**LHUMC Worship Planning Retreat**

**Meeting Preparation**

Friday, Sept. 6 from noon – 7:00 pm

Saturday, Sept. 7 from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

**Possible locations:** Need meeting space for 16 people, parking, small kitchen, bathrooms, wi-fi, and projection capability (television/HDMI connection). We have held previous retreats at the **bolded** locations.

* **The Corner** (Central UMC)
* Forest Park Covenant Church: Diane
* Journey Church
* Breakwater Church (across from Mona Shores HS): Pastor Amy worshiped with us this week while on sabbatical. Pastor Mary knows her.
* ~~Webb Chemical:~~ Our retreat is the same time as United Way’s Day of Caring. Brad Hilleary virtually always participates and encourages his employees to also. Karen will only ask Brad about using his company space if we have no other options.
* ~~AgeWell Services:~~ They are not open on Saturdays.
* ~~Roosevelt Park Community Center:~~ Questionable. They don’t host any events associated with a religion.
* Olivet Evangelical Free Church: Jean - Ad Board meeting
* Saint Mark’s Church on Henry: Pastor Mary is waiting to hear back from Ashley Boersma.

Scan this QR code to find more detailed information on our website for last year's planning retreat.



**Budget:** $350

**Registration/commitment fee** (approximately $20) covers two lunches, one dinner, snacks, off-site venue, and prep folder. The fold will have:

* Planning document
* List of previous sermon series (10 years)
* Faith in film possibilities
* Calendar
* Agenda
* Wi-fi network and password

**General discussion points:** We will talk about the following items during our Monday meetings and seek input from our members and community from now until the retreat. You can send responses to Karen Booth at any time and she will keep adding them to the master document which will go in the worship retreat folder.

* Lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary is a three-year cycle of weekly lections used to varying degrees by the vast majority of mainline Protestant churches in Canada and the United States. The RCL is built around the seasons of the Church Year, and includes four lections for each Sunday, as well as additional readings for major feast days. During most of the year, the lections are: a reading from the Hebrew Bible, a Psalm, a reading from the Epistles, and a Gospel reading. During the season of Easter, the Hebrew Bible lection is usually replaced with one from the Acts of the Apostles. The lections from the Hebrew Bible are sometimes chosen from the Apocrypha…. The gospel readings for each year come from one of the synoptic gospels according the following pattern: Year A – Matthew. Year B – Mark. Year C – Luke. Readings from the Gospel of Joh can be found throughout the RCL.
* While we don’t follow the lectionary in planning, we often end up using some of the same readings.

**Yearlong Theme**

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

What do we need to focus on in worship for the next year to accomplish our mission?

How does the theme encourage spiritual formation and help us carry out our mission?

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations/Living: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

2025 Possibilities:

* Being fearless
* Relationship/Community

**Previous themes:** Click on the yearly theme to learn more about that year’s worship.

* **2024:** [Following the Jesus Way](https://lakeharborumc.org/2023/06/2023-worship-planning-retreat/). Key verse: John 13: 34 – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
* **2023:** [Jesus Is Our Past, Present, and Future Hope](https://lakeharborumc.org/2022/08/2022-worship-planning-retreat/). Key verse: Romans 8: 38-39
* **2022:** [The Spiritual Journey Continues...](https://lakeharborumc.org/2021/08/2021-worship-planning-retreat/)
* **2021:** [Still Blessed](https://lakeharborumc.org/2020/08/september-11-12-2020-worship-planning-retreat/)
* **2020:** [20/20 Vision.](https://lakeharborumc.org/2019/09/september-6-7-2019-worship-planning-retreat/) Seeking God’s Vision for Ourselves, Our Church, Our Community, and Our World.
* **2019:** [Love God and love neighbor](https://lakeharborumc.org/2018/07/worship-planning-retreat-september-2018/)
* **2018:** [HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE are found in Jesus alone.](https://lakeharborumc.org/2017/10/october-6-7-2017-worship-planning-retreat/)

How do we make it known to our members? Hallway art? Hands-on item?

**Spoken Needs**:

As you think about the conversations you’ve had with people, remember the struggles, challenges, curiosities, and desires that people have expressed. What are people saying that they need?

* Pervasive lack of trust, respect, and civility. Anxiety and anger.
  + The church is one place where there is a certain level of trust exists, presumably because we share the same faith.
  + High levels of mistrust by the general public: politicians, pastors, teacher, doctors
  + What kind of role models are we for kids when behave so poorly?
  + Not acknowledging our own bad behavior. Lack of humility.
  + Related resource: [Uncommon Decency:](https://www.amazon.com/Uncommon-Decency-Christian-Civility-Uncivil/dp/0830833099) Christian Civility in an Uncivil World by Richard Mouw
* Where do people people with widely different opinion gather? In church. Where else? Jesus prays for the church and unity in Christ. It doesn’t mean we are of one mind.
* Change: How do we deal with it?
* Navigating a divided world. Jesus also navigated a similarly difficult political world. Related article: “Are You Exercising Good Judgment or Being Judgy?” by Robin Stern and Marc Brackett, June 7, 2024, The Washington Post.
* General Conference: What does it mean for the United Methodist Church?
* Aging. Dementia. Related video: [“Restaurant of Mistaken Orders”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=su34Gx-STQk)

**Unspoken Needs**

Unspoken needs are the things aren’t talking about. When someone is unhappy or feeling lost and can’t truly articulate why, you might be able to perceive his/her real, unspoken needs. What are those needs?

