First Friday Letter

The World Methodist Council June 2019

Greetings from the Geneva Secretary

Dear sisters and brothers in the World Methodist Council family:

Greetings in the name of God, three in one, creator of life, redeemer of the world, love without end. From June 3 to 6 - in the time between Christ's Ascension and Pentecost - about 40 people representing all continents and several member churches from the World Methodist Council met near London, UK.

We focused on the churches' ministry with migrating people. Some of us came from countries where many people are forced to leave because of disasters, violence, poverty and/or for political reasons. Other participants represented churches in countries were many refugees and migrants are arriving. We discussed questions like: How to answer to humanitarian needs? How to overcome xenophobia? How to deal with cultural differences and unequal dispersion of power? How to serve the second and third generation of migrating families? How to be in mission together?

All of us, no matter whether we live in our home country or in a strange land, are united as we believe: "For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come." (Hebrews 13:14). We all are companions (the Spanish word "compañero/ compañera" means the one with whom one shares the bread) who are called to assist one another on the Christian pilgrimage.

We will share the outcome of the WMC's Consultation on Diaspora/Migrant Churches in the near future. We are looking forward to continuing the conversation in a much bigger event as we prepare for the next World Methodist Conference August 19-22, 2021 in Gothenburg, Sweden under the theme "On the Move".

June 20 is UN World Refugee Day. It provides an opportunity for us individually as well as for the churches in the World Methodist family to pray for and with migrants and to remind ourselves that we follow Jesus, who told us: "I was a stranger, and you invited me in!" (Matthew 25:35).

Connected in prayer and service,

Rosemarie Wenner

Rosemarie Wenner, Geneva Secretary

One Family through Baptism

Excerpts from General Secretary's Ordination Sermon

"It is a singular honor" began Bishop Ivan Abrahams, WMC General Secretary, "to greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I bring greetings on behalf of the global Methodist family," he said. With a twist on the axiom, Bishop Abrahams declared, "Water is thicker than blood," and spoke of the centrality of baptism. The General Secretary was the ordination preacher for the Susquehanna Conference in Pennsylvania.

He stated that baptism in the common ordination shared by lay and clergy persons alike. "Whether you are a prince or a pauper, whether you are black or white, male or female, gay or straight, through the waters of baptism we are one family. We are children of God, who loves and cares for us.

"To serve is not optional at all, it is a Biblical imperative," Bishop Abrahams said as he recognized the rigor leading up to commissioning and ordination. "There have been intensive preparations, trials and testing that have brought you to this place and time. Yet," he declared, "while we don't know what the future holds, we know God does hold the future and you and me in His hands."

Bishop Abrahams identified that the people we serve are searching for more than what money and materialism can bring. "The people who we serve are sick and tired of empty calorie spirituality." In this light, Ezekiel 34 is the "emphatic divine promise" by God that "you are my sheep and the flock of my pastures, and I am your God. To those of us in ministry," he continued, "Ezekiel's prophecy is a judicial sentence against false prophets who 'only serve their own appetites.' Jesus, by contrast, lays down his life for his sheep (John 10). He lifted up the 'good old story' of the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23. "The most important thing, is that we insert ourselves in the story so that it becomes our story…My friends you can only do this if you have met the Shepherd and He has touched your life. The Word of God," he stated, "must touch the lives of ordinary people. … God's word will never return to God void."

He stressed to the ordinands never to take their position lightly or betray trust. "The ministry of presence is simply too sacred. We need to restore a healthy image of what it means to be a pastor today. Nothing other than the love of Jesus Christ can be the driving point of our ministry rooted in service." Bishop Abrahams concluded by reminding the new preachers to, "Go in the power of the holy spirit to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Live the vision of healing and transformation in God's world."

President Park leads Bible Study

"As an humble servant of Jesus Christ, I may be of value to you not because of something I am, but because of what I am not," began the Rev. Dr. J.C. Park, President of the WMC in his Bible study at the Susquehanna Conference in Pennsylvania."

