

As I am writing this letter the Special Conference in St. Louis is taking place. It is the hope of the church as a whole that this conference will submit a plan to move our church forward on matters of human sexuality and inclusion of LGBTQ persons. This special session includes delegates from all around the world and there are 3 plans being discussed that I highlighted in my letter last month. The outcome of this conference will be brought to General Conference, May 5th-15th, 2020 in Minneapolis. I have watched a little of this conference and have read the news stories after each session and it looks like the Traditional Plan is the one that is going to be presented to General Conference. To reiterate, the Traditional Plan means that we keep the language in the Book of Discipline regarding homosexuality the same and employ clergy who took a vow under these rules to abide by them. Now let's be clear, this by no means says that the United Methodist Church discriminates against who can attend, join or even serve in our churches. The only restriction on the issue of homosexuality is that it will not ordain practicing homosexual clergy and will not permit clergy to officiate at same sex weddings.

As I have been following this conference the verses that keep coming to my mind is Romans 12:1-2. "So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature" (CEB). Since the 1972 General Conference the phrase that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" has been included in the Book of Discipline. So I ask you, what has changed – the Bible or society?

How did we get to this place, where people can read the same Bible and come to different conclusions and interpretations as to what is says. For starters, Jesus never wrote a book of systematic theology – in other words he just says to go and make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He also performed some miracles, taught on ethics and gave some great sermons and parables but when it comes down to what words of institution we should use in communion, standards for candidates for ordination or church polity and doctrine (Jesus did not comment on that). Really, Jesus never even talked about the church except when he changed Simon's name to Peter and said on this Rock I will build my Church! It means that throughout the history of the church, we have been making it up as we go – now I say that tongue in cheek but as I am taking Church History, it sure seems that way. Also, the church has a dark history and has done some real harm in the name of God. Nevertheless, the church is how people experience God's grace and are welcomed into the Body of Christ. So, how then are we to act and be transformed?

The answer is in verse 1 of Romans 12, present our bodies as a living sacrifice. If we offer ourselves fully to God, then we are giving ourselves over to God's will. We cannot know God's will if we are telling God what needs to happen or what should be done – don't conform, be transformed. As a denomination, the

United Methodist Church has been on a steady decline in

the last two decades. When there is no difference between the church and the world – why would anyone want to go to church? Instead, let's be open to God's will for our lives, our church, and our community and transform Lake Mills and Northwood into the Kingdom of God.

Pastor Rob



«Sesquicentennial Celebration!"

Asbury United Methodist Church will celebrate The Sesquicentennial organization of United Methodist Women on Sunday, March 24^{th} with a worship service at 9:00 a.m. led by the women of the church honoring the 150^{th} anniversary of the founding of the autonomous body of the church.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Painting at the Northwood 1st Lutheran Church

On Shrove Tuesday this year (March 5) FLC Youth will offer a supper of pancakes and sausage, as well as orange juice, milk, and coffee from 4:00 - 600 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

Either before you eat or afterwards, Val Foss will be there to lead you through a simple wooden sign painting project with an Easter theme. We ask that children be accompanied by an adult or older student.

No cost for supper or project. We'd appreciate knowing if you are planning to make a Easter sign, so that we can have enough supplies. You can contact the church office, respond via the First Lutheran Church and Sunday School Facebook page, or on Val's Facebook page.

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Service 6pm at Asbury UMC

(this will also include a fundraiser for the UMW)

Lenten Studies on Sunday, March 10th -April 14th at 5 pm at Asbury UMC





LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The UMCOR Special Sunday is on March 17th,

and we want to remind you that even though writing a check or putting cash in the offering doesn't feel exciting, you really ARE making a difference.
Your donations to UMCOR on this Special Sunday help:

- •Refugees in Clarkston, GA earn a living wage and get job training.
- •Deliver food, water, shelter, and long-term recovery assistance to help many of the 68.5 million people displaced by war, persecution, and natural disaster.
- •Distribute relief kits to those in need following the U.S. hurricanes of 2017.

There are countless other stories about seeing God's work in action through UMCOR. We want you to know that it is something we can do together to help give relief and spread God's love throughout the world.

Your gifts on UMCOR Special Sunday underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific project will go toward that mission, not administrative costs.

