

MESSANGER OCTOBER 29, 2021

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to respond to concerns that were brought to my attention following my presentation on October 3rd regarding the impending separation in our denomination over issues of marriage and human sexuality. This separation is expected to be approved by the 2022 General Conference which is scheduled to meet from August 29 through September 6, 2022. The two primary concerns I want to address are: 1) the request for specific information on the *Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation* that will define the terms of the separation; and 2) the perception that I will determine Faith Harbor's denominational affiliation.

Regarding the first concern, I am scheduling two *Protocol* information sessions to be held following our three-month period of prayer. The first session is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4th at 6 PM and the second for Sunday, January 9th at 10:30 AM. Although the content of the sessions will be identical, I am offering them at different times in hopes of accommodating the varied schedules of those who wish to attend. During each session I plan to respond to questions that are submitted to me in writing by January 3rd. Additionally, I am including below a brief synopsis of the *Protocol*. If you have a question that you would like for me to address prior to the information sessions, please feel free to call, text, email or stop by my office.

Regarding the second concern, I want to state first of all that the primary purpose for my presentation on October 3rd was to be completely transparent about where I stand on the issues that will divide our denomination, and the direction I hope to lead Faith Harbor when the time comes. Briefly, I stand on the teachings (see below) in our *United Methodist Book of Discipline* that I vowed to uphold when I was ordained. The direction Faith Harbor ultimately goes, however, will not be decided by me, but rather by a congregational vote. As the pastor, I am not eligible to vote when the church makes this decision.

Each of you who are members of Faith Harbor must decide for yourselves where you stand. I hope you will not ultimately regard your decision as a choice between two sides. Where you stand should not be about your identification with traditionalists or progressives, liberals or conservatives, the Council of Bishops or the Wesleyan Covenant Association. Your decision should ultimately be determined by what you believe about the language in our *United Methodist Book of Discipline* that is at the heart of this issue.

Since 1972—which of course includes the entirety of Faith Harbor's existence—our *United Methodist Book of Discipline* has stated that while all persons are of sacred worth and we are committed to being in ministry with and for all persons, homosexual unions are not to be celebrated in the church and self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be ordained. With that in mind, I invite you to prayerfully consider two questions:

- 1) Do you believe Faith Harbor is able to be a loving and welcoming church with the above language in our *Discipline* regarding same-sex marriage and ordination?
- 2) Do you believe it would be true to Scripture to change the above language in our *Discipline* so as to allow same-sex weddings and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals in our church?

Thank you for keeping these questions and Faith Harbor in your prayers.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor David

Essential details of the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation:

- The protocol proposes “restructuring the United Methodist Church by separation as the best means to resolve our differences, allowing each part of the church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity and respect of every person....”

When the proposed Protocol could become a reality:

- General Conference is expected to approve the *Protocol* when it is scheduled to meet next August 29th through September 6th (2022).

What will happen if the Protocol is approved:

- The immediate removal in the continuing UMC of prohibitions in the *Discipline* against same-sex marriage and ordination of practicing homosexuals.
- The immediate launch of the traditionalist Global Methodist Church (GMC).
- Elimination of the “Trust Clause” for churches leaving the UMC, allowing them to keep their property and assets.

The decision for Faith Harbor (and every local UMC) if the Protocol is approved:

- We will decide by congregational vote either to remain in the continuing (post-separation) UMC with major changes in our doctrinal positions on marriage and sexuality, or to maintain our teachings on those issues with a new denominational affiliation (such as the GMC). We will not have the option of staying as we are.

The timetable for making a decision:

- The North Carolina Annual Conference will likely plan to meet soon after General Conference (in the fall of 2022) to vote on affiliation.
- A vote of at least 57 percent of the delegates to Annual Conference is required in order for the Annual Conference to disaffiliate from the UMC; otherwise the Annual Conference will remain in the post-separation United Methodist Church.
- Annual Conferences in the U.S. have until June 30, 2023* to take a vote. Otherwise, they will remain in the post-separation United Methodist Church.
- It is probable we will know the decision of our Annual Conference by late fall 2022.*
- Any church desiring to affiliate with a denomination other than the one selected by the Annual Conference may conduct a vote. A decision must be made by December 31, 2024.*
- If the church does not vote by that date, it will remain a part of the denomination selected by the Annual Conference.
- Local churches can begin voting on alignment as soon as the *Protocol* is approved. They do not have to wait until their Annual Conference has voted.
- If such a vote occurs in the local church, the church council (Leadership Team) will determine whether the voting threshold will be a simple majority, or two-thirds of those church members present and voting at a called church conference presided by the district superintendent.

*Some dates are estimates since the *Protocol* was originally written with the expectation that it would be approved at General Conference in May, 2020.

Scripture Card- Week of November 1st

Centering Prayer: *O God, help us to love you and each other rightly and well.*

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 136

M Isaiah 54:10

T Ephesians 2:4-7

W Romans 8:37-39

T 1 John 4:7-12

F John 14:15-21

S 1 John 3:1-3

Key Scripture: *Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments.*



In loving memory of Gail Llewellyn Kaufmann, we will be gathering to share some of our favorite memories, our stories, to laugh, to cry and remember a wonderful person who will be greatly missed.