He went on to explain that just as Paul was a citizen of different groups, he (Park) is a multiple level individual as well. He emphasized that righteousness is revealed in the Gospel and faith exists from the beginning to the end, from the first to the last. He alluded to Jeremiah 31:34 as one of the prophetic texts Paul may have used as a basis for Romans 1: 14-17. Paul was eager to proclaim the Gospel to the Christians in Rome just as we are to carry to Gospel to the ends of the world. Paul ended up in prison but felt that was a necessary step to preach the word.

continued

President Park leads Bible Study continued

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's letter and poem to his family from his prison emphasizing his belief in the truth of the Gospel was quoted. Park related current witness and journey to holding fast to the covenant of Abraham with people on the move to spread the Gospel. Citing John Wesley's focus on justification, Park highlighted Wesley's view "Together we confess: By grace alone, in faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit…"

Park referenced Charles Wesley's hymn, "And Can It Be that I Should Gain," stating that it stirs a celestial ecstasy in relating to the witness and power of the Holy Spirit. Park cited a folk legend about a girl who searched for living water to heal her dying father, noting that the true Living Water and eternal healing is through Jesus Christ.

Park then set up Roundtable Talks for "Together towards Life" noting that our pilgrimage might consist of three different dimensions in a dynamic, interdependent understanding. First, Celebrating the Gifts; Second, Visiting the Wounds; and finally, Third, Transforming the Injustices. The gathering then discussed the three dimensions. The study end with a unified voicing of the Lord's Prayer.

Presiding Bishop Elect, Purity Malinga

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa is celebrating with jubilation and thanksgiving, the election of Rev. Purity Malinga as Presiding Bishop who will succeed Bishop Ziphozihle Siwa.

She was elected in the first ballot by the 12 Synods of the MCSA, representing a membership of three million strong that spans six countries, including Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa.

Rev. Purity Malinga - picture courtesy of Hillside Methodist Community Church.

Having endured the cross and discrimination of patriarchy for over 200 years, women of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) have finally broken through the stained glass ceiling by the election of the first Presiding Bishop who is a woman, Rev. Purity Malinga.

In Bishop Ivan Abrahams' letter of congratulations, "I wish to congratulate you on your nomination as Presiding Bishop-Elect of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. I celebrate with you at this historic moment when the glass ceiling in the church has been shattered. I look forward to working with you and supporting your ministry in any way possible.

In Hebrews 10:24-25, Paul writes the following words of encouragement: 'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' (NIV). Fellowship is essential to the Christian faith and serves to strengthen us and the work we do to further the kingdom of God.

Your visionary leadership and voice within the MCSA at this time of seismic global change will be invaluable.

May God grant you wisdom, vision, strength, and courage for the road ahead," he concluded

May We Be of One Heart

In his sermon "On Catholic Spirit" John Wesley once asked these pointed questions: "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?" He called for followers of Christ to leave their opinions alone to one side and to extend the hand of fellowship to one another.

In a world that is fraught with division, high tensions and mistrust, often based on a lack of understanding, and the tragic cycles of violence that have been perpetuated amongst our religious communities, it is clear this catholic spirit must be applied not only ecumenically, but to our neighbors of other faiths as well, so that we might partner together in countering these grievous narratives to build a better tomorrow. To that end, having been appointed to the Interreligious Relations Convening Table last year, it has been my privilege to lend a Wesleyan voice to the interfaith work of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

For more than 40 years, the NCCC in the USA has been a leader in the field of ecumenical interreligious engagement. Their relationships with Jewish and Muslim communities go back several decades, but after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, their collaborative efforts intensified to an even greater capacity.

In 2004, the NCCC in the USA started the National Muslim-Christian Initiative with the aim of creating more intentional dialogues. Similarly, around the same time, the Jewish community approached them about strengthening their conversations to a more formally structured dialogue. Since then, both dialogues have been meeting twice a year to discuss common concerns, theological themes, and hard-hitting current issues. In addition, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA has more recently partnered with the Buddhist and Hindu communities; establishing formal dialogues with both that are now in their second year. Finally, in September of this year the NCCC in the USA will be holding the first national, ecumenical Sikh-Christian Dialogue to convene in Columbus, Ohio.

And while the diverse participating Christian communions come to these dialogues for their own reasons, all work together, operating under the ecumenical guidance of the Lund Principle (which states that churches should be acting together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately) and sharing this common interest of getting to know our interfaith partners.