This is such an important gift and one that we can do together.

Let's make a difference, together on UMCOR Sunday, March 17th.



HAVE YOU LOOKED AT YOUR IOWA UNITED METHODIST CAMP

CATALOG? If you've received in the mail your 2019 catalog: "Adventure of a Lifetime" you'll find a camp of your choice and interest at our three campgrounds: Camp Wesley Woods, Okoboji and Pictured Rocks. Among the camps are camps for campers interested in go-carts. water parks, horses, canoeing, high adventure, exceptional persons camp, and more.

Don't wait to share summer of friendships, faith building, and excitement at one of our camps. Register now for a camp of your choice. Join with other UMC campers this summer for an Adventure of a Lifetime. Our camps staff can't wait to see you!

NOTE: If you don't have a camp catalog you can go online at www.iaumc.org/camps and download a camp catalog or visit the camp display in the basement fellowship hall at Asbury UMC and if you have questions, please ask your pastor or church camp ambassador, Rev. Jerry in person or at 592-4484 or irobrstn@wctatel.net. Remember, too, there are camperships available for camp.



A Big-Big Heartfelt Thank-you!!! To all who came to our Valentine Spaghetti Meal in February a special thanks to all our helpers — adult & youth you were awesome +. After expenses we were able to put \$500 + into our Asbury UMC campership fund for 2019 camperships to our United Methodist Camps.

ASBURY UMC MARCH NOISY OFFERING -WELL WATER



This winter in North Iowa has kept our children and youth from attending classes due to the weather. I counted 35 school closings on Tuesday, Feb. 12th. Rarely do we think that the lack of

sustainable water will keep our children from attending school, but in countries like Nicaragua children miss countless days of school due to a lack of water. Our church has chosen to partner with the people of Nicaragua so that they can build a better future for themselves through the sustainable development of **W**ater, **S**anitation, and **H**ygiene (WaSH) education projects for their children. Through our partnership with El Porvenir we also take it a step farther with El Porvenir's watershed management program which promotes water flow, increases food security, and reduces the impact of climate change. Clean drinking water for all Nicaraguans—no matter how remote or how bad the road is—is at the core of everything our children's noisy offering does. Asbury UMC's "young disciples" will collect the noisy offering each Sunday in March for El Porvenir Christian mission to ensure continued access to clean water for healthy Nicaraguans.



Happy 150th Birthay!!!! The organization of United Methodist Women is celebrating its founding 150 years ago in 1869. On March 23rd, 1869, in Boston, Massachusetts, Clementina Butler and Lois Parker informed six women members of the Methodist Episcopal Church about the desperate wwollicit harmone health care and educational needs of women in India. Their Call to Action

raised funds to send Isabella Thoburn, a teacher, and Clara Swain, a doctor, to India. The meeting in March led to the formation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the first of many Methodist women's mission organizations to address the injustices imposed on women and girls in the 19th century. United Methodist Women is their successor, and we celebrate 150 years of changing the lives of women, children and youth.

From their beginning, United Methodist Women members have led the way in countless endeavors. Our membership is comprised of women from all backgrounds and experiences, compelled by their Christian faith to serve and lead in places near and far and in ways never imagined.

This includes tutoring children and youth in after-school programs, volunteering at community food pantries, teaching Bible Study in churches, visiting the infirmed in hospitals, advocating against legislation and policies that marginalize women and children, and supporting the 100 National Mission Institutions in the United States and the 107 international organizations in 110 countries that provide a pathway to healthy, productive and empowered living. The reach and presence of United Methodist Women is felt far and wide, efforts having a deep and lasting impact on the lives of women, children and youth each and every day.

This is what distinguishes United Methodist Women from other organizations, and attests to its longevity and relevance, today and especially in the years to come.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT MISSION EVENT

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

(Snow date—Tuesday, March 26, 2019)

ALGONA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 East Nebraska Street Algona, Iowa

Daniel Corrow presenting issues included in Susan Taylor's book, "WHAT **ABOUT OUR MONEY? A Faith Response**

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Registration and Coffee and Rolls

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon—Morning Session

12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.—Salad Luncheon (Each car load bring one large salad to share.)