We will gather on Saturday November 20, 2021 at 12 noon at the home of Bob and Jan Reid, 119 White Heron Cove Road, Hampstead, NC. Attire: Comfortable.

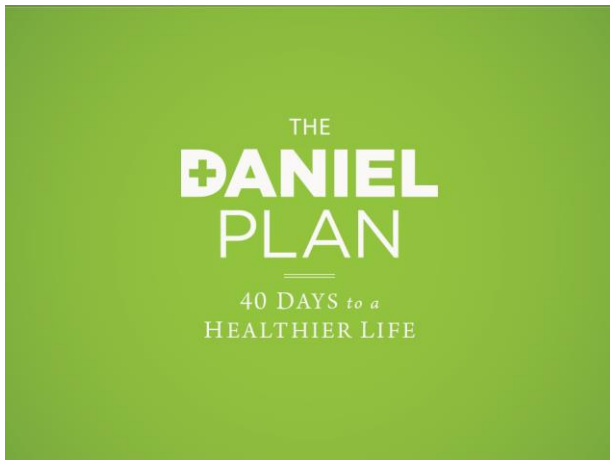
If you have not already done so, please contact Mike Kaufmann if you will be attending # (908) 892-0777 text

BIBLE STUDY CLASS



For those interested, **“Messy Grace”** is a four-week Bible study that promises to “inspire and empower Christ followers to completely love their LGBT neighbors”.

We will plan to meet at the church four Mondays in a row **beginning Monday, November 22nd from 6:30 to 7:45pm.** An insert will be in the bulletin to register for this class.



It's not too late! JOIN US

for a 6-week series called *The Daniel Plan*
– 40 Days to a Healthier Life.

This is a groundbreaking approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle that is both transformational and sustainable. The Daniel Plan is centered on five essentials that will guarantee your success: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends.

So, are you ready to revolutionize your health once and for all?

We will meet in the church Sanctuary Thursdays at 6:30 starting on October 14th. You will need the book and study guide which can be ordered online through The Daniel Plan website or Amazon.

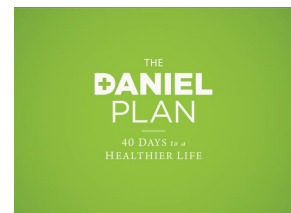
If you have a question contact Jessica Blackburn or Kim King

Jessica- jmb@rayblackburn.com

910-622-1193

Kim- kdking60@gmail.com.

919-414-2020



COMMUNITY HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CHAP is a 30-year-old program bringing together schools, churches and civic organizations to serve children and families in need. Our main activity, currently, is collecting Harris Teeter gift cards and donations of funds for Thanksgiving meals. Our community goal is to collect enough funds to provide 200 meals (\$12,000). Families will receive a coupon for a \$60 Thanksgiving Meal at Harris Teeter. Checks can be made out to Faith Harbor UMC with CHAP written on the “for” line.

Donations are due by November 7th

For more information contact Faye Strickland, fayestr46@gmail.com or 910-264-6151.

Thank you all for everything you do to support our community!

HARBOR THRIFT STORE NEEDS AND NEWS

The Harbor Thrift Store continues to thrive primarily with furniture sales by Beth Walker on Market Place and brisk shopping at the store. We are blessed with generous donors, loyal customers and our volunteer staff. Our **mission contributions** to date are over **\$14,000.00** to various International, Regional, and local programs serving the needy.

The primary focus of our mission contributions this year has been local: Back Pack Kid's School Supplies; Back Pack Kid's Food; Share The Table, Mercy Abounds, Keep Me Dry Diaper Program; FH Youth Ministry, Roots of Recovery, and FH Graduating Senior Scholarships.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR... Harbor Thrift Store Annual Christmas Shop will be held in the Harbor Warehouse on December 3 and 4; December 10 and 11th 10:00AM-3:00PM (CASH ONLY) We have holiday greenery, trees, wreaths, trims, etc. Plus, lots of good toys!

NEEDS:

While our Holiday stock is sizable, we are very low in children's clothing. The majority of the winter things we had on hand have sold, **our shelves are bare**. Please help by donating gently used children's wear either during store hours (Wednesday-Friday 10 :00am-4:00pm) or to the warehouse (by appointment) by calling Jean Hawley (910) 330-0760; Gloria Richardson (704) 804 4904; Beth Walker (252) 213-2240 or Sylvia Bowman (910) 284-3131

Volunteer clerks are needed for the Harbor Thrift Store and the upcoming Christmas Shop. No experience needed- We will train you. For further information call one of the Management Staff members listed above.

In Appreciation to all,
Jean Hawley
Store Manager



ALTAR FLOWER CHART

is available to sign-up for flowers for the Sanctuary. By the date you select, give your name and who you wish to remember or honor for the bulletin information. The sign-up list is on the credenza outside the church office, across from the restrooms.

