

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SOCIAL MEDIA ROUND UP

Highlighting posts from the past month



Jr. High and Sr. High Students had their annual Christmas Party!



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11



Cornerstone Lutheran celebrated their 2nd year of service to the pantry by collecting 1,511.6 pounds of food. Thank You!



Upcoming Events

- January 6** Souper Bowl Drive Starts
- January 12** United Methodist Men
8:00am, Dining Room
- January 13** Covenant Begins
9:45am, Room 273B
- January 19-21** Student Winter Retreat
- January 20** Report On
The Way Forward
3:00pm, Carmel UMC
- January 22** Book Club
7:00pm, Library
- January 27** Diaper Drive Starts

COMING IN FEBRUARY

- February 1** Parent Night Out
- February 3** Information Session On
The Way Forward
3:00pm, Room 273
- February 17** Information Session On
The Way Forward
3:00pm, Room 273



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS CANNED SPINACH, CANNED SAUERKRAUT, CANNED POTATOES, CANNED YAMS, CRUNCHY PEANUT BUTTER

Donations may be dropped off in the pantry boxes located inside Doors 1 & 4 or at the Food Pantry on Wednesdays between 9:30am and 7:00pm

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

I am departing from my usual articles this month to talk about an issue that has been at the forefront of debate in the United Methodist Church [UMC] for over 40 years – the issue of human sexuality and how the church is striving to understand and find the best way to deal with it as we seek to be the church as we seek to minister to and with people of all sexual orientations today. This issue, while very important, has proven divisive and distracting – consuming much time, energy, and resources and has kept the UMC from focusing on our primary purpose – to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

In February 2019 a special session of the General Conference [the official determining body and voice of the denomination] will meet for 3 days [Feb 23 – 26] in St. Louis to consider 3 primary alternative plans, one of which may be approved, that will determine how we will go forward as a denomination as we seek to live and be in ministry together. We want our congregation to be aware of the issues the General Conference will consider and want to offer an opportunity to give information and answer questions [if we can] and to share our concerns and hopes as we seek to be the Body of Christ as part of the UMC here in Fishers, Indiana.

To that end, we plan to provide the following:

*Information is available on our website at fishersumc.org/thewayforward

*Bishop Trimble will present a report of the Commission on a Way Forward on Jan. 20, 2019 at Carmel United Methodist Church from 3 – 5PM to explain the 3 options that will be considered at the special General Conference session Feb. 23 – 26.

*We will hold 2 identical congregation-wide information and exploration sessions to discuss this issue and the plans concerning it. They will be held Sunday, Feb 3rd and 17th from 3:00 – 4:30pm in the Triple Room on the 2nd floor of the family life center of the church. We welcome everyone to join us for one of these sessions as we seek to understand and wrestle together in the Love of Christ as we minister to a world in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Please note that this will not be a time to debate the United Methodist or Fishers United Methodist Church's perspective on this, nor to interpret relevant scriptures, nor express our preferences for outcomes.

We don't know which plan may be approved – or if any plan will be approved. We don't know exactly how it will impact the structure of how we live and minister together as a denomination as a whole, or how this may impact us as Fishers United Methodist Church in some ways. But we do know that the UMC and Fishers United Methodist Church will

continue to be faithful to God's call to us to be his Church in our generation and in our surrounding communities for the cause of Christ seeking to draw all people into a life transforming relationship with God. We do know that we, as a local church, will continue to be faithful and will continue to focus on what matters most without distraction as we continue to follow God's leading into the future.

Pastor Jared, our church leadership, and I invite you to enter into a season of prayer around this meeting of the General Conference in St. Louis. Pray for the 860 delegates from around the world, that they would be open to hear God's direction and that they would be filled with passion to reach out to all God's people, and through it all, that they will treat their brother and sister delegates with grace and respect and openness that is the hallmark of the church of Jesus Christ. As scripture says, "the world will know we are Christians by our love." May we live and demonstrate this love in all we do. Finally, please pray for your pastors and ministry staff and leaders as we seek to be faithful to that same call.

We are praying for each of you.

