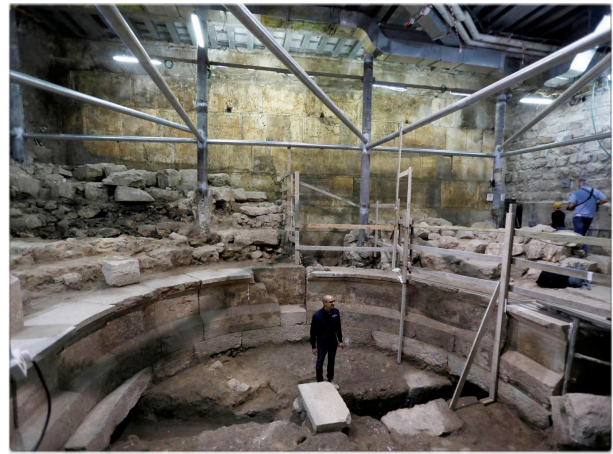


## FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

### ARCHAEOLOGISTS FIND WHAT IS PROBABLY THE OLD ROMAN THEATER IN JERUSALEM

Excavations near the Western Wall of the old Temple Mount in Jerusalem have uncovered the remains of a 200-seat Roman theater (“Jerusalem archaeological dig,” UPI, Oct. 16, 2017). The theater was beneath 26 feet of soil. The archaeologists were exploring Wilson’s Arch, which is on the north side of the main prayer area at the Western Wall. The arch was part of a massive stone bridge leading to the Temple Mount. It was named in 1864 for explorer and surveyor Charles Wilson, who discovered it in modern times. A synagogue under the arch features a massive Torah Ark that can hold more than 100 Torah scrolls. Josephus said that Herod built a theater in the city for Greek drama and Dionysian music and a massive amphitheater “in the plain.”



The theatre is the first rediscovered example of a Roman public building in Jerusalem *Reuters*

### UNITED METHODIST LESBIAN PASTOR ACCUSES JESUS OF BIGOTRY



Karen Oliveto

Karen Oliveto, a practicing lesbian and a United Methodist pastor, claims that Jesus grew in His understanding of people and even of His own Messiahship. In a Facebook post on Matthew 15:21-28, Oliveto misses the point entirely that Christ, the infallible Son of God, was testing the Canaanite woman’s faith and instead says, “I can’t help but note how Jesus comes around. Too many folks want to box Jesus in, carve him in stone, create an idol out of him. But this story cracks the pedestal we’ve put him on. The wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting one, prince of peace, was as human as you and me. Like you and me, he didn’t have his life figured out. He was still growing, maturing, putting the pieces together about who he was and what he was supposed to do. We might think of him as the Rock of Ages, but he was more like a hunk of clay, forming and reforming himself in relation to God. ... In his conversion, by changing his mind and acting outside of tradition, by treating the woman as a person and responding to her needs, Jesus is willing to stand against culture and social norms and risk his status and power. ... Jesus finds greater intimacy with

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## UNITED METHODIST LESBIAN PASTOR ACCUSES JESUS OF BIGOTRY

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God” (“UMC Lesbian ‘Pastor,” *Pulpit&Pen*, Sep. 30, 2017). This is a false christ, a christ that is “as human as you or me,” a christ that is not the eternal Son of God, a christ that needed “converting,” a christ that needed to learn how to treat people in a right way, a christ that grew in his intimacy with God. “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Peter 2:1-2).

## CONNECTION FOUND BETWEEN MARIJUANA AND VIOLENCE

The following is from “Smoking cannabis does make people more violent” by Steve Doughty, *Daily Mail*, Oct. 5, 2017: “Study Yields Shocking Results,” *FaithWire*, Oct. 5, 2017: “Canadian researchers claim to have uncovered ‘a possible causative role for cannabis use on violence,’ a potentially noteworthy finding that warrants further study. A new analysis published in the journal of *Frontiers in Psychiatry* found that psychiatric patients who smoke weed regularly are more than two times more likely to turn violent than those who don’t use the drug. The potential theory, based on research conducted by five experts from Montreal, Canada, is that ongoing use of weed could lead those with mental illness to commit violence and assaults, *The Times* reported [‘Scientists find link between cannabis, psychosis and violence,’ Oct. 5, 2017]. ‘Violence is a major concern and is prevalent across several mental disorders,’ a description of the study reads [‘Persistence of Cannabis Use Predicts Violence following Acute Psychiatric Discharge,’ *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, Sep. 21, 2017]. ‘The use of substances has been associated with an exacerbation of psychiatric symptoms as well as with violence.’ The text



continues, ‘Compared to other substances such as alcohol and cocaine, existing literature on the cannabis--violence relationship has been more limited, with most studies being conducted in the general population, and has shown controversial results.’ So, researchers explored the lives and behaviors of 1,136 psychiatric patients who were recently discharged from hospitals located in Missouri, Pittsburgh and Massachusetts. In the end, they found that there’s a higher chance that those using marijuana after they are discharged will become violent as time goes on. And rather than finding that violent people are drawn to weed, they discovered that the drug ‘predicted future violent behavior,’ as *The Daily Mail* noted [‘Smoking cannabis does make people violent,’ Oct. 5, 2017] ... Meanwhile, other reviews have shown that cannabis use among the general public could have an increase on ‘car accidents, psychotic symptoms and short-term cognitive impairment,’ as *CNN* noted [‘Marijuana and the Brain,’ Aug. 14, 2017] ... The newest data about psychiatric patients comes as U.S. states have been increasingly decriminalizing marijuana and as debate over marijuana legalization forges on.”

