

# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SITKA



## SUNDAY AND BEYOND

### Our Mission Statement:

*To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, worship God passionately, foster spiritual growth, and provide Christian support and service.*

### This Week

September 9 – September 16, 2018

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Rally Sunday Blessing of the Backpacks
	12:30pm	Manna Mission
Tuesday	5:00pm	Watchtower Prayer
Wednesday	2:00 pm	UMC Quilters
Thursday	12:00pm	Books & Conversation at St. Peter's-by-the-Sea
Sunday	10:00 am	Worship Service

*We are in need of choir members for our Music Ministry  
We practice Wednesdays at 6pm*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Nathan White
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Cooper Lewin
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Don Neros
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ysabella Calhoun



*A gentle reminder: Please have your children stay with you during worship. There are activity bags available for them.  
Thank You*



### Ministers This Sunday

Worship Assistant: Kathy Eggen  
Fellowship Host: Hirai Family  
Flowers: Guada and Danny Nilo

### Special Upcoming Dates

**Books and Conversations Series** begins Thursdays, 12:00-1:00pm at St. Peter's-by-the-Sea  
Reading : On the Brink of Everything:  
Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old  
by Parker J. Palmer

**Rally Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks**  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, Sunday School starts with a bang with games and fellowship!

**BeTween Ministries** will start to meet on September 16<sup>th</sup>. This is for our tweens who are 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders! Pastor Jojo and Mary Boose will co-facilitate! BeTween Sunday Fellowship at the White's will follow. Date: September 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. Volunteers are welcome!

*It is that time of the year when summer comes to a close but we also start our Sunday School! Rally Sunday will be a day of fun , games and singing! Sunday School will be led by our passionate volunteer teachers! Marci Hirai, Becky Charlton, Janice Michael, and Maggie White. We are thankful for the members of the Education Committee Colleen Carroll, Mary Boose and Sharie Manuel for their valuable support in planning this event for our kids.*

- Roger Hames, Jr.
- Bonnie and Max Cottrell's brother-in-law John
- Jane Seesz's friend Chris
- Dwight and Marilyn Payton
- Dan Jones as he begins his next phase of treatment with stem cell harvesting this week
- Tom and Joanne Ferris as they seek treatment options
- Chris and Rollo Pool's nephew, Jason Minor, awaiting a kidney transplant
- Beth Haggerty having new cancer treatment
- Kelly Gebler's father who has cancer
- Jim Ball with health issues
- Jim Kelly battling cancer
- Ada Honda, for full recovery
- Mimi Goodwin recovering from surgery
- Lanis Beach with a postoperative infection
- family and friends of Marci Meacham and Chris Martinsen who passed away
- Vicki Keele has respite at home while she awaits the operation on her knee\*
- Louise Brady continues to recover at home from hip injury
- Sierra (strength for work)
- Scoot Ledge
- Marci's classmate who was in a recent accident
- and for all those traveling (Jane Seesz, Nancy Young, Iris, the Higleys
- Leadership for Blessings In A Backpack
- Chuck Bovee, who went into skilled nursing care
- Becky's friend Linda who is south with her dear mother who is nearing the end of life
- Tom and Joanne Ferris as they learned the Tom's T-Cell treatment did not take
- Marcia's niece Jessica who was diagnosed with congestive heart failure
- Jessica and Gwen Roth
- Carol and Bob Potrzuski as they transition to their new life in Marquette



*Joys and Concerns*

*\*Meal Train for Vicki Keele. Please take note of the email Marci Hirai sent out to support Vicki who is now at home. She has a short respite until her knee replacement operation. A visit is very welcome and meals, too! The site is [www.takethemameal.com](http://www.takethemameal.com). Search: Keele / Password: church*

### The beginnings of Sunday school

Englishman Robert Raikes, born in 1735, was a Christian layman who was pained to see unschooled children working six days a week in factories or mines. On Sundays, children roamed the streets, often getting into trouble. Most didn't know how to read or write and knew nothing about Christ or the church.

As Raikes labored to reform England's prison system, he noticed that many children were imprisoned, stirring him to action on their behalf. He arranged for halls and homes to be used for educational purposes on Sundays, the one day children didn't have to work. He found volunteers to teach reading, writing and math, as well as the Bible and Christian beliefs.

The first Sunday school class was held in July 1780. Amazingly, by 1788 some 250,000 children were attending such schools. This occurred despite some people's opposition to the education of lower-class children.

Countless boys and girls have attended Sunday school classes since then, thanks to Raikes, who brought Christ's light and love to children around the world.



### **Continued Discussion Leading Up to General Conference 2019**

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In Pursuant to the General Conference in 2019 and our church's direction, the third model that needs to be considered is the Traditionalist Model that affirms the current Book of Discipline (the United Methodist's policy book) statement that the practice of homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching." Boards of Ordained Ministry would still be prohibited from recommending LGBTQ candidates for ordination. Officiating same-sex marriages would still be a chargeable offense, and being a self-avowed and practicing gay clergy would continue to be a chargeable offense.

Our Council of Bishops is endorsing the One Church Plan that allows more freedom at the conference and local church levels. From this proposal, decisions about whether to ordain LGBTQ clergy or to officiate at same-gender unions would be made closer to the congregational level.

The plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in the Book Discipline. The plan also adds assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscience cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy that they don't have to do so. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe — could maintain current restrictions. The plan "encourages a generous unity by giving United Methodists the ability to address different missional contexts in ways that reflect their theological convictions." (UM Press Release).

### **UMC Sitka**

In the 1980s UMC Sitka decided to be a Reconciling Church within the denomination. While the denomination as a whole has not been entirely open to the LGBTQIA community, UMC Sitka has historically been supportive of all people. As understanding of both gender identity and orientation grows, we continue to be supportive and welcoming to all. We are proud to be one of 923 reconciling communities within the denomination.

There are many who continue to work tirelessly for full inclusion within the denomination. Let us continue to pray for the UMC as it seeks to move forward at the Special General Conference in February 2019.