**FOR THE ONLY
CAUSE THAT
MATTERS,**
Pastor Kevin

THE WAY FORWARD COMPARISON CHART

	One Church Plan	Connecional Conference Plan	Traditionalist Plan
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Church Plan takes a relational and compatibilist approach to unity. The restrictions underlying current conflicts are deemed "non-essential matters" over which we can agree to disagree, and thus are removed from the Book of Discipline. This plan emphasizes our external mission by removing internal conflict. No change to structure of UMC. No division of the UMC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecional Conference Plan creates new structures to provide space between those who disagree about Christian ethics regarding same sex marriage and suitability for ordained ministry. Three overlapping "Connecional Conferences" defined by rules concerning same sex marriage will replace today's five Jurisdictional Conferences defined by distinct geography. These Connecional Conferences would be separate legal entities (501(c)3 organizations) but deemed part of one UMC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditionalist Plan retains, strengthens and enforces current prohibitions on same sex marriage and gay ordination. This plan both invites and forces Annual Conferences who are progressive on matters of same sex marriage to leave the UMC to create new denominations. This plan allows <u>either</u> <u>any</u> Annual Conference(s) <u>and/or</u> <u>local</u> Churches to leave and create new denomination(s) for any reason. These new "Self-Governing Methodist Churches" would be eligible for concordat relationship and token representation at General Conference.
Rules regarding ministry with and by married gay persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes language stating that "practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." While this statement is removed, it is not replaced with any specific affirmation. Neutralizes language in Social Principles concerning civil marriage such that the UMC globally neither prohibits nor affirms same sex marriage. Removes prohibitions against ceremonies celebrating civil unions or same sex marriage. Removes prohibition against gay ordination. Rules may be set by Boards of Ordained Ministry and Clergy Session suitable to each Annual Conference. Our standard of Christian sexual ethics calling for "celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in marriage" will be applied equally to gay and straight clergy. <u>Intends</u> no more trials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each of the three new Connecional Conferences would make their own rules in this area (as well as certain other administrative areas). It is expected that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Conference similar to the new Traditionalist Plan, Unifying Conference would be similar to the new One Church Plan, and Progressive Plan would provide full affirmation of married gay Christians. Rules and trials would remain a possibility, but a sorting process would place Annual Conferences (ACs), Local Churches (LCs), Bishops and Clergy into a Connecional Conference that matches their belief and thus <u>intends</u> to reduce the number of trials vs. our current situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UMC would continue to proclaim that "practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." Current definition of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" would be further detailed so as to tighten up enforcement. Minimum penalties established for pastors to be suspended for one year on first violation and expulsion for a second violation. Accountability for bishops would move from regional Jurisdictional College of Bishops to new global structures to enforce uniformly. Annual Conference (by way), Bishops and members of Boards of Ordained Ministry would all certify that they support and enforce these rules relating to same sex marriage and gay ordination. Increased influence of complainers & ability for church to appeal decisions. Taken together, these rules will increase the number of trials.
Freedom of Conscience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wherein legal civilty, UMC pastors would be allowed but not forced to celebrate civil unions or to conduct same sex wedding services. Annual Conference processes and bishops may ordain qualified gay candidates, but no one is forced to do so. Annual Conferences (by way) and clergy would be required to make an advisory statement to inform any such new policies. Adds new provisions to protect freedom of conscience for United Methodists and to bar interference by bishops and district superintendents in the decisions of clergy and local congregations. Provides that same sex weddings will not be celebrated in church buildings unless the local congregation has voted for it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is expected that freedom of conscience (specific to same sex marriage and gay ordination) would apply primarily to the Unifying Conference. In other words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Connecional Conference would strictly enforce rules against same sex marriage and gay ordination (similar to the new Traditionalist Plan), Unifying Connecional Conference would operate very similar to the new One Church Model with explicit guarantees for freedom of conscience. Progressive Connecional Conference would expect that all annual conferences would willingly ordain qualified gay candidates, that all pastors would be expected to conduct gay weddings for qualified couples (i.e., on same basis as straight weddings), and that all local churches would willingly host gay weddings (i.e., on same basis as straight weddings). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Conference (by way), Bishops and members of Boards of Ordained Ministry will be required to certify that they support and enforce these rules relating to same sex marriage and gay ordination. Annual Conference must certify that Bishop and Boards of Ordained Ministry are following through. Bishops who dissent or who fail to lead their Annual Conference (AC) to follow through may be reported for disciplinary proceedings. General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) to track and enforce this requirement on Annual Conferences including withholding funds and barring use of UMC name and cross and flame logo. Clergy calling charges are just resolution must promise not to recant.
Impact on Central Conferences outside of USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change regarding same sex marriage or ordination is forced on a Central Conference by this legislation. No change in practice is expected in Africa, Philipines or Eastern Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Conferences will have to vote and they may either (a) convert to a geographic Connecional Conference (new name, but all current rules in effect) or (b) join one of the ideologically-defined Connecional Conferences (Traditional, Unifying or Progressive) arising from the US context. This legislation does create new options for individual Annual Conferences or even Local Churches to opt out of the choice made by their Central Conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change regarding to same sex marriage or ordination is forced on a Central Conference by this legislation. Structure remains the same. Annual Conference, Bishops and Boards of Ordained Ministry have the same obligation to certify as described above for Jurisdictional Conferences. This legislation creates new options for individual Annual Conference(s) or even Local Churches to opt out of choices made by UMC Central Conference.
Impact on Annual Conferences (AC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to structure. Boards of Ordained Ministry and Clergy Session of each Annual Conference would have option but no requirement to address standards for ordained ministry of qualified married gay candidates. Re-votes by Clergy Session no sooner than 30 months after last such vote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This plan envisions three annual conferences – one per connecional conference – overlaying all US geography. Borders would be re-mapped for full coverage. Annual Conferences would have the option of agreeing or disagreeing with the alignment of their former Jurisdictional Conference with a specific new Connecional Conference. It is anticipated that most annual conferences would opt to join the Unifying Conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to structure, however, it is anticipated that some 40 or more Annual Conferences would either opt out or be forced out of the UMC. It is further anticipated that each Annual Conference would need to cope with some number of Local Churches opting out the AC's alignment – some churches would opt to go back to the UMC and others would opt to leave altogether to join a new Self-Governing Methodist Church.

