to the United Methodist General Conference approved full communion with the Episcopal Church on April 30. The agreement needs the approval of the Episcopalians before going into effect.

During the conference's "Ecumenical Day," the morning plenary session was halted briefly to acknowledge the vote.

"We want to lift up and recognize this moment, which is an incredibly significant moment, especially on this day as we celebrate our ecumenical relations," said the Rev. Gary Graves, secretary of the General Conference.

"As you adopted that resolution," he noted, "you adopted the full communion relationship with the Episcopal Church in the United States, that has been worked on for many years."

Presiding over the plenary, Bishop Lanette Plambeck said, "That feels pretty good, doesn't it?" She serves the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area. "What a beautiful moment this is for our connectional relationship, our ecumenical relationship and our witness to the world."

The resolution was on the day's consent calendar, which allows the lawmaking assembly to approve multiple pieces of legislation in bulk. To make it onto the consent calendar, petitions must receive no more than 10 "no" votes in legislative committee and have no implications for the denomination's budget or constitution.

If the Episcopalian Church affirms the agreement, which might not happen until meetings scheduled for 2027, it will mean that the two denominations recognize each other as "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church in which the Gospel is rightly preached and taught."

"We're excited," said retired Bishop Sally Dyck, the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops. "A lot of people have been working on it for a long time."

One practical benefit of full communion would be that pastors could serve in the churches of the other denomination. In a time when some rural and even urban communities have no Christian churches, there would be an opportunity for a joining of forces as a remedy, Dyck said.

“Once we make that full communion, then all of us have full communion with each other — the Episcopalians, the Lutherans, the Moravians and us,” she said. “Then we don’t have to have all these individual coordinating (joint) committees. We could all be one coordinating committee, perhaps, that would be cheaper and far more creative and interactive.”

Communion would also mean that Methodists and Episcopalians would recognize the authenticity of each other’s baptism and Eucharist; extend sacramental hospitality to one another’s members; recognize ordination of each other’s priests, elders and deacons; report regularly to one another; formulate joint educational materials and encourage continuing education opportunities for lay and clergy leaders regarding full communion; and agree to cultivate and maintain active partnership and consultation with each other.

On April 29, another ecumenical relationship deepened, this one with the Moravian Church, Dyck said earlier in the plenary.

“The General Conference approved a new, full communal relationship between our church and the northern and southern provinces of the Moravian Church,” Dyck announced.

“It’s natural that we now find ourselves coming closer together,” she said. “The Moravians were a shining example to John and Charles Wesley of the possibilities of freedom through God’s grace.”

The Rev. Neil Routh, president of the Provincial Elders’ Conference of the Moravian Church, Southern Province, said the ties between the two denominations “are deep.”

“It is natural that we now find ourselves coming closer together,” Routh said. “We Moravians give thanks that we are joined together as one family with our siblings in The United Methodist Church.”

The Rev. Jerry Pillay, a South African pastor in the Uniting Presbyterian Church who serves as general secretary of the World Council of Churches, delivered a sermon during morning worship keeping with the ecumenical theme.

Pillay described the world as having “multiple threats,” such as accelerating climate change, COVID-19, injustice, poverty, disease, conflicts and wars.

“We need to listen afresh to what God is calling us to do,” Pillay said. “We need to listen to the voice of God in the midst of all the raging voices, crying for our attention and staking its claim.”

He repeated the phrase “Christian unity matters” several times, and got the audience to chant it as well.

Humility and gentleness can help Christians be unified, along with “the spirit in which we listen to each other,” he said.

“Admittedly, every family has its challenges with disagreements,” Pillay said. “The church is no different. Therefore, at all cost, we must make every effort to keep the unity of the servant through the bonds of peace.”

Patterson is a UM News reporter in Nashville, Tennessee. Contact him at 615-742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org. To read more United Methodist news



Theologians Corner

Sarah Josepha Buell Hale

Editor and Prophetic Witness, 1879

Sarah Josepha Buell was born in New Hampshire in 1788 to Captain Gordon Buell and Martha Buell, both of whom were advocates for equal education for both sexes. In 1813, she married David Hale, a promising lawyer who shared her intellectual interests. In 1822, David died four days before the birth of their fifth child.

Sarah Buell Hale wore black for the rest of her life and, to support her family, she turned to her considerable literary skills. In a year, a volume of poetry appeared, followed by a successful novel, *Northwood: A Tale of New England*, which was among the first American novels by women and one of the first dealing with slavery.

The success generated by *Northwood* enabled her to edit the popular *Ladies' Magazine*, which she hoped would aid in educating women, as she wrote, “not that they may usurp the situation, or encroach upon the prerogatives of man; but that each individual may lend her aid to the intellectual and moral character of those within her sphere.”

In 1830, she published a book of verses for children aimed at the Sunday school market; it included the now-famous “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” originally called “Mary’s Lamb.” Following the examples of her parents, she labored consistently for women’s education and helped found Vassar College. Her publications, including the influential *Godey’s Lady’s Book*, promoted concern for women’s health, property rights, and opportunities for public recognition. Hale’s influence was widespread, particularly for middle class women, in matters of child-rearing, morality, literature, and dress. Although the editor of *Godey’s* instructed her to avoid party politics in the publication, she dedicated much energy to causes which could unite North and South across party lines. She worked diligently to preserve Bunker Hill and George Washington’s plantation home, Mount

Vernon, as American monuments. She is perhaps most famous for the nationalization of the Thanksgiving holiday, toward which she worked many years and which finally received presidential sanction under Abraham Lincoln.

