

First United Methodist Church  
418 North Rock Street  
Minneapolis, KS 67467

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THIS ISSUE CONTAINS...

Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza’s Message

Birthdays and Anniversaries

“Don’t Focus on the Signs of Pentecost?” by Dr. Ray Pritchard

June Church Events

Announcements

Bible School Schedule

June Calendar

Pictures of:

- Quilt to be Raffled Off
- YOUTH SPEAKING SIGN LANGUAGE TO THE HYMN, “BLESS THE LORD”
- Noah’s Ark Preschool Students and Graduaton
- TIES & TIARAS FORMAL DANCE WITH CHILDREN, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND FRIENDS!!!!
- Fun and Games at the Park

Miscellaneous

Rev. Dr. Kennedy F. Mukwindidza,  
Ada/Minneapolis United Methodist Church  
Residence: 503 Elm St. Minneapolis Ks 67467  
Pastor Mukwindidza’s Cell: 620-382-5480  
Church: 418 N. Rock St., Minneapolis, KS  
Church Phone No.: (785) 392-3029

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## PENTECOST



*Ada/Minneapolis United Methodist Community*

*June, 2017*

*Christ’s Ambassadors by Inviting, Sharing, Nurturing and Forgiving*

From the Heart of the Pastor!

Have you ever failed to recognize something valuable? Growing up in rural Zimbabwe, there are certain things I did not take seriously. For example, in high school, I had the opportunity to study more foreign languages like French, Portuguese, and Latin. I chose to do one semester of French. In 1991, I had the opportunity to go to Switzerland for six month and wished I had done French for at least one year

A friend of mine tells a story of a young man who, before starting his married life decided to clean his garage to create space for his sweetheart. He cleaned his garage and donated his “junk” to his neighbors and to Good Will. One of the items he donated was a tattered copy of the Declaration of Independence inherited from his papa that had been hanging in his garage for years. This particular version of the Declaration of Independence was a rare copy made in 1823. A lady named Edith Sparks spotted it at a garage sale and bought the document for \$2.45. Later Edith Sparks auctioned the tattered document for more than half-a-million dollars. Not a bad profit after all!

Have you ever failed to recognize something valuable? All of us without exception, like this tattered copy of the Declaration of Independence, are worth more than we think. We may have been abused or abuse ourselves. We may feel that we are not valuable, or some of us invincible! Some of us may feel that we have let God down one way or another and are no longer redeemable! We feel that God has lost his love for us.

Maybe we have failed to spend time with our kids, grandkids and now they are older and have no time for us. And if you are like me, because of our mistakes, we sometimes wonder if God truly loves us. Maybe you have never served in any church and you feel there is no way you could start now after so many years of inactivity. Due to our lack of spiritual commitment, we wonder how God can truly care about us! Now it seems we are just aimlessly going through the motions. We wonder how God could ever use us!

Regardless of how we feel today, God considers us, I mean all of us incredibly valuable! Remember, we were all created in the image of God and to all those created in the image of God, Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world!”. Biblical scholars have discovered at least eleven functions of salt. All of them useful in their context in first century Palestine. I like the seasoning metaphor! There is so much suffering in the world. It is time we are worth the salt! Disciples add value to the world, so do we! Salt can be a preservative, an antiseptic, a fire catalyst or a fertilizer. Have you ever failed to recognize something valuable?

The Bible speaks of the history of churches that lost their flavor; the seven churches of Asia Minor in John's Revelation is a good example. The consequences of such failure involve the loss of present usefulness and future rewards. Today, there is a danger of bragging about the sizes of our salt shakers (the buildings) rather than truly salting our communities and the world with the good news of Jesus the Christ. The whole point of the salt is to leave the shaker and hit the meat so to speak. I am glad we are still a Christian country; but beware! Have you ever failed to recognize something valuable? God still considers you incredibly valuable!

Grace and peace! Kennedy Mukwindidza.