* Understanding the bible:
  + As a primary, but not exclusive source of faith.
  + Biblical interpretation.
  + The political, geographical, social context.
  + Weird stories of the bible.
  + Scripture is not the object of our worship.
* Not measuring up: The internet – and social media in particular – sets unrealistic expectations of “a good life.”
* Vulnerability – scams, hacking bank accounts and other accounts

**Potentially Useful Stuff**

Josh Larsen, editor/host/producer of Think Christian, says “glimpses of God’s truth can be found in unlikely places. There’s no such thing as secular, so let’s consider Christianity and pop culture together.” Author/pastor Rob Bell says that everything is spiritual. People want to understand their purpose here on earth. What books, articles, authors, films, TED Talks, podcasts, television shows, and comics are memorable because they speak to spiritual needs? What questions would you like to have answered?

**Questions to explore:**

* Will we recognize Jesus when he comes again?
* How did we come to believe in one God when there were many gods in some cultures?

**Articles:**

* When we write our own version of Psalm 23 – *I am my shepherd. There is never enough. I lie down in worried places...*. [Joy 99 radio post](https://joy99.com/bethlehem/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=joy_mailnot_junk_mail&utm_term=2023-12-19), Dec. 18, 2023

**Plays:**

**Comics:**

**Videos/Movies:**

* [“Mufasa.”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAJniAjERCM) Film coming out in December 20, 2024. A sequel to “The Lion King.” PLOT: Simba, having become king of the Pride Lands, is determined for his cub to follow in his paw prints while the origins of his late father Mufasa are explored.
* [“Inside Out 2.”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEjhY15eCx0) June 14, 2024. Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust have been running a successful operation by all accounts. However, when Anxiety shows up, they aren't sure how to feel. Related article: “Pixar’s Vison of Teenage Turmoil,” WSJ, June 14, 2024.
* [“Perfect Days.”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzZBbX5A1FA) Dec. 21, 2024. Hirayama feels content with his life as a toilet cleaner in Tokyo. Outside of his structured routine, he cherishes music on cassette tapes, reads books and takes photos. Through unexpected encounters, he reflects on finding beauty in the world.
* [“Garfield.”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3XjsSvwSuU) May 2024. After an unexpected reunion with his long-lost father, the street cat Vic, Garfield is forced to leave his very comfortable life with Harald behind. Together with Vic and Odie, he plans a crazy robbery.

**Television shows:**

* [“Bluey.”](https://www.bluey.tv/) Watch on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@BlueyOfficialChannel). Related article: [“Bluey’s Crisis of Faith”](https://thinkchristian.net/blueys-crisis-of-faith) by Joe George, May 2, 2024, *Think Christian*

**Music:**

**Stray stuff:**

**Books:**

* [The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters](https://www.amazon.com/Art-Gathering-How-Meet-Matters/dp/1594634920)  by Priya Parker
* [Sacred Resistance: A Practical Guide to Christian Witness and Dissent](https://www.amazon.com/Sacred-Resistance-Practical-Christian-Witness/dp/1501856855) by Ginger Gaines-Cirelle.
* [Somehow: Thoughts on Love](https://www.amazon.com/Somehow-Thoughts-Love-Anne-Lamott/dp/0593714415) by Anne Lamott
* [Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don’t Belong To: Spirituality without Stereotypes, Religion without Ranting](https://www.communityrenewalsociety.org/who/lillian-daniel) by Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel
* [Pierre](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToVHzUDYJgU) by Carole King (for when your kids are in a grumptastic “I don’t care” kind of mood)

**Authors:**

* Brian McLaren
* Tony Campolo
* Adam Hamilton – Making Sense of the Bible

**VBS:**

**Foundations of Our Faith**

Nearly everyone, including non-Christians, has heard of the Lord’s Prayer and Ten Commandments. They are foundations of our faith. What other foundational beliefs would you like to explore in worship?

* Series we have done:
  + Beatitudes (summer 2024, Lent 2014)
  + United Methodist Ten (summer/fall 2023)
  + Ten Commandments (summer 2023)
  + Lord’s Prayer (summer 2022)
  + Psalms (summer 2018, Lent/Easter 2022)
  + Sermon on the Mount (after Easter 2020)
  + Seven Deadly Sins (summer 2015)
  + Gospel of Mark (Good News for the New Year 2021)
  + Revelation (May 2022)
  + Genesis (In the Beginning – summer 2017)
  + The Trinity (September 2018)
  + Minor Prophets (summer 2020)

**Series Ideas**

Armed with a lot of perspective on spoken and unspoken needs, start to ask questions like: What Scriptures address these needs? What topical series could address these needs? From which book of the Bible could we teach? What creative series titles or “hooks” could we use?

* World religions
* Grief, suffering, and living through the hard stuff of life. Related resources: [Night](https://www.amazon.com/Night-Elie-Wiesel/dp/0374500010) by Elie Wiesel; [Man’s Search for Meaning](https://www.amazon.com/Mans-Search-Meaning-Viktor-Frankl/dp/0807014273/ref=asc_df_0807014273/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=693586740360&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=12174916033200288366&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9058201&hvtargid=pla-493171359305&psc=1&mcid=aa2a218f73d3334e869c589d47767545&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwrcKxBhBMEiwAIVF8rCUBn14lNQcHzv3fu9wgqP49WGJJWOrUjXPWrCZBCfndyW8ayak2HxoCs9oQAvD_BwE) by Viktor E. Frankl
* Focus on one Gospel
* Spiritual mentoring
* Seven Deadly Sins

**Seasonal Series Ideas**

We also need to identify ideas for specific series that we do every year. For example, we know we will celebrate Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter every year. We also know that every fall we’ll have a Stewardship Campaign.

**ADVENT**

**LENT**

**STEWARDSHIP**