



Thursday, May 2, 2024

**1161 and 1162 of the Global Social Principles**

Removes the harmful "incompatible with Christian teaching" and harmful language about marriage. It is part of the full revision of the old Social Principles.

Here are some other topics addressed in the revision:

The Family, Single People, Divorce, Bullying and Other Forms of Violence, Colonialism, Neocolonialism, and Their Consequences, Death with Dignity, Gender Equality and Diversity, Reproductive Health and Abortion, Racism, Ethnocentrism, and Tribalism, Sexual Harassment, Abuse, and Assault

**PASSED!**

**Hebron United Methodist Church**  
9811 Main Street, P.O. Box 323, Hebron, IL 60034

# Catch the Spirit!

[www.hebronmethodist.org](http://www.hebronmethodist.org) MAY 2024

## The Pastor Ponders... ...What does the rainbow mean?

*[God] said, "I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9: 13 (NRSV)*

Most of us have grown up knowing the story about the time when God saw all the chaos and the violence that humans were wreaking upon God's creation, and so God chose Noah and his family to build an ark and fill it with at least one pair of all the living creatures on the earth. Then God sent a great flood to destroy everything else. When the flood receded God promised never to destroy the earth again. A beautiful rainbow appeared in the sky as a reminder of God's promise. God did not promise that we would never experience storms again, but did promise to be with us during them. Additionally, a rainbow appeared in Ezekiel's vision of God. And a rainbow surrounded the throne of the Lord in Revelation. In the Bible, a rainbow is a sign of God's promise. A rainbow is a symbol of hope, of second chances. A rainbow represents God's protection. A rainbow connects us with Christ.

In the secular world, science has discovered that it takes all the colors of light (spectrum/rainbow) combined to make white light. We use a rainbow to describe variety and diversity. Rainbows are pretty.

*(continued on page 2)*



*Mark your Calendars*

**Sunday, May 12th**  
9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class/Test  
Mother's Day  
Last day of Church Works/Sunday School

**Sunday, May 19th**  
Pentecost  
Confirmation Day!  
10:30 a.m.  
Join us as we celebrate our confirmands after worship at a reception in Fellowship Hall!  
*Chaylee, Klemesrud, Emery Elswick, Evangeline Johnson, Jonathan Claussen, & Riley Elverman*

**Sunday, May 26th**  
Peace with Justice Sunday

**Monday, June 3-7**  
Vacation Bible School!  
FREE! Sign up on our website

**Sunday, June 9**  
Pride Sunday 10:30 a.m.

## **The Pastor Ponders (continued)**

Rainbows are magical. And the LGBTQ+ community has used the rainbow as a symbol of pride, reflecting and celebrating the diversity that is part of human sexuality and experience.

It was a joy last Sunday to worship knowing that, for the first time in over 50 years, our denomination recognizes that our LGBTQ+ siblings are just as beloved as the rest of us are in our church. They may be ordained, their marriages are recognized “in the eyes of God,” and their demonstrations of who they are and how they love are no longer “incompatible with scripture.” God knew from the very beginning that “they were fearfully and wonderfully made,” but it is taking the rest of us a long time to catch up.

Then I went home and read the paper. There was an article about a state senator who lived in Littleton, NH who set off a “conflagration” in her town over comments she made on a mural that had been recently painted on a building in her town. The mural depicting a blooming iris, dandelions, and birch trees had been planned and funded by North Country Pride, founded to support LGBTQ+ persons in the rural area. Until that time, the town was aware of its diversity on a variety of issues, politics and religion included, but agreed to disagree. And, while no one had said anything pro or con about the mural, the senator decided that the pictures were probably subversive and began to “research” its images and encouraged others to do the same on that and other pieces of public art.

Of course, the senator found what she was looking for and began to publicly proclaim that “the iris was a dangerous symbol because Iris was the Greek goddess of the rainbow; that children needed protection from the demonic forces that threatened to lead them astray.” I did a little research myself and discovered that Iris brought messages from God to the people by sliding down a rainbow, and also that *iris* is the Greek word for *rainbow*. I also discovered that dandelions symbolize hope, wisdom, trust, valor, faith, and long-suffering and that birches are signs of rebirth, new beginnings, growth, purification, and renewal. Folks often plant birch trees because they renew and purify the soil. Perhaps I am naïve, but the mural sounds hopeful and uplifting to me.