## JUNE EVENTS AND SCHEDULES

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Corey & Cassie Bohl; Richard & Sharon Foust
- 6 - Kenzil & Tamra Lynn
- 8 - Stanley & Ruth Briggs
- 11 - Daren & Ruthie Sanders
- 21 - Dave & Cheryle Hardesty
- 29 - Al and Joan Miles

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Rhonda Bacon; Colton Fuller
- 2 - Bryan Guipre
- 3 - Kathleen Wedel; Kaleb Ocker
- 4 - Lance Johnson; Paige Hendrixson
- 5 - Shasta Weatherman
- 6 - Shawna Eckart; Mildred Moorman; Treyeson, Brecken, Levi Ragland
- 8 - Paul Muller; Jean Robbins
- 10 - John Tibbits; Brock Constable
- 12 - Allison LaVeltette
- 14 - John Hudson
- 15 - John Griffin
- 17 - Amy Doris; Vanessa Henricksen
- 18 - Pat Baccus
- 21 - Barbara DeWill; Carly Sanders
- 24 - Sam Pridey
- 27 - Niles Gibson
- 28 - Dustin Lott
- 29 - Tammy Hardcastle; Megan Grimes; Rebecca McDuffee
- 30 - Rick Nichols

### ACOLYTES

- 4-(Outdoor church service at Rock City)
- 11 - Braxton & Gracen Grimes
- 18 - Maddy & Dalton Krueger
- 25 - Connor & Jordan Peck

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

- 4 - Joan Miles
- 11 - Shayla Boyer
- 18 - Tammy Krueger
- 25 - Cassie Bohl

### GREETERS

- 4 -Rock City Service
- 11 - Steve and Pat Baccus
- 18 - Blythe Atwell and D Phillipson
- 25 - Blythe Atwell and D Phillipson

### LITURGISTS

- 4 - Dale Henderson
- 11- Dale Henderson
- 18- Nick Krueger
- 25- Shayla Boyer

### NURSERY HELPERS

- 4 - Shayla Boyer & Becky McDuffee (outdoor service at Rock City)
- 11 - Rosalee Tibbits & Becky McDuffee
- 18 - Barb Kibler & Becky McDuffee
- 25 - Angel Constable & Becky McDuffee

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES - ADULT

- Adult Sunday School Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Following are the lessons that will be discussed in
- 4 - Deborah and Barak
  - 11 - Gideon's Call
  - 18 - Jephthah Answers the Call
  - 25 - Samson's Call

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

- June 6 - 7:00 p.m. - Meet in Fellowship Hall for an evening of cutting, pinning, stitching as we make feminine hygiene kits to send to Zimbabwe. Bring scissors, pins, pre-washed dark print flannel material
- June 10 9:00 a.m. - UMW invites everyone to join us in Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship, devotions and breakfast.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Remember....Donations are always welcome for the Salina Rescue Mission for men and the Ashby House for women and children. Both places need clothing and toiletries. The donation boxes are in the hallway south of the Church office.

### DILLONS REWARDS

If you have a Dillon's plus account and an e-mail address: Search Dillon's Community Rewards  
Sign in OR create an account - Click on "Enroll Now" - Enter the 5-digit NPO and search: First United Methodist Church No. is 24771

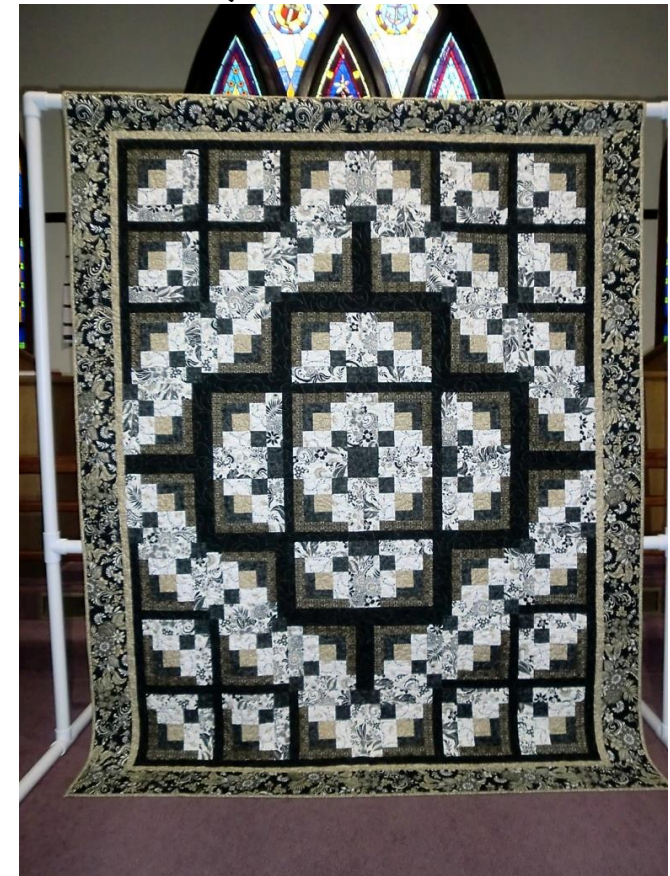
### SAVE-A-LABEL PROGRAM

We are officially registered in Best Choice "Save-A-Label" program. Save only the UPC symbol from Best Choice products. Some products are excluded from the program: aluminum soda cans, aerosol cans and cigarettes. Please leave labels in the box provided in the foyer. All money earned from this program will be used for youth projects. Contact Colette Henderson with questions.

