



THIS MONTH

May/June 2019



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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from the new minister



Meet Reverend Mary K. Loring – she will become Calvary's pastor July 1, 2019.

I am a born in the womb United Methodist growing up in a parsonage. My father is a retired United Methodist pastor in Indiana and my mother has been his partner in ministry. I graduated from Monroe Central Jr/Sr High School in Parker City, Indiana and we moved the next day. Dad had asked the Bishop to extend his stay at Parker for me.

I attended the University of Evansville where I earned my bachelor's degree in music education. I taught off and on for four years while also working at St Joseph United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I met my husband, Mark Loring, when he came and took my position with the addition of the job of organist. In December 1996, Mark grew out of his associate position at St. Joseph and we headed north to Grand Rapids, Michigan where he became the director of music and arts at Grand Rapids First United Methodist. Within six months, I too had been hired as his part-time associate of music and the arts. Over the next 13 years, Mark and I

worked and made a family together. Our son, Eric, was born in June 1998 and our daughter, Sarah, came along three and a half years later in November 2001. Eric will be a junior at Western Michigan University and Sarah will be a senior at Chelsea High School in the fall. Mark is currently the director of music and the arts at Chelsea First United Methodist Church.

It was somewhere around the birth of Sarah that I began feeling a further call to ministry. It took me awhile to feel confident enough to voice my call to become an elder in the United Methodist church and then an even longer time to fulfill that call. I became a candidate for ministry in December 2007, became a licensed local pastor in 2010, a graduate from Methodist Theological School in Ohio in May 2014, was commissioned a provisional elder in June 2015, and hope to be ordained at annual conference in June 2020.



We're Getting a New Pastor

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I have served Twin Lake United Methodist Church as lead pastor (2010-2013), Clark Retirement Community as Pastoral Care Coordinator (2013-2017), and most recently Jackson Calvary United Methodist Church as lead pastor and Jackson First United Methodist Church as associate (2017-2019). At Twin Lake United Methodist, I was honored to be the pastor who helped the congregation reach out to those living in poverty surrounding the church by leading them to create a community garden. At Clark Retirement Community, I supervised two chaplains, coordinated services for the two campuses, created a care team to supplement visitation, and created a Spiritual Life Committee to help negotiate the transition from the current on-sight chaplains' model to First United Methodist Church's Grand Rapids off-sight model. In my current position, I had led Jackson Calvary to recognize their present reality and advised, supported, and encouraged them as they pursue a partnership with Jackson Habitat for Humanity. In my position as associate at Jackson First United Methodist, I initiated a spiritual growth plan and had growth in the area of small groups. In both positions, I worked tirelessly to reach out to other United Methodist Churches and other non-profit organizations creating a combined VBS, combined small groups, and combined base camp classes and housing the Student Advocacy Center within the Jackson Calvary building.

I am a deeply devoted and passionate follower of Christ and understand my mission to help others to deepen their own faith and to become leaders for Christ in the transformation of the world. I look forward to listening to Ann Arbor Calvary's heart and seeing where God will take us. This truly is the Great Adventure!

goodbye to pastor andy

Look out for an upcoming opportunity to say goodbye to Pastor Andy Lee and his family in June. We want to say **THANKS** and **WE'LL MISS YOU ANDY, GRACE AND NOEL!!**



Say Goodbye to
Our Pastor and Family

may is habitat month!

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. This is Calvary's 20th year participating in the Habitat Good News House, now with 17 other congregations. We are proud to be able to say that we at Calvary have helped 33 families achieve their dream of home ownership—and we are especially proud to say that over 65 children have lived in Good News homes.

This year we will work on one larger, two-story home at 2716 Woodruff Lane in Ypsilanti. We need 5 people to sign up for our **workday on Saturday, July 27**. The workday starts at 8:30 am and ends about 3:30 pm or you can just do the morning. We also need folks to work with our partner churches to provide lunch. Please sign up in the narthex.



We have committed to raise \$1,000 to support the construction costs of the house. We use our spaghetti dinners to raise funds, we have the clatter collection the Sundays in May starting today and we accept a special collection to raise the remainder of the funds. You can write a check to Calvary with Habitat in the note section at **Habitat Sunday on May 5** or any time in May.

A family for our house has not yet been chosen, but we hope that will happen soon and that we will be able to work at the houses along side of them and other prospective homeowners doing their 125 hours of construction sweat equity!

More information about the Good News House group, the families etc. is available at <http://goodnewshouse.org/>

I look forward to working on the Good News Houses every year partly because I can put my love into action! We are Jesus' hands and feet and I know my hands love to work with Habitat for Humanity!

we're getting a new pastor! what can I do?

One Sunday during worship, someone comes forward with an unexpected announcement. A numbness overcomes you as you hear the words, your pastor is leaving. In several weeks, he will move to a new church. There is a promise to soon learn about a new pastor. United Methodist churches repeat this scene whenever elders are appointed to new churches.