As a result, Littleton decided to respond to the senator by starting a campaign to emphasize unity and a commitment to represent everyone in their community. They voted her off the town’s board, and began taking steps to see that greater opportunity and a celebration of diversity would be a part of the town’s DNA. The campaign is working.

Despite the actions of General Conference, there are still hearts and minds and spirits that need to be challenged and changed. There are still apologies that need to be spoken and folks that need to be healed. Our work is not over. However, it’s a joy to be able to continue it with all of you.



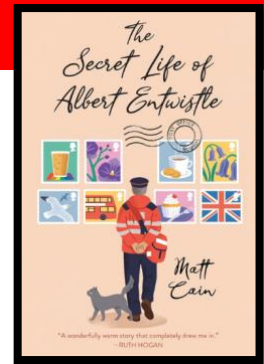
**Blessings**, Pastor Char



## G.R.A.C.E.

Thank you to everyone who attended our April 28th Pronoun Workshop! This workshop introduced us to the They/Them pronoun and how this pronoun is used. We learned how commonly we use the singular form of "they" already in our every day life. We played the "No-No or Go-Go" game to review the dos and don'ts of common courtesy with newcomers to our church, especially if they are transgender. We also identified our own pronouns and how we would introduce ourselves using them. Many questions and a lot of great discussion occurred in this safe space, so much so that we ended up running out of time to discuss our book for Book Club! This gives everyone who hasn't read *The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle* by Matt Cain one more chance to read and participate in our Book Club! The Hebron librarian, Josh Stevens, donated Albert Entwistle pins to anyone who loved this book! We'll announce the date for this book discussion soon.

Mark your calendars for Pride Sunday on June 9th. We have a lot to celebrate after the news coming out of General Conference! Contact one of the G.R.A.C.E. team members to join us for our Pride Sunday planning meeting or email churchoffice@hebronymethodist.org



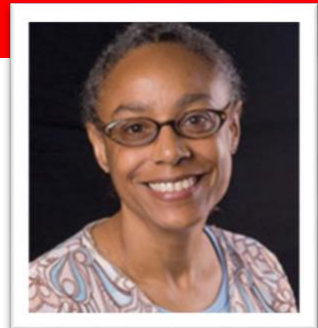
## N.O.W. - Nurture, Outreach, Witness

Thank you to everyone who supported the Native American Ministries mission on April 14th. On May 12th HUMC will be matching funds (up to \$200) for our Mission Links Mission: Missionary Helen Robert-Evans.

[Helen Roberts-Evans](#) is a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving as director of the Department of General Education and Ministry of the United Church in Liberia. She was commissioned in October 2009, having initially gone to Liberia as a mission volunteer in July 2008. Helen was born in Liberia and her return as a missionary was a lifelong dream.

May 26th is Peace with Justice Sunday. Donations for this special Sunday support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Half of the funds collected on this Special Sunday remain in the Annual Conference to strengthen social justice ministries within the local conference. The other half of the donations collected fund national and international peacemaking ministries and grants. To learn more about this Special Sunday, go to our website or [click here](#).

On May 12th we will be celebrating Mother's Day at HUMC by honoring all the women attending that day with a special gift! We are so grateful for all the women in our church who have nurtured and loved the people in this place. Join us on May 12th at 10:30 a.m. for this special worship service!



## HUMC Youth & Kids



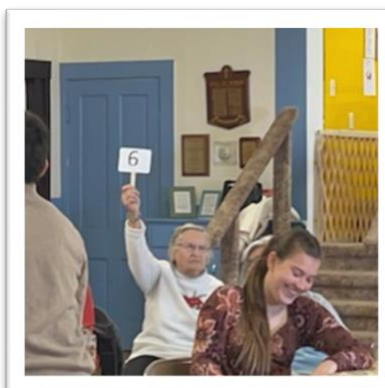
Our 2023-2024 Sunday School & Church Works year is coming to a close on Sunday, May 12th. In Sunday School, we spent the last few weeks learning about the Resurrection of Jesus, his appearance to the disciples, and the Great Commission. We'll be putting the kids' knowledge to the test on May 12th during the Children's Chat where we will challenge the congregation to a game of Jeopardy! Our Church Works class did an excellent job all year learning about the various jobs around the church and they attended and participated in the April church council meeting. We also did some brainstorming about what kinds of activities we'd like to pursue in the fall. Finally, our Confirmation class is finishing up their Confirmation binders, memorizing their Psalms, and studying for their final test! **We are looking forward to Confirmation Day on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th at 10:30 a.m.** Congratulations to all our hard-working confirmands and students for making it through this fun-filled year of growth and learning!