### MEDICINE BOTTLE LIDS

The Missions Committee is collecting medicine bottle lids from the local pharmacy, Auburn Pharmacy. These lids will be turned in to the pharmacy for funds that will be used for local missions.

### QUILT RAFFLE



Mary Ann Tasker has made the above displayed beautiful quilt that has been machine quilted by Kathryne Perney.

Following is pertinent information about the Quilt Raffle:

Quilt size: 70 X 88

The drawing will be October, 2017

Tickets are sold at \$1.00 each  
Tickets will be sold at Minni-K Day Saturday, May 6. Tickets are also available from:

Church members

Church office (785) 392-3029

Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce

(785) 392-3068

Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



## Don't Focus on the Signs of Pentecost?



Dr. Ray Pritchard

Excerpted from "[The P.U.I.H.](#)" from *Keep Believing Ministries* (used by permission).

Three unusual things happened on the day of Pentecost – the rushing wind, the tongues of fire and the actual speaking in tongues. Those three things are rightly seen as "signs." They draw our attention to something else—the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. If you focus on the signs, you miss the whole point.

The coming of the Spirit was the important event. It was the coming of the Holy Spirit that transformed Peter the denier into Peter the preacher. It was the coming of the Holy Spirit that took Thomas the doubter and turned him into Thomas the missionary. It was the coming of God's mighty Holy Spirit which took those cowardly, fearful, doubting, hesitant disciples and made them flaming evangelists for [Jesus](#) Christ who were ready to lay down their lives for him. It was that and nothing else. It was the work of the Holy Spirit coming into ordinary men and women who transformed them from ordinary men and women into evangelists for Jesus Christ.

Just drop down to [Acts 2:16](#). Peter is preaching now, and he says, "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel. 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all

people.'" What follows is the first great sermon of the

Page 10

Christian era. But the first phrase is the key. He's saying, Don't you understand? Joel is talking about this day. This is the day in which the Holy

Spirit would come down and mighty things would happen. Peter is saying, "This is it, folks. This is the Age of the Spirit."

We need this truth in our churches today. In the Old Testament, God sent rain from heaven to bring in the wheat harvest. In the New Testament God sends the Holy Spirit from heaven to bring in the human harvest of men and women into his kingdom. That's the biblical significance of Pentecost



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**418 N. ROCK, MINNEAPOLIS, KS**

**JUNE 19 THROUGH 23, 2017**

**1:00 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M.**

**AGES: PRESCHOOL THROUGH 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL**

**OR CONTACT:**

**MEGAN GRIMES –**

**HOME & CELL: (785) 826-5885**

**CASSIE BOHL –**

**HOME: (785) 392-9000**

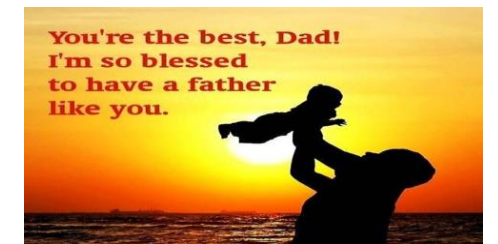
**CELL: (785) 392-0128**

**1<sup>st</sup> UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**OFFICE: (785) 392-3029**

**WEBSITE:**

[WWW.MINNEAPOLISFUMC.COM](http://WWW.MINNEAPOLISFUMC.COM)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Day of Pentecost  10:00 a.m. Rock City Out- door Worship	5	6 7-10 p.m. UMW Project Night in Fellowship Hall	7 8:00 a.m. Cemetery Comm. Mtg. – downstairs UM Annual Conference- --- 6:30 P.M. Bible Study	8     Grand Island, NE---- -----	9     ----- --	10      Adjourn at Noon----- →
11 4-TOLD Quartet at church – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. Dinner – Pot Luck	12	13	14 6:30 P.M. Bible Study	15	16	17 6:30 p.m. Bill Gaither Quartet in Salina
18 Father's Day 	19 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. VBS----- --	20 ----- --	21 ----- --  6:30 p.m. Bible Study	22 ----- -	23 ----- →	24
25 6:30 p.m. Movie Night at church	26   Camp Horizon--- --	27 9:30 a.m. Clergy Mtg. in Wesley Room  ----- --	28 6:30 p.m. Bible Study  ----- --	29 ----- --	30 ----- →	





Page 3

**YOUTH SPEAKING SIGN LANGUAGE  
TO THE HYMN, "BLESS THE LORD"**  
Church Service on May 7, 2017

During church service, our Youth presented the Affirmation of Faith with the Youth Interpretation and also did sign language to the hymn, "Bless the Lord".