## HUMAN BRAIN CAN CREATE STRUCTURES UP TO 11 DIMENSIONS

The following is from “The Human Brain,” ScienceAlert.com, Jun. 13, 2017: “Neuroscientists have used a classic branch of math in a totally new way to peer into the structure of our brains. What they’ve discovered is that the brain is full of multi-dimensional geometrical structures operating in as many as 11 dimensions. ... the results of this new study could be the next major step in understanding the fabric of the human brain--the most complex structure we know of. ... This latest brain model was produced by a team of researchers from the Blue Brain Project, a Swiss research initiative devoted to building a supercomputer-powered reconstruction of the human brain. The team used algebraic topology, a branch of mathematics used to describe the properties of objects and spaces regardless of how they change shape. They found that groups of neurons connect into ‘cliques’, and that the number of neurons in a clique would lead to its size as a high-dimensional geometric object (a mathematical dimensional concept, not a space-time one). ‘We found a world that we had never imagined,’ says lead researcher, neuroscientist Henry Markram from the EPFL institute in Switzerland. ‘There are

tens of millions of these objects even in a small speck of the brain, up through seven dimensions. In some networks, we even found structures with up to 11 dimensions.’ ... Human brains are estimated to have a staggering 86 billion neurons, with multiple connections from each cell webbing in every possible direction, forming the vast cellular network that somehow makes us capable of thought and consciousness. ... ‘Algebraic topology is like a telescope and microscope at the same time,’ says one of the team, mathematician Kathryn Hess from EPFL. ‘It can zoom into networks to find hidden structures, the trees in the forest, and see the empty spaces, the clearings, all at the same time.’ ... ‘It is as if the brain reacts to a stimulus by building [and] then razing a tower of multi-dimensional blocks, starting with rods (1D), then planks (2D), then cubes (3D), and then more complex geometries with 4D, 5D, etc.’ says one of the team, mathematician Ran Levi from Aberdeen University in Scotland. ‘The progression of activity through the brain resembles a multi-dimensional sandcastle that materialises out of the sand and then disintegrates.’”

## SMARTPHONES AND CHILDREN

The following is excerpted from “Our Toxic Smartphone Addiction,” *National Review*, Oct. 12, 2017: “It’s damaging American mental health, and unless we do something about it things will only get worse. ... According to the latest data from Apple, smartphone users check in compulsively, averaging around 80 times a day. ... American adults eat, sleep, and breathe media, according to a recent eMarketer survey, consuming an average of twelve hours a day. ... If adults can’t handle smartphone technology, how could kids possibly stand a chance? Despite this, and despite the fact that it seems highly questionable to hand an immature young person what is essentially a very expensive portable Internet porn finder/social-media stalking system/mean girls text center, American kids are getting smartphones at earlier and earlier ages. The average age of acquisition, in fact, is currently ten years old.” For advice about the safe use of computers and smart phones in families see *The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church*, available for free online viewing and as a free eBook download from [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org).



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# NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE IN CHRIST

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (Ga 3:28). The context of this verse is salvation, not the woman’s ministry in this present world. In Christ, the woman has a spiritual standing that is equal with the man. Both male and female in Christ are described in Ephesians 1-3. The saved woman is redeemed by Christ’s blood, forgiven, justified, the recipient of all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, is seated in the heavenlies with Christ. The woman’s spiritual equality is seen in that she is baptized in the same way as the man and participates equally in the Lord’s Supper. There is no teaching like this in any other religion. “Everywhere but in connexion with the Christian religion, woman has been degraded. She has been kept in ignorance. She has been treated as an inferior in all respects. She has been doomed to unpitied drudgery, and ignorance, and toil. So she was among the ancient Greeks and Romans; so she is among the savages of America; so she is in China, and India, and in the islands of the sea; so she is regarded in the Koran, and in all Mohammedan countries. It is Christianity alone which has elevated her; and nowhere on earth does man regard the

mother of his children as an intelligent companion and friend, except where the influence of the Christian religion has been felt. At the communion table, at the foot of the cross, and in the hopes of heaven, she is on a level with man; and this fact diffuses a mild, and purifying, and elevating influence over all the relations of life.” (Barnes).



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## INFORMATION

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click “Manage My Subscription.” Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).

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