THE WAY FORWARD COMPARISON CHART

Impact on Local Churches (LC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local church is not required to vote. If a local church wanted to host gay weddings, its church conference would need to take action before the first ceremony. Local leaders have maximum flexibility to discern need and timing for such action. Local Church Staff Parish Relations Committee may communicate their congregation's preferences for appointments. Specific mechanism to replace irrevocable pastor mismatch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Church will be given formal voting process by which they may dissent from their Annual Conference's chosen alignment and then chose a different Connectional Conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Churches may acquiesce to their Annual Conference's decision to remain or leave the UMC, and they may majority-vote to remain UMC if their AC leaves. Any group of 50 or more Local Churches may form a new Self-Governing Methodist Church and remain quasi-connected via agency partnership and concordat representation at General Conference. Any local church could exit to join a new Self-Governing Methodist Church. No change to the UMC's current of connectional ministry via general boards and agencies.
Impact on General Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to the UMC's current of connectional ministry via general boards and agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This plan assumes the various Connectional Conferences have different levels of support – and in some cases no support – for specific general agencies. When these conferences are formed, they will discern which agencies to support. This will mean different levels of general church appointments for each connectional conference. This plan is written so that certain agencies will be supported equally by all the US-based connectional conferences: Wespath, GCFA, Archives and History, UMCOM and some to-be-determined parts of General Board of Global Missions. This plan assumes that certain agencies and funds may not be supported by all Connectional Conferences: apportionment giving; General Board of Church & Society; Discipleship Ministries; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; Ministerial Education Fund; Black College Fund; and Africa University Fund. This plan eliminates GCORR and GCSRW. However, these would be continued through 2025 to assist the three Connectional Conferences in creating some other approach to fulfilling the UMC's historic commitment to racial and gender equity. 	<p><i>[Note: Loss of Annual Conferences and Local Churches would reduce connectional giving substantially and thus sharply decrease connectional ministries provided through our General Agencies. However, it is difficult to predict how this loss which is a feature of the Traditionalist Plan would compare to whatever loss may be an unintended by-product of the other two plans or how it would compare to a negative reaction if no changes are made at GC2019. Whatever loss there may be in terms of general agency outputs will be even greater assuming that connectional support for the Episcopal Fund remains constant.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bishops will be required to certify they support and will uphold the current restrictive language and prohibitions in the Book of Discipline. Bishops will lose some flexibility they currently have in settling disputes within their episcopal area via the Just Resolution process. Accountability of bishops will be partially globalized instead of the currently all regionalized process. Bishops may be forced into early retirement or placed in involuntary leave. Clergy persons will be required to uphold the current restrictive language and prohibitions in the Book of Discipline, and they will face more certain disciplinary actions if they are unwilling to do so. More trials. Clergy of a departing Annual Conference may transfer back into UMC.
Impact on Bishops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change forced on bishops. Their conscience rights are protected. It could be awkward for a bishop assigned to an Annual Conference that doesn't share the opinion of the assigned annual conference, so this will be a factor in episcopal assignments. An extra bishop will be provided for the ordination service if needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bishops will need to select which Connectional Conference to join. There could be mismatch between number of episcopal areas in a Connectional Conference and the number of bishops choosing to affiliate with it. There could be ideological mismatch between some individual bishops and their currently assigned episcopal area. Primary accountability of bishops will be lodged in ideologically-defined Connectional Conferences: Colleges of Bishops. 	
Impact on Clergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in practices forced on clergy. Their conscience rights are protected. Clergy may transfer to different annual conference. Specific mechanism to leave irrevocable church mismatch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clergy will need to select which Connectional Conference to join. There could be mismatch between number of local changes in a Connectional Conference and the number of clergy choosing to affiliate with it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clergy of a departing Annual Conference may transfer back into UMC.
Decisioning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GC2019 majority vote to remove restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GC2019 two-thirds vote to modify UMC conferring structure (General Conf) AC2019 two-thirds vote to modify UMC conferring structure (Annual Conf) JC2020 majority vote to align with one of three new conferences (Justd Conf) AC2020 majority vote to align with same or different conference LC2020 majority vote to align with same or different conference (Local Church Conf) CC2022 votes on new adaptable Books of Discipline (Connectional Conf) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GC2019 majority vote to add these additional rules AC2019 majority votes to certify updating all rules related to homosexuality JC2020 votes to renamp territory to cover departing annual conferences Possible AC2019 votes to leave UMC Possible local Church (LC) votes in 2019 or 2020 to leave UMC
Beginning of new era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final decision Feb 2019 Effective date for new rules Jan 2021 (after cooling off period). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final decision for change by March 2020 Realignment decisions 2021-2022 Organizing new Connectional Conferences Fall 2022 New cycle for quadrennial General Conferences 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final decision Feb 2019 Effective date Feb 2019, and GCFA enforcement begins Jan 2021 Enforcement towards uniformly 2021-2023 First General Conference with new concordat reps 2024