Page 4

**NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL**  
May 12, 2017



**Noah's Ark Preschool Students and  
Miss Megan**



**Noah's Ark Preschool Graduates headed  
to Kindergarten!**



**Miss Megan and the Noah's Ark  
Preschool Graduates**

**MONEY RAISING PROJECT TO SEND  
KIDS TO CAMP HORIZON  
TIES & TIARAS FORMAL DANCE  
WITH CHILDREN, PARENTS,  
GRAND- PARENTS, AND FRIENDS!!!!**  
May 20, 2017

**SOME PROUD DADDYS AND THEIR  
"PRECIOUS" DATES ARRIVING AT THE  
TIES AND TIARAS FORMAL DANCE!**







Page 9  
THANKS TO THE ABELL FAMILY FOR  
ORGANIZING THE PICNIC, BOATING  
AND GAMES AT BENNINGTON  
STATE LAKE  
May 28, 2017



Page 8



# MINNEAPOLIS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MAY 10, 2017

The Administrative Council of the First United Methodist Church of Minneapolis met for their regular scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza; Dale Henderson, Gary Kay, Steve Baccus, Tamala Lott, Lance Johnson, Colette Henderson, Deb Nichols, Tammy Krueger, Rosalee Tibbits, Barb Kibler, and Joan Miles

Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

The March minutes were approved by Steve Baccus and seconded by Gary Kay.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Patti Bertrand was absent from the meeting; however, she provided the Treasurer's written information for January through April that the Committee discussed.

Trustee Committee: Trustee Chairman, Lance Johnson reported that an anonymous church member has volunteered to purchase an elevated stool for the women's restroom on the main floor of the church. After discussing this issue, the Committee determined it would be good to also install an elevated stool for the men's restroom. It will be installed in the men's restroom downstairs.

The leak in the ceiling at the base of the east stairs going to the sanctuary still cannot be located. It also appears the bat issue has not been resolved.

Education Committee: Sunday, May 7, 2017, the children did their interpretation of the Affirmation of Faith. They also presented sign language to the hymn entitled "Bless the Lord". Their presentations were very impressive and enjoyed by the congregation. Colette Henderson is to be commended for working with the children.



Outreach/Fellowship Committee: On Sunday, May 14, the Outreach/Fellowship committee will provide a reception for the graduates.

During the church service, the graduates will be recognized, and since it is Mother's Day, the Mother's will also be recognized.

Missions Committee: There are eight or nine youth going to church camp this summer. They are going to have a fund raiser by hosting a "Ties and Tiaras" formal dance for children up through 10 years old with a parent, grandparent, or an adult as their date for the evening. The Committee will also get with the Jewell church to work on a scholarship for children in Zimbabwe.

Worship Committee: The Maundy Thursday Service was a very spirit filled service that was enjoyed by those attending. Hopefully next year the attendance will be greater when the word gets around that this year's service was so inspirational. Easter Sunday service was well attended. June 4 an outside church service will be conducted at Rock City.

Old Business: Dale Henderson organized workers to work at the church concession stand at the fairgrounds during ball season. Dale said they would like to set aside the funds to organize a Youth Group. Justin and Anne Abell are hosting a Youth Group Event by having "Lunch at the Lake" after church on Sunday, May 28. Those interested are to RSVP Justin and Anne Abell at (785) 826-6108.

Tamala Lott plans to organize more movies to be shown in the Fellowship Hall at the church.

New Business: It was discussed that on Sundays it is unknown that the head usher has not made it to church until time for church to start and ushers have not been selected. It was determined that if the head usher isn't at church, it would be up to the Worship Committee to find people to handle the usher duties.

(Cont. on Page

6)

(Administrative Council Committee Meeting Minutes Cont. from page 5)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mukwindidza reported that he officiated at a grave side service for Nancy Farrington-Boone from Salina. Nancy is Terry Farrington's mother. As of the date of the Administrative Committee Meeting, our church family has no patients in the hospital.