Her work, in both the women's and national spheres, was exemplary for its conciliatory nature, its concern for the unity of the nation, and for her desire to honor the work and influence of women in society.

Together we pray: Gracious God, we bless thy Name for the vision and witness of Sarah Hale, whose advocacy for the ministry of women helped to support the deaconess movement. Make us grateful for thy many blessings, that we may come closer to Christ in our own families; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Diana Farris, Joel Hahn, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Peggy Kauffman, Tony Clapper, Tim, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Don Doty, Luke Karel, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Nancy & Joe Norton, Jack Smith, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Tim Curry, Shawn, Nancy Bradford, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, Jim Carroll, Sherri & Steve Linn, Jack Stoecker, Ben Stoecker, Tom McLoughlin, Dionna Cameron, Raphael, and Jean Mason .

Please add the following to your prayers this Fifth Week of Easter:

St Paul's, Altus

St Luke's, Salto, Uruguay

At Luke's Place : May 2nd - May 8th 2024

**May 2nd Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV**

**May 5th Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
Godly Play, during service after the Gospel**

May 6th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Library

May 7th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library, Book Study

**May 8th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers**

Catechism Class, 6:30pm, Vestry Room

Birthdays and Anniversaries, May 5th – May 11th, 2024

Birthdays



Jennifer McIver (5/6)
Keeli Droege (5/8)

Anniversaries

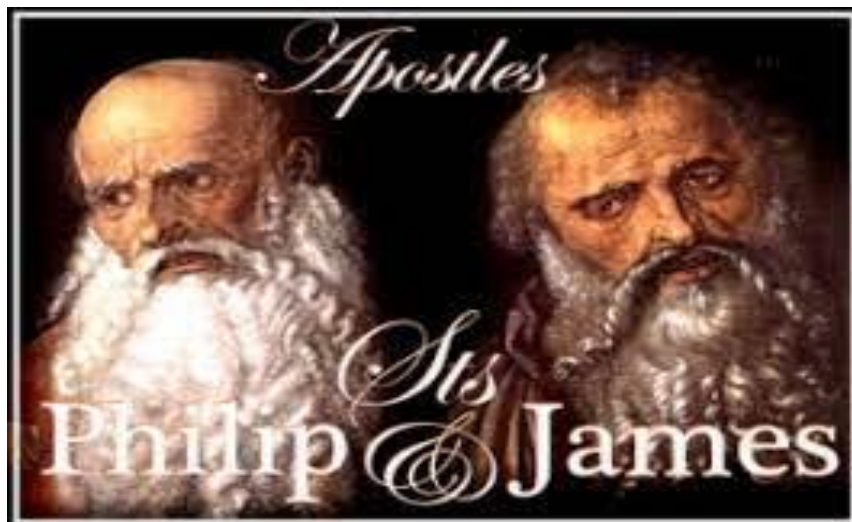


CJ & Shelly Jackson (5/11)

If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

CONCERN

Concern's current needs are: macaroni and cheese, canned pinto and black beans and flour.



Its their Feast Day!

YD took a break from service projects this week and played at Sooner Park!







MOTHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS



Come and check out the Bookstore for Mother's Day gifts!

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Bartlesville Masonic Lodge #284, 610 NE Washington Blvd, is holding a Benefit Breakfast for the Washington Co. School Supply Drive (Pack the Backpacks) on May 4th from 7am-11am. \$9.00 per person, 6-11yrs old \$4.50, and 5yrs and under free. See Steve Clark for more information and tickets.



Faithful Innovations Opportunity to Participate! by Jeff Birk

As you may recall, the Iona School of Formation students (including myself) have been assigned Faithful Innovation activities like Dwelling in the Word and Dwelling in the World, in recent months. These were completed with help from many of you folks. (Thank you!)

The Iona students' assignment for March was to contemplate observations from those activities, in an attempt to figure out: What might God be saying to us? How might He be leading us? -- As mentioned in the [Steeple on March 13th](#), I believe God is urging St. Luke's to connect with our neighbors, somehow.

For April, we students were to design an experiment intended to act on our belief. With input from Fr. Nick, Nancy Woods, and Laura, I arrived at the following experiment:

- Teams of two folks from St. Luke's will each briefly visit a handful of houses in our neighborhood.
- We will introduce ourselves as being from St. Luke's, tell them we are visiting simply as neighbors, present them with a small gift basket and a bit of info about St. Luke's, and ask question or two.
- We will then leave, with a polite "God bless you".
- After the visits, St. Luke's participants will gather to share experiences, impressions, and thoughts. I'll summarize our observations and submit them to Canon Steve Carlsen and Kate Bond, in mid-June.

Several folks have already volunteered to participate in the experiment, and I sincerely appreciate your help. The purpose of this email is to invite others to participate in either or both of the following ways:

- Prepare/pack the gift baskets.
- Briefly visit a handful of houses as described above.

[Click here for a much more detailed explanation of the experiment.](#)

If you would like to prepare/pack gift baskets, and/or briefly visit houses in our neighborhood, please let me know by phone call, text, or email!

Thank you for your prayerful consideration, and your support.

-- Jeff / 918-327-1101 / jpbirk54@gmail.com



ST. CRISPIN'S
Summer Camp

SUMMER 2024

EACH PERSON IS A UNIQUE CREATION OF
GOD, WITH GIFTS TO BE AFFIRMED.



[STCRISPINS.ORG/CAMP](https://stcrispins.org/camp)

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