The UMC, for example, engages in these dialogues, because we have made a commitment with ecumenical partner churches to do our interreligious engagement ecumenically. Having been blessed to participate in the Hindu and Buddhist dialogues earlier this year, as well as being a Co-Convener for the upcoming Sikh dialogue, it has been my observation that this is one of the strengths of these conversations and what makes them truly unique; that they are both ecumenical and interfaith. Thus, our interfaith partners are getting multiple perspectives, and we too are learning about the diversity that exists within their respective traditions.

It is my belief that through our dialogues, we are moving towards a "theology of appreciation" in which we celebrate what we have in common but also recognize and respect our differences; looking for what is good and true in other faiths.

Indeed, it is the goal of the National Council of Churches of Christ USA within these dialogues to learn what is important to our neighbors and to form deeper relationships, so when issues of difficulty come up, we can speak out for each other's communities in solidarity and friendship with them; truly a catholic spirit.

Rev. E. Neil Gaiser-Provisional Elder

West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church

Methodist Liaison Office Report - Jerusalem

In May, Benjamin Netanyahu was unable to gain a majority of support in the Knesset and so there will be another election for Prime Minister of Israel in September. Sadly, more settlement homes were built, more trees were uprooted, and more Palestinian homes were demolished, more Palestinians have been arrested and more civilian Palestinians were killed.

The Muslim Holiday of Ramadan began. Although permission was given to some Muslims to go to Jerusalem from the Palestinian area, there were challenges every Friday including closing of many of the checkpoints, even to cars traveling in the area. There were clashes with Israeli Jews and soldiers most Fridays at Al Aqsa Mosque.

Zoughbi Zoughbi's wife, Elaine, an American citizen married for 29 years was denied entry to Israel in April, she had hoped to be with her family for Easter and their son's upcoming wedding. This represents a greater problem for more than 30,000 families when a non-Palestinian marries a Palestinian. They may receive a visa for a couple of years and then are ultimately denied visas by Israel, which means they cannot live together in Palestine and have to make a choice on where they will live, or if they will live together as a couple. In May the Zoughbi family received news that Elaine could come to Palestine, if they paid/put up 70,000 NIS or about $20,000, and she could only come via Jordan, i.e. not use Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, and she cannot leave Palestine (West Bank) during her 3 month visa. (There are other caveats of restrictions, but these are the main ones.) In theory the money will be returned, but no one knows if it really will be… and in the long run, this is NO real solution. The money was transferred to the Israeli bank and when Elaine and her daughter arrived at the boarder crossing, they were initially denied entry. They were told to come back the next day and try again. This time it worked and she was able to attend her son's wedding and is permitted to be here for 90 days. We shall see what happens next. Again, this is one story out of more than 30,000 couples in this similar situation.

Grace Zoughbi, the wife of Michael Arteen (GBGM missioner who served with the Bethlehem Bible College), was in Palestine for some weeks as she awaited her visa to England so that she can work on her Ph.D, (Michael was itinerating it the USA at the time, and he was denied entry to Israel in the summer of 2018) When she finally received news that her visa was accepted, she had a limited time to prepare for the flight and be able to travel from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, so, Kristen was able to take her to the airport after worship one Sunday.

We have preached, led worship, and presided over communion at the UMC in Tel Aviv, St. Andrew's in Jerusalem and Tiberias. Kristen lead devotions at Hope School in Beit Jala, and Angleena taught children's Sunday School during worship at St. Andrew's.

Angleena attended the Diaconate convocation in the UK, as well as an International Diaconate retreat at the Lutheran Guesthouse in Jordan. In response to a mission challenge through the Lutheran church as one of their diaconate couples is returning to Sweden, leaving three months before someone can follow them at the location in Jordan, Angleen has agreed to offer times during these three months to fill in for them, she will work out details and schedules with the MLO and the Lutherans via Bishop Azar in response to the need.

We attended and participated in the Ascension worship service held at Agusta Victoria Lutheran church on the Mount of Olives. It was tri-lingual service combining the Palestinian congregation (Arabic speaking) with the German and English speaking congregations of Jerusalem.