Whether you dread losing your beloved pastor or welcome a change in leadership, it feels like everything in your church is about to change. While that is not completely true, your congregation will be going through a significant time of pastoral transition.

The Rev. Robert Kaylor, pastor of Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church in Monument, Colorado and author of *Your Best Move: Effective Leadership Transitions for the Local Church*, points out that there are three phases of transition: the ending or leaving, the neutral zone, and the new beginning. Each member can participate in every stage.

The ending: Saying goodbye

“A lot of times we start running toward the new beginning without doing the leaving well, and saying goodbye well,” Kaylor notices. Saying goodbye to your current pastor may be emotionally challenging, but it is a significant first step in the transition process.

Pray. The first thing you can do is to pray for your current pastor, the new pastor, and your congregation. Surrender your anxiety and trust God to work through the process.

Lend a hand. Soon after the District Superintendent announces that your pastor is leaving, look for ways to be helpful. Your pastor and his/her family will need boxes for the move and might like help packing, taking apart bed frames, or loading the U-Haul. Ask where you might be helpful.

Give an appropriate gift. It may be as simple as a gift card that will help with moving and travel expenses or a picture of a time you shared together.

Attend the farewell. Take time to celebrate this season of pastoral leadership as it ends. Eat, laugh, cry, celebrate, and tell stories with your congregation. Don't miss out on this important time.

Say a personal goodbye. “For me, as a pastor,” Kaylor shares, “one of the things I really have appreciated was when people took the time to sit down and write a note, expressing their appreciation for that time in ministry together.” He continues, “I keep those with me as I move to the new place... There's no greater gift than that.” “As a parishioner,” Kaylor teaches, “I want to bless the pastor on his or her way out.” When we say goodbye well, “it not only helps the pastor, it helps me emotionally and spiritually make that transition; to say this has ended and now I'm looking forward to a new pastoral leader.”

The neutral zone

Help get ready. As you await the arrival of your new pastor, your church may hold a painting party at the parsonage. Jump in. Participating in the preparations is an investment in the successful ministry of your new pastor.

Learn about the incoming pastor. In addition to the fun stuff, look for “the pastor's heart,” Kaylor advises. “What is the pastor really passionate about? What are the things I might have questions about in terms of the pastor's story?” “It's not just looking at the resume. It is finding what it is that makes this person tick. How has God uniquely gifted them? Looking for those points of connection,” Kaylor explains.

A new beginning: Saying hello

After participating in the ending phase and neutral zone, you are now ready to welcome your new pastoral leader.

Go to church that first Sunday. Invest in the continued success of your congregation by supporting your new pastor from the very start.

Give a good gift. Welcome your pastor not only to your congregation but also to your town. A gift card to your favorite business, restaurant,

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or local home improvement store will be welcome, and helps the pastor and family get to know your community.

Give space. Pastors and their families have a lot to do when they first arrive—unpacking boxes, getting the kids signed up for school, finding a new doctor, and so much more. This might not be the best time to drop by the office or parsonage unannounced.

Take initiative. Attend a meet-and-greet, join the pastor's Bible study, or invite her/him to coffee. "Make the effort to get to know the pastor," Kaylor recommends, "because he or she is not going to have time to invest in every single parishioner—particularly in a large church—in the way that they would like to. So take the initiative to go be with the pastor... That's really, really critical."

Resist quick judgements. Stressed, tired, nervous, uncertain, worried—your new pastor is feeling all of this and more. Look "beyond first impressions because sometimes that first impression can be difficult," Kaylor cautions. "Extending grace...is absolutely critical, and saying we're going to give this time and we're going to really invest in getting to know this pastor and so learn how we can be in ministry together."

Expect the best. Things are changing. This is a new season in ministry. "Ask yourself as a congregation member," Kaylor suggests, "What gifts do I have that I can invest in the success of this new season of ministry?"

That is always the goal. We strive for the success of our ministry together as pastor and congregation, so that, as our ritual for welcoming new members concludes, "in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

Joe Iovino, UMC.org

taking a wider-angle view

Exerpts from a Pastoral Letter from Bishop David Bard
Dear Friends in Christ in The United Methodist Church in Michigan,

Following General Conference 2019, the petitions associated with the Traditional Plan

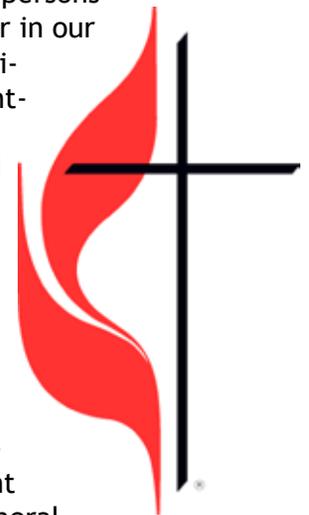
which were approved by that body, along with a petition regarding local church disaffiliation from an Annual Conference which was also approved, were sent to the Judicial Council for review.