Vacation Bible School Registration is OPEN! [Click here](#) to register as a participant (Pre-K through incoming 5th graders) or as a volunteer (incoming 6th graders and older). VBS will be at St. John's Lutheran Church from June 3 - 7 and registration is FREE due to the generosity of our community's donations. For those who wish to donate to keep this program free, [click here](#). Thank you!



The All God's Creatures Craft Auction was an outstanding success! The auction, led by the HUMC Youth & Kids auctioned off 13 different handmade items created by the kids. Along with a generous donation from the Dick Border memorial fund, the HUMC kids raised just over \$700.00 for the Hebron Animal Clinic Compassion Fund! This was a fun, and at times, competitive event, and we would like to thank everyone who participated and gave so generously to this mission. A big thank you to the kids for sharing their talents, and to Jeff, Debbie and the Border family for their support of the HUMC Youth & Kids 2023-24 Mission Program!





## Cultivating Health Ministries



We received wonderful news from Cultivating Health Ministries! The data shows that there has been a great deal of healing happening in Hebron over the past 3 years as our A1C levels have improved! We are ready to move forward now on a new path to healthier living. We will continue our Productive Aging Programming this summer with exercises, brunch prepared by the HUMC Youth/Kids, and a 4-part program called *Just*

*Eating*. This program will guide us to a better understanding of our Christian Heritage and our food while exploring the health of our bodies, the access others have to food, the health of the earth, which our food choices influence, and the ways we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships. We are coordinating exact dates for this program (Tuesdays end of June/Early July) and will announce exact dates for this program soon!



## NEWS FROM GENERAL CONFERENCE

From April 23rd - May 3rd, the United Methodist Church gathered in Charlotte, NC, for the postponed 2020 General Conference. While the General Conference made many important decisions, we celebrate some specific changes that relate to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people into the life of the Church.

This General Conference voted overwhelmingly in support of policy changes that neutralized anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination. Now, the language that LGBTQ+ people are "incompatible with Christian teaching" is gone - as is the 40-year ban on "self-avowed and practicing homosexual" clergy and candidates. In addition, performing a same-sex wedding is no longer a chargeable offense. The denominational funding ban on supporting LGBTQ+ ministries and affirming LGBTQ+ education was also lifted.

This news was announced in our church on May 5th with great celebration, clanging of symbols and banging of drums! HUMC has thought of itself as a welcoming church for many years, but 6 years ago we began intentional dialogue about how we felt as a church and how we would like to move forward. We engaged in listening sessions, conversations and educational gatherings to better understand the harm our church has caused our LGBTQ+ community, family and friends, and how to become better allies as individuals and as a church. This journey has been one we have taken together, and together we celebrated this progress in pursuit of justice and inclusion!

We are deeply grateful to every individual, group and organization that has worked so hard to see this day come! May we as a church continue to work as a beacon of light in our community and may our connection with each other grow as we seek to be God's inclusive love.

Happy 50th  
Anniversary  
to  
Steve &  
Chela  
Johnson!



Thank you  
Lucas Burgar  
for installing  
the entryway  
trim!



## In God We Trust

During these times it seems as if we are finding it more and more difficult to trust, to trust our leaders, to trust each other, and even to trust ourselves. This lack of trust causes us at times to become more fearful of what is going to happen to us in the future. The ongoing conflicts around the world let alone the crazy things that are happening closer to home, on the political horizon, the borders, even within our schools. There is so much that seems to be spinning out of control.