We attended the wedding of Zoughbi and Elaine's son Lucas. The beautiful ecumenical worship service was held at St. Catherine's church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Several hundred people attended, including the Har'retz journalist, Amira Hass, who has written about the whole situation.

We have spoken to Methodist, Anglican and other individuals and groups from the UK, USA, the Netherlands, and Germany. We have connected with Tina Whitehead, a UMC layperson who volunteers and helps with Educational Opportunities pilgrim tours. We have accompanied Methodist individuals to various organizations and helped open their eyes to the bigger realities of the situation of Occupation in Palestine.

We have participated in and led morning prayers and Bible study in Jerusalem and in Bethlehem, joined the Thursday discussions at Sabeel and led communion at Sabeel, Friday walking prayers by the wall in Bethlehem by Check Point 300, and we led a worship and communion service in the Cave Chapel at the Tent of Nations Farm.We have met with many partners and organizations including Hope School, the Princess Basma Center, Sabeel, L'Arche center, Wadi Fukin, the Tent of Nations, Wi'am, and we had a meeting with the Lutheran Bishop Ibrahim Azar, and much more.

Submitted by Angleena Keizer and Kristen Brown

United Methodist churches offer aid after shootings

St. Luke's and St. Andrew United Methodist churches opened their doors and provided safe spaces after the deadly May 7 shooting at STEM School Highlands Ranch near Denver.

The churches are near the school and many members of their congregations are part of the student body or teachers or administrators, said the Rev. Mark Feldmeir, senior pastor of St. Andrew.

Both churches held prayer vigils May 8, to offer comfort to the hurting world orbiting around them.

News reports said two students entered the school with guns hidden in a guitar case. Three students tackled the shooter, and one of those students, 18-year-old Kendrick Castillo, was killed. Another student who confronted the shooter is a member of St. Andrew. He was shot but is back home. Seven others were wounded.

Feldmeir said more than 2,000 people attended the vigil at St. Andrew, including Sen. Michael Bennet and U.S. Rep. Jason Crow. "It was a healing moment for the community, but we're all a bit emotionally taxed," Feldmeir said. He said the Castillo family and the young member of the congregation who had been shot attended the vigil. Bishop Karen Oliveto wrote a letter to her "siblings in the Mountain Sky Conference."

"I give thanks to God for the witness of St. Luke's and St. Andrew United Methodist churches and for the ways they became waystations of comfort for the grieving and relief for the responders. The pastoral teams and lay members were the arms of Christ as they embraced scared youth and frantic parents. They were vessels of God's abiding, steadfast presence throughout the day and into the night, and continue to be a place of prayer, solace and safety today."

The Rev. Jessica Rooks, Pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, CO., speaks during a candlelight vigil following the school shooting on May 7. Photo by Ken Fong, St. Luke's UMC.

The day after the shooting, the Rev. Jessica Rooks from St. Luke's talked about the connections between the church and the school.

"The weather is cloudy and rainy and gray, and is probably a good metaphor for what is going on in the church and the community," she said. "There are lots of questions, all the normal questions that follow these events. There are connections in all sorts of ways to teachers and students (in the church)."

The parking lot at St. Luke's became a staging ground for frantic parents trying to find out what had happened. St. Andrew was used as the county crisis center the day after the shootings.

Feldmeir said he spent Tuesday and Wednesday trying to reach out to all the families that he knew are connected with the school. He said there were several hundred people on the church campus providing counseling for students and administrators as well as police officers who were using some of the rooms to conduct interviews.

"It has been one of those experiences where everything is happening all at once. During the planning (of the vigil), we just didn't know which of our kids were involved — if we would be doing funerals instead of vigils."

Another one of the boys who tackled the shooter is a member of St. Andrew, Feldmeir said. He was wounded but is expected to be OK.

Feldmeir also said one of the families in the church was close friends with Castillo. "There is pretty deep grief there," he said.

The first step is giving people space to express their emotions, he said. "Lots of tears and hugs in hallways and rooms here," he said Wednesday afternoon.

But Feldmeir said he has found comfort from United Methodists across the country.

"It has been encouraging hearing from people from all over the country, colleagues and United Methodists who are sending their love, support and prayer. It is a reminder of the value of our connection. Given these fragile times in our denomination, (it's) just one more reminder of how important it is to be connected and remain connected."