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Fire &
Water
student ministries

WINTER RETREAT

This month FIRE & WATER Students will be heading out to the "Game On" Winter Retreat.

This is a great chance for students in grades 7-12 to get away for a weekend and spend time with each other and with Jesus.

You can sign up at www.fumcfireandwater.com.



JANUARY FOR FIRE & WATER STUDENT MINISTRIES

F.I.R.E. (JUNIOR HIGH)

January 6	Sunday School, Refinery, After Hours
January 9	Bible Study @ 7:00pm
January 13	Sunday School, Refinery, After Hours
January 16	Bible Study @ 7:00pm
January 17	Bingo at Hamilton Trace @ 3:15 pm
January 18	Fire & Water Night Out @ 7:00 pm
January 19-21	Game On Winter Retreat
January 23	Bible Study @ 7:00pm
January 27	Sunday School, Refinery, After Hours
January 30	Bible Study @ 7:00pm

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Refinery @ 6:00 pm, After Hours @ 7:30 pm
Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

W.A.T.E.R (SENIOR HIGH)

January 6	Sunday School, Drink Deep, After Hours
January 10	Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm
January 13	Sunday School, Drink Deep, After Hours
January 17	Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm
January 18	Fire & Water Night Out @ 7:00 pm
January 19-21	Game On Winter Retreat
January 27	Sunday School, Drink Deep, After Hours
January 31	Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Drink Deep @ 6:00 pm, After Hours @ 7:30 pm
Home Bible Studies take place throughout the week

FIRE & WATER NIGHT OUT!

This month we will be duckpin bowling at Fountain Square. We will leave the church at 7:00pm and be back by 10:00pm. There is no cost, come out and bowl with us!

SUNDAY NIGHT MEALS

When we meet with students Sunday nights we provide a meal for them from 5:30-6:00. FIRE & WATER will pay for all the food, we need adults who are willing to serve the meal and stay and take part in what we do for the evening. Please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/ZLeXhas>.

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM BY SEARCHING FOR
FIRE & WATER STUDENT MINISTRIES OR VISITING FUMCFIREANDWATER.COM

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

UNITED METHODIST MEN



Come and see what the Navigators are doing to offer Christianity to college and university students in Indiana. Fishers UMM is pleased to support the Navigators at several Indiana universities.

Our guest speaker on January 12 will be Jason and/or Megan (Plumb) Doddridge. We are pleased to offer this opportunity to hear directly from them more about the Navigators and their personal impact in spreading the Good Word to and through university students.