CALLING ALL CDL DRIVERS

(OR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ONE!)

Our church bus requires that the driver have a Commercial Driver's License with a passenger endorsement. If you have a CDL or you would be willing to get one, and you would be willing to be on a team of drivers, please contact Shade, Jewels or Pastor David. The church will reimburse all expenses associated with obtaining a CDL and for volunteering to drive the bus for church functions.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS.. 😊

Hello bAsiC (brothers & sisters in Christ) youth parents~

Happy Fall! I hope everyone is doing well and getting in the groove of the new school year. We have a lot of fun activities coming up!

"Sponsor a Youth" Fundraiser

How to Participate? Look for the tag tree located in the narthex. Take a Tag (to keep) and put a donation in the marked envelope provided. All donations go toward supporting Fhunc's bAsiC Youth Group activities for 6th – 12th graders. Thank you for your prayers and support!

NC UMC Pilgrimage 2021 is a statewide Youth event being held at the Rocky Mount Event Center this year on the weekend of Nov. 12-14th. Here is a description of Pilgrimage for those youth who may not have attended this event in the past:

Pilgrimage has been creating a space for thousands of United Methodist youth (6th – 12th grades) and their mentors to gather for over 25 years. Pilgrimage is a life-changing weekend event filled with amazing artists, thought provoking speakers, and inspiring youth leadership – all bearing witness to the transforming love of Christ. This weekend is for students and adult student leaders looking for a weekend worship experience that calls everyone to a new or stronger faith in Jesus, challenging everyone to share God's love in word and action. The weekend event consists of 4 full attendee sessions: Friday Evening, Saturday Morning, Saturday Evening and Sunday Morning. There are opportunities for missions service offered on Saturday Afternoon.

Feel free to explore the Pilgrimage website for more detailed info or contact me. Here's the website: <https://nccpilgrimage.org/>

**Peace & Grace,
Jewels Swain
FHUMC Youth Coordinator, (910)232-9844**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS.....

We have resumed our Children's Church for all elementary school ages and under every Sunday. Due to Covid protocols, we are asking that children ages 4 and older wear masks when in the children's classrooms.

I have extra masks available for children that may need them.

A FOCUS FOR 2021...PRAYER

Time spent in prayer is never wasted.

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV) *Let us not grow weary while doing good, but in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*



Members: Joyce Arnette, Nancy Buckman, Curtis Campbell, **Emily, Katie and Paxton Carroll, Doris Davis,** Lanae Fowler, Diane Geary, Delores Miner, Jenny Mizell, Bob Patterson, Diane Secary, Paula Smith, Jill Strohpaal, Linda Wells, Gail Widholm, and John Wilson.

Military: Joe Fraley, Andy Harrison, Sgt. Joey Horne, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, Anthony Ripley, David Ritz and Alex Harris.

Family and Friends: We are in the process of updating our prayer concerns for family and friends. Please let us know of anyone needing some prayers.

And, all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort and healing.

With the dawning of each new day, we need courage to take each new step in our walk of faith.

Dear Lord, help us to quiet the chaos in our minds so that we can take the time to hear your voice, accept it, and put into practice what you tell us. Amen.



3 Harriet Byrd
Mike Scott

5 Fisher Taylor

7 Garrett Burgess
Sandy Taylor

8 Dale Osborn
John Phillips

9 Will Hornthal

11 Cindy Arnold

12 Baylor Osborn
Seth Swain

13 Brenda Munjas

14 Hillary Horne

15 Fiona Duddy

17 Tyler Jernigan

19 Jennifer Mizelle

20 Wayne Jeno

Eunice Lytton

Paige Swain

Kevin Taylor

21 Doug Lowrey

22 Diane Secary

23 Rebecca Drudge

24 Charles Burnett
Karen Martin

25 Aly Waldrop

26 Harley Taylor

27 Steve Cooney

Faye Graziano

Janet Hughes

28 Melanie Duddy
Steve Wells

29 Judy Pratt

30 Isla Butler



HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

Sunday 10/31

8:00 Communion Service
9:20 Worship in Sanctuary
10:30 COMPANIONS IN CHRIST CLASS Rm. 6
12:15 Handbell Quartet

Monday 11/01

2:00 MABS Rm. 6

Tuesday 11/02

6:00 COMPANIONS IN CHRIST Rm. 6
7:00 Women's AA Group in Reef

Wednesday 11/03

10:00 Reading Circle Rm. 6
7:00 CANTATA PRACTICE
7:45 Choir Practice

Thursday: 11/04

12:00 AA Group Rm. 6
5:00 GS Troop 2424
6:30 The Daniel Plan Group – Sanctuary

Friday 11/05

8:30 Women's Breakfast@ Park

Sunday 11/07 All Saints Day

8:00 Communion Service in Sanctuary
9:20 Worship in Sanctuary
10:30 COMPANIONS IN CHRIST Rm. 6
12:15 Handbell Class
5:00 Youth Group "B" (HS)