This article can be found on www.umnews.org

CIS Field reaches new communities through VBS program

Nearly 2,000 children across the Commonwealth of Independent States Field attended 33 VBS events thanks to funds from Kids Reaching Kids, the Church of the Nazarene's VBS program.

Each year, children who attend a VBS are invited to participate in an offering that provides funds for children in need around the world.

Five countries in CIS were among those who received a portion of these funds to help local churches host VBSs for children in their communities, including areas where there are no Nazarene churches yet.

"The Armenia District had a chance to minister to 550 children in eight different locations — Yerevan, Akhuryan, Maralik, Gyumri, Sevan, Ashtarak, Lanjik and Dzitenkov," a CIS leader reported. "Three of the eight locations were new communities that God allowed us to enter and serve."

Church leaders in Russia hosted four events in four different locations, one of which was in a town without a Nazarene church where they plan to start a new ministry in the near future.

The church in Kazatin, Ukraine, decided to host its VBS in a nearby village. As a result, they were able to begin a Bible study and an ongoing children's ministry in the community.

Youth from a church in Central Asia traveled more than 100 miles to help hold a VBS in a Nazarene church in a creative access country.

"Children came every day and on time, although the camp started very early, and every day they brought their friends with them," a local leader said.

A church in Kyiv, Ukraine, included special training for the children on self-esteem, appropriate boundaries, and how to say no.

"One girl commented that now she knows how to say 'no' to other children who offer her to smoke or drink beer," a leader said. "She understands her value and is not affected by peer's statements."

During a VBS in Vapnyarka, Ukraine, children learned several Bible stories through games and activities.

"Children enjoyed the Bible stories," the leader said. "In four days, the children learned stories about Jonah and the Whale, the Good Shepherd, and the Lost Drachma."

On the final day of the camp, the children showed what they learned by competing for prizes through Bible quizzing.

"The camp had fun games, competitions, and entertainment," one child said. "I also liked to learn Bible stories, and I found many new friends."

The Armenia District VBS held a performance for participating children and invited their parents to watch. The children performed songs and recited verses they learned throughout the week.

"This year, the parents [were invited] to give their lives to Jesus," the leader said. "[It was] really encouraging to see how the message touched their hearts. Today we have some of these parents coming to our meetings."

Although the local government prevented two communities from holding VBSs, they held a one-day outreach and distributed school supplies to the children. Today, Nazarene churches have formed and are leading small groups in both communities.

"After having a camp, we became convinced that this is really one of the best ways to evangelize the younger generation," a Ukraine leader said. "We were glad to serve the children and share the Word of God with them."

Scott Rainey, director of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International, expressed his gratitude for the children and churches who participate in the Kids Reaching Kids offering each year.

"These gifts are vital to SDMI's ability to support missional outreach in global areas," Rainey said.

His thanks are echoed by the leaders in children's ministry across the CIS.

--Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International

Commonwealth of Independent States Field reaches new communities through a Vacation Bible School program. Picture courtesy of Sunday School and Disciple Ministries International.

WCC and Globethics.net partner to offer expanded online resources

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and Globethics.net have signed a new contract that expands online education, publications and resources related to the ecumenical movement.

The two organizations reached an agreement related to the WCC Online Academy, which will continue to offer courses on many salient aspects of ecumenism. In addition, the contract outlines a joint series of publications and an online library through which all WCC digital documents will be included in Globethic's library, which currently comprises some 3.5 million titles.

(Pictured: Prof Dr. Fr Ioan Sauca, Deputy General Secretary WCC; Marianne Ejdersten, Director Communication; Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary WCC; Prof. Dr. Obiora Ike, Globethics Executive Director and Lucy Howe López, Deputy Executive Director)

The WCC is pleased to work together with Globethics.net, said WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit. "There is an urgent need to expand online education to better understand the role of the ecumenical movement in today's world," he said. "We will use our common resources to encourage coexistence and bridge building."

"Building bridges and spiritual bonds which spread the Word and universal love beyond boundaries and barriers happens through shared values and ethical linkages where education is key," said Prof. Dr Obiora Ike, Globethics executive director. "The WCC and Globethics.net remain committed to this service of stewardship to a humanity in need and hungry for this mission."