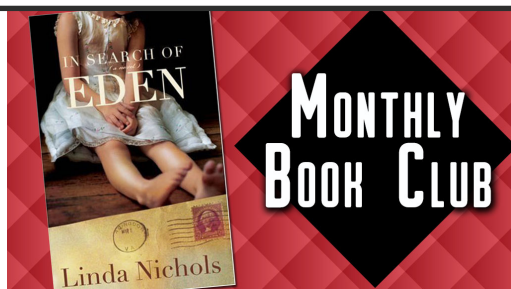
Saturday, January 12, 2019, 8:00 AM in the Dining Room. A hot breakfast will be available. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

FIFTY PLUS

Please join Fifty Plus Older Adult Ministries at 11:30am on Thursday January 10, 2019 in the church dining room. Because of Indiana's mercurial weather, there won't be a program, but someone may bring a collection to present or a poem or story to share, so you won't want to miss this time. No reservations are necessary; please come, bring a friend and enjoy a fabulous luncheon and some quality fellowship to celebrate the New Year.

If you have any questions or need additional information, or in the event of inclement weather, please contact jenni debaun at jdebaun@fishersumc.org or at 317.849.1805.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB



Join the Monthly Book Club in January as they read and discuss *In Search of Eden* by Linda Nichols. A girl who has never been able to settle down, Miranda begins various adventures, but whenever reality begins to tarnish her dreams, she gives up. As she approaches her twenty-seventh birthday, she determines to reinvent her life. But there's one loose end to tie down first... Joseph Williams, the chief of police in Abingdon, Virginia, always tries to do what is right, to perform his duty and protect those he loves. He becomes suspicious of the new woman in town,

and after checking further, he discovers she has no history. Then he finds a baby picture of his niece in her possession... *In Search of Eden* is a story about law and grace, about forgiveness and redemption, and about finding joy and rest in a broken world.

If you are looking for a way to combine your love of reading and books with a small group atmosphere of fellowship, this is the place for you! The Book Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Library at 7:00pm. This month they will meet on January 22. If you are interested or need more information, contact Kim Arnott at 317-797-8612 or kimarnott@mac.com.

COVENANT

New Year - New commitment to connect with others, grow in your faith and learn about the Bible. If this is you - here is a great opportunity. Covenant is an in-depth group Bible study in which you will read and discuss the Bible together, discovering where Scripture meets everyday experience. It centers on our relationships with God, with each other, and with the world, exploring different aspects of Covenant life - Creating, Living and Trusting. You will experience an exciting new way to better understand God's call, his love and his unexpected favor. Each segment will examine what Covenant means, and the progression of a Covenant relationship with God. This group, led by Mark Gallamore, will begin on January 13 and meet each Sunday morning at 9:45am. The study book is available for \$30. So if you are looking for something new in 2019, we invite you to join us for this innovative new study. Sign-up in Connection Central or contact Mark Gallamore for more information mgallamore@clifbar.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SOUPER BOWL

One of the Food Pantry's biggest needs is soup. In honor of Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, the Food Pantry will be collecting all kinds of different soups. While Tomato and Chicken Noodle soup are always appreciated, every type of soup is needed. Please bring donations to Connection Central beginning January 6th.



PARENT NIGHT OUT

Parent Night Out is back for 2018! Drop off your infant-5th graders on Friday February 1st, March 1st or May 3rd from 6-9pm. Kids will play games, do crafts, watch a movie and eat a snack! Pre-Register at fishersumc.org/parentnightout or in the Church app.



DIAPER DRIVE

Each year, millions of infants and toddlers living in low income and poor families are without clean, new diapers. Each year, 1 in 3 mothers struggle with the decision to feed or to diaper their children. What if you had to make that choice? Millions of families do it every day, but we can help make that decision easier for them! Donate diapers, pull-ups and wipes from January 27th through February 24th. More info coming soon!

STEPHEN MINISTRY



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministries is a Christian educational organization committed to serving God and equipping God's people for ministry. The organization draws its name from the book of Acts, where Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the days of the Apostles, caring ministry has been a hallmark of the Christian faith community—and is at the heart of Stephen Ministries.

To learn more about receiving confidential compassionate care through Stephen Ministry, please call the church office or email stephenministry@fishersumc.org.

CONNECT

Fishers United Methodist Church



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SUNDAYS

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 8:30 & 9:45am
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 11:00am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 & 11:00am





Fishers UMC Preschool/MDO

It's registration time for Mother's Day Out and Preschool children for 2019-2020 school year. If you regularly attend church and would like to enroll your child in our program, please complete the form below and return it to the Preschool Office by February 1st. You will be contacted on availability prior to February 4th.

*****CLIP AND RETURN TO THE PRESCHOOL OFFICE*****

Church Registration

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

I understand that I am not guaranteed placement in a class. Since I attend Fishers United Methodist Church, I will be given priority on the wait list.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____