Church attendance varies; however, as Pastor reiterated, special days always draws people to church, *i.e.* Easter Sunday, Mother's Day, honoring graduates, etc. The Bible Study led by Chris Coleman, held on Wednesday nights is well attended.

Clergy Community of Practice, which consists of Pastors in the surrounding Methodist churches, meet at the Minneapolis Methodist church once a month in the Wesley Room. The annual Conference will be held on June 7 through 10 in Grand Island, NE. There will be no District Meeting until November. Charge conference met in Concordia. September will be a busy month preparing charge conference books. An issue that has been prevalent of the Methodist denomination is challenging the human sexuality. Can a same sex pastor become a Bishop? We will learn the answer at the General Conference in 2019. Please pray for this very sensitive issue. Also see in the next column the letter from Bishop Saenz pertaining to this issue.

The theme for this year's conference is to "Go forth, proclaim Christ, serve others, and seek justice."

On June 14 the Administrative Council Chairpersons will meet with their committees.

The next Administrative Council meeting Chairpersons will be held on July 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room.

The Administrative Council meeting was adjourned with closing thoughts by Pastor Kennedy Mukwindidza.

Respectfully Submitted by Joan Miles

Page 6

#### BISHOP SAENZ ISSUES STATEMENT ON JUDICIAL COUNCIL RULING

4-28-17

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. issued the following statement following the announced ruling of the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church.

Dear Friends:

Grace and peace to you in the name of the One that has broken down the dividing wall of hostility and created a new humanity by the cross and his blood, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, and Savior (Ephesians 2:11-22) The Judicial Council has ruled in a case that has attracted national attention to a divisive issue within the United Methodist Church. For those of you who have not heard, the Judicial Council ruled that the consecration of Bishop Karen Oliveto, a gay bishop, violates church law. However, Bishop Oliveto "remains in good standings" until an administrative or judicial process of completed.

The decision is met with joyous applause by some and by tears of sadness and feelings of crushing disappointment by others. Indeed, as this ruling shows, our denomination is not of one mind on matters associated with human sexuality.

It is important to understand what this ruling is and what it is not. The decision, in this case, does not change church law; only General Conference can do that.

In efforts, to maintain and strengthen the unity of the United Methodist Church, The 2016 General Conference created The Commission on a Way Forward, a group of 32 individuals from around the world. The commission is tasked with bringing a proposal to a special session of the General

Conference for a way by which those who disagree on issues of human sexuality can coexist in the same church. The Council

of Bishops called for the special session of General Conference in February, 2019 in St. Louis, MO for the sole purpose of hearing and taking action on the report of the commission.

Of course, that means we have nearly two more years to await any new decisions of Church law by General Conference regarding human sexuality.

In the meantime, we will continue striving to increase the number of vital congregations throughout the Great Plains Conference that nurture people to stay in love with God, that bring others to know Christ, that serve others (especially the poor) and that seek social holiness and justice.

Regardless of our positions regarding this particular issue, Christ calls us to love, show respect and tenderness of spirit toward one another.

As followers of Christ, I urge United Methodists of Kansas and Nebraska to pause for prayer for our sisters and brothers who feel like they have lost another endless and bitter battle this day. In this struggle and conflict, a loss by one side does not translate to a victory for the other.

Pray for the Commission on a Way Forward that its members would wisely discern the will of God. Pray for the Council of Bishops as we work to lead the Church through these challenging times in our church's history. And, pray for the witness of the church around the world that regardless of differences we may have that we would be ambassadors for Christ, proclaiming peace with God and peace with our neighbor.

As your bishop, I am committed to helping our conference find a way forward into God's love, God's blessings, God's mercy and God's joy. Our annual conference is vibrant because of our commitment to Jesus Christ, our commitment to each other, and our commitment to our shared mission.

I will pray for you. I ask for your continued prayers for our United Methodist Church and for me.

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

THANK YOU NOTES

The message below the picture is:

"Thank You for the use of your  
concession stand for our fundraiser!  
Thanks again! Markley Grove Park  
Friends"



Methodist Church Board,  
The District C FCCLA would like to  
thank you for the use of your facility.  
In appreciation for your space we would  
like to make a donation to you. We are  
extremely sorry that we did not get this  
to you sooner.  
Again, thank you for your generosity.  
Halle Hartman