Papua New Guinea radio ministry leads to new church plants

For 17 years, the Church of the Nazarene in Papua New Guinea has used radio ministries to spread the Gospel across the country. There are three programs aired across 17 radio stations that have been a source of encouragement and a tool for discipleship for Nazarenes in PNG.

The first program, Krai Bilong Ol Meri (Cry of Women), is a 15-minute program that targets women who face difficult issues such as depression and cultural challenges. Listeners are encouraged not to lose hope in the Lord but to serve faithfully in the midst of their challenges.

A second program called Krais I Laikim Olgeta Pikanini (Christ Loves All Children) targets children between the ages of 7 and 13. For 10 minutes, the program tells Bible stories and teaches the Word of God to children.

Finally, Kirapim Gutpela Sindaun (Starting a Good Life) is a five-minute devotional program that encourages listeners to stand firm in their faith, giving them the tools they need to persevere during the process of evangelism and discipleship.

Through the work of these programs and the faithfulness of Nazarenes across Papua New Guinea, three new congregations have been planted in the highlands and lowlands of PNG.

A radio ministry in Papua New Guinea plants new churches to spread the Gospel. Picture courtesy of Church of the Nazarene Asia- Pacific.

In one of these congregations, Kuldamong Church, 10 people were baptized in December, and six more are ready to be baptized soon. Kuldamong Church recently extended its semi-permanent building by three meters to accommodate the church's continued growth.

Sip-Bala Church, another new congregation, will baptize 15 people in June thanks to the constant growth in the Sunday morning worship service.

--Church of the Nazarene Asia-Pacific

Treasurer's Request

The World Methodist Council strives to assure transparency in all areas, especially financial. In order to do this and meet current audit requirements, Treasurer/ CFO Kirby Hickey respectfully requests the cooperation of everyone. Reimbursement Forms should be submitted with necessary reimbursement receipts as well as banking information. This will assure prompt payment to you! Reimbursement forms are available at www.worldmethodistcouncil.com click on the "Resources" tab then on the left side find a black box that says "More Information" and click on "Forms".

Michaela Hannah joins WMC Team

Michaela Hannah has recently joined the staff of the WMC at its headquarters office. She replaces Lindsey Buckner, who is delighted to be looking forward to the arrival of her baby boy in late August.

Michaela is involved in Museum and Council duties as efforts are being made for all staff to be fully involved in each of the tasks, explains Jackie Bolden. "She is a real asset to the Council and Museum, and we are delighted at the energy and abilities she brings with her."

A recent graduate of East Tennessee State University with a degree in Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in Business Management and Minoring in Marketing. Michaela says, "I am excited to be a part of the WMC team and look forward to meeting everyone and working with you."

World Methodist Museum Report

The World Methodist Museum continues to be busy working with a variety of age groups. Approximately 3,000 young people have been involved in conformation classes, which they do through Scavenger Hunts throughout the Museum.

A current exhibit focuses on the importance of Chaplains to military personnel and society. Several stories and artifacts are part of the display that opened on May 27 and will remain in place through November.

Friends of the Board of Directors are busy updating Museum materials and working on how to better tell the story of Methodism through the exhibits.

Rev. Dr. John Beyers will be the featured speaker at the Annual Friends Banquet on August 23rd. Museum enthusiasts are looking forward to this Susanna Wesley presentation on the 350th year of her birth. To order tickets please go to www.worldmethodistmuseum.com and scroll to the bottom of the page where you will find an "Events" tab. You can click on the date, and the link will direct you to purchase tickets. Any additional questions can be answered by calling (828) 454-7242 or emailing mhannah@worldmethodistcouncil.org

We welcome your press releases, articles and resources! Please keep submissions to less than a page. We also ask that all stories are written, edited and ready to publish. Please contact us by **the last Monday of the month** at communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org if you would like your story to be included in our next edition of the First Friday Letter.

We Are On the Web

This and past First Friday Letters can be found online at FirstFridayLetter.worldmethodistcouncil.org.

The World Methodist Council's website may be found at worldmethodistcouncil.org.

The World Methodist Museum's website is at methodistmuseum.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org.

About the First Friday Letter

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