These rulings reinforce The United Methodist Church's current stance on human sexuality and the limitations for LGBTQ persons to be married by our pastors or in our churches or to be eligible for licensing, ordination and appointment. Many LGBTQ persons, their families and friends, find this stance hurtful and harmful. In addition, the legislation passed and now found constitutional adds specifications to the complaint process that some view as deeply punitive. Some among us, then, had the feelings of disappointment, hurt and discouragement felt immediately following General Conference reawakened. Others among us believe that the church in these decisions is being faithful to the long-standing witness of the Bible and the church. Such diverse responses reveal starkly the depth of our divisions.

What might the future look like?

It may be helpful for each of us to step back for a moment and seek a wider-angle view. The Judicial Council decision has not markedly changed the trajectory of differing groups within The United Methodist Church. Traditionalists who are in accord with the Wesleyan Covenant Association and other groups have pledged to continue to work to strengthen the Traditional Plan as they prepare for the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis. At the same time, a number of more Centrist and Progressive persons and groups have pledged to resist the Traditional Plan in different ways and to work to change it.

What has become clear to many, including me, is that more space is needed between persons within The United Methodist Church. We cannot simply keep moving into the future as we are now. There are a number of ways we might describe what "more space" looks like: amicable separation, a new connectionalism,



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the refrigerator page

(you know, to hang on the frig door, so you don't miss anything)
Check your bulletin for details and dates and times that may change.

HABITAT SUNDAY — Sunday, May 5

Learn all about and then help fund the Good News House project of Habitat for Humanity.

HABITAT CLATTER COLLECTION — Sunday, May 5

First Sunday for Clatter Collection benefiting the Good News House continues in all the Sundays in May. Bring your change to make a noisy contribution.

DONATION COLLECTION — May 12 (and every 2nd Sunday)

MOTHER'S DAY — Sunday, May 12

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY — Saturday, May 18, 9-11 am

Join Calvary friends to clean and tidy inside and out. Be There or Be Square!

MEMORIAL DAY — Monday, May 27

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD — Tuesday, June 6, 5:30 pm

DONATION COLLECTION — June 9 (and every 2nd Sunday)

PASTOR ANDY'S LAST SUNDAY — June 30

PASTOR LORING'S FIRST SUNDAY — July 7

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG —

Thursday, July 11, 5:30 pm

HABITAT VOLUNTEER WORK DAY — Saturday, July 27

Sign up in the narthex to help out at the Good News Habitat for Humanity house! Volunteers needed for working at the house or to bring lunch items.

Weekly Activities:

CAMPASSIONATE YOGA — Tuesdays, 5:15 pm

Next series of classes March 5-April 23 (8 Weeks) \$15 Drop-in Fee



HABITAT
Project



For surely
I KNOW THE
plans
I have for
YOU,
says *the*
Lord...
TO GIVE YOU A
future
WITH
Hope.
Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV

Upcoming:

- We should be receiving the local church assessment recommendation from the district superintendent in early June.
- Farewell for Pastor Andy and family to be planned.
- Welcome for Pastor Loring and family to be planned.

new Methodisms, a new form of unity, mutual blessing and sending. If we would like to see General Conference 2020 look different from General Conference 2019 when it comes to considering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, then we would do well to seek some kind of negotiated plan to create more space prior to that General Conference which could then be ratified by that body. There are a number of significant conversations taking place that could contribute to such a negotiated plan, including the conversation taking place at Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, May 20-22 which includes clergy and lay persons from across the United States.

The question before us is how we will live together in this uncertain and in-between time. We can choose to live into the future by seeing how we can bless each other now, while we are together, even as we anticipate some parting of the ways, some greater space between us. Regardless of my own viewpoint on LGBTQ inclusion, which has been clear in my support of more space for LGBTQ persons in the life and ministry of the church as represented by the defeated One Church Plan, I remain and am committed to being the bishop for all United Methodists in Michigan. When the time comes that we might have to extend the hand of Christian fellowship to each other in a wave

goodbye, we will cross that bridge then.

Moving into the future along different roads is not a first for the communities of people who follow Jesus. The ministry to which we are called in our churches, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world continues. Hungry people need food, those mired in poverty need help, addicted people need freedom, frayed relationships need mending, broken lives need healing, lost lives need saving, injustices need to be righted. This work of God in Jesus Christ still calls to each of us and to our churches, even in the midst of our tensions, even in the midst of our anxieties, even in the midst of our confusion, even in the midst of broken hearts and disappointments. Ministry needs to be done and, thanks be to God, is being done.

We are in a challenging and difficult time as The United Methodist Church. Soon we may go other ways. Might we work to bless each other even as we work out this new thing that needs to happen?

My prayer for us remains that God would enlarge our hearts, enliven our minds, expand our imaginations, make gentle and generous our spirits, and renew our commitment to the mission of the church.

Grace and Peace,
David Alan Bard



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**Bring
a
Friend**

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

Rev. Andy Lee, Pastor
1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15