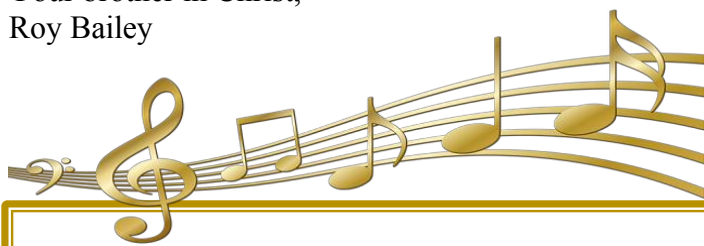
As Christians, we often look to scripture in times of fear. Psalm 56: 3-4 reminds us *"even when I am afraid, I keep on trusting you. I praise your promises! I trust you and am not afraid. No one can harm me."* Or perhaps we can look to Proverbs 3: 5-6 which says *"With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgement. Always let him lead you, and he will clear the road for you to follow."*

I do my utmost to trust in God and not be afraid. Sometimes it is difficult yet I turn to prayer to ask plus seek God's holy words for the needed strength to refill my heart, to strengthen my soul and to keep my pathway straight. I pray that each of you will find some peace in these words of scripture as well and remember that God is with us always. That God will help us in times when trust in the world seems to be lacking.

I also hope that you reach out to one another. Reach out to those you trust in your family, your church, your neighborhood and your community. Strengthen your relationships for it is when we trust each other and work with each other that the fear can be dissipated and clarity of the challenges in front of us can be understood and hopefully resolved.

Let's expand our relationships and build trust in what we can do together as God's people. I look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday.

Your brother in Christ,  
Roy Bailey



We enjoyed a special program by the Tufo School of Music here at HUMC on May 5th. Our church was filled with beautiful piano and viola music as well as a vocal ensemble! A big thank you to Dr. Tufo and all the students for sharing their musical talents!



We will be updating our Church Directory in May/June! We'll be reaching out to you soon for updated photos and contact information.

*Dear Lord, please hear our prayer for the following...*



Missy  
Sharon Smith recovering at home  
Dan Staten's son, Nick  
Alberta Austin and her son, Donny, experiencing health problems  
Erin Englehardt's co-worker, Pat Kerney, diagnosed with esophageal cancer  
James Hampton, his mother, Marjorie, his aunts, Barbara Jean and Deborah, both diagnosed with cancer, and his brother-in-law, James, facing possible surgery  
Karen Vipond; and her nephew, Mark, recovering from cancer  
Roy Bailey, and his brother, Earl, diagnosed with gout in both hands  
Harold & Juanita Bailey; Juanita's friend, Betty Recob's husband, Jim, recovering from cancer surgery  
Dave Dickey  
Joan O'Halleran  
Katelyn Winter Sampson  
Pastor Char & Glenn's daughter-in-law, Julie, and her family, as they deal with the effects of MS  
Nora Winn at Fair Oaks Nursing Facility \*\*\*Anyone wishing to send a card see below  
Luke Moore  
Our former Pastor Jim & Char and their daughter, MaryBeth  
Our former Pastor Paul & Lynn  
Dorothy Peterson  
Betty Garrett

We pray for all who have suffered as the result of natural disasters.

We pray for protection and safety for all those who defend and protect us

We pray for peace between Ukraine and Russia; and Israel during this trying time of war. Surround those affected by these and all conflicts with your precious love.

We pray for the victims and families of all who have been affected by and from violence.

We pray for all children who have been victims of abuse

We pray for the return of goodwill and unity among all people.

We pray for all those affected by illness; and we pray for the safety of all medical staff and personnel during the care of all patients.

We pray for our church, the Village of Hebron, and all leaders - local, state and national; our church leaders in Hebron, our Prairie Central District Sup't., our Bishop and the entire UMC. We pray for the names in our hearts that they will be kept safe from harm. God bless us all. Amen

*If you wish to have someone added to our Prayer List please contact Shirlee on our Nurture Team at (815) 648-5009 or at [offcqueen@aol.com](mailto:offcqueen@aol.com).*

*During a mental health crisis, anyone can call the 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans crisis line is 800-273-7255.*

\*\*\*Nora Winn  
c/o Fair Oak Health Care Ctr.  
471 W. Terra Cotta Ave.  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M



## Opportunities to Give

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously and worked so hard to support our missions in April! We received \$127.00 for Native American Ministries, \$708.75 for the Hebron Animal Clinic Compassion Fund through the HUMC Youth/Kids Craft Auction! Thank you! Here are the upcoming ways you can give this month:

- 1) Mission Links (matched by HUMC up to \$200) Missionary Helen Roberts-Evans - May 12
- 2) Special Sunday - Peace with Justice - May 26
- 3) Local Giving - Vacation Bible School
- 4) Local Giving - Hebron Community Food Pantry

**[Click here](#) to give to any of these missions through HUMC.**



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