12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.—Afternoon Session

2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.—Closing

Are You Ready to Grow? North Central District — Spiritual Growth Day Apart "Embrassing Wholeness" Led by Lynn Calvert – Iowa Conference UMW **President** Tuesday, April 23, 2019

First United Methodist Church 119 Georgia Avenue South, Mason City, Iowa 9:00 a.m.Coffee



Mission News – March 2019



Mission Dinner – February 10th: I'd like to extend my sincere thank you to each of you who made soup, desserts and salads for the Mission Dinner. Thank you to each of you who helped on Saturday and Sunday to set up, serve and clean up. Thank you to everyone who attended. I don't think anyone went home hungry. We served 50, which includes 2 takeouts. Our profit for the dinner was \$356.00



2019 Mission Ingathering:

I'm including below the response I received, from Jan Benson, who is the chair person of the Ingathering site in Cedar Falls, in answer to some of my questions about the 2019 Ingathering booklet:

I am really excited about the changes that the Ingathering Task Force has made for 2019. I think that our new name, "Mission Ingathering" and the revisions to our vision, mission, and purpose better describe what we have been doing for many years now.

The two trucks of mission kits this year will both be going to Midwest Mission in Illinois. That decision was made after UMCOR made the decision to discontinue shipping kits overseas. The need to transport them to a shipping port was no longer necessary. Midwest Mission and UMCOR have a strong connection so if kits we send to MM are needed by UMCOR they will be sent where needed. The UMCOR hygiene kits that we collect and ship to Illinois will be sent on to UMCOR by Midwest Mission. The trucks and drivers we use for Ingathering are donated by Hummer Trucking but we have to pay for the fuel for the trucks. We will be able to direct the fuel savings by shipping to Illinois to Hunger Grants to Iowa food pantries.

The notes below, and on the next two pages are either from the 2019 Ingathering Booklet, or are in answer to my questions, to Jan Benson, about the booklet.

Notes:

There is no need to include \$1.00 per UMCOR Hygiene Kit in the Mission Ingathering check to purchase toothpaste as it will be taken care of another way.

The Ingathering will still accept the 2-strap school bags, that we have on hand, under the line item of Empty School Bags. The School Kits must be packaged in either a 2-gallon zip lock bag or in a one-strap cloth bag (pattern is in the Ingathering booklet).

UMCOR DEPOT AND MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER OF MISSION FOR UNITED METHODISTS ARE PLACES

UMCOR collects Hygiene, School, and Cleaning kits for distribution following disasters within the and Personal Dignity kits for distribution in response to requests within and beyond the United United States. Midwest Mission collects Student School, Layette, Birthing, Feminine Hygiene,

Midwest Mission began in 2000 and is a related ministry of the United Methodist Church. The Board of Directors is made up of two delegates from each conference of the North Central Jurisdiction and up to three delegates from neighboring conferences.

30,000 square-foot facility is located on a 10-acre campus 4 miles south of Springfield, Illinois. It partners with Food for the Poor, Franciscan Mission Warehouse, Christians in Mission, and U.S. disaster relief. The work is done by volunteers who come from all over the U.S. to serve. The South Command donating supplies to humanitarian aid missions in Latin America and Africa. is the second largest of the cooperating depots in the UMCOR Relief Supply Network, and Midwest Mission collects, makes, assembles, and restores supplies for humanitarian and

Midwest Mission sent 166 domestic shipments and 25 international shipments in 2018, resulting in \$4.4 million in aid. Kits and projects distributed included: Personal Dignity Kit 14,539; Student Teacher School Kit, 82; Electric Sewing Machines 229; Treadle Sewing Machines 39. UMCOR kits distributed by Midwest Mission in 2018. Cleaning, 10,332; School, 5990; Hygiene, 7,518. School Kit 9,311; Food Pack 9,021; Birthing Kit 4,627; Layette Kit 932; Desk, 468; Bikes, 413;

UMCOR KIT

maintain personal hygiene, their overall health improves. There is no need to include \$1 per kit in the Mission Ingathering check delivered to the site to purchase toothpaste as it will be taken HYGIENE KITS help disaster victims reclaim their dignity and self-respect. When people can care of another way.

- 1 new hand towel (15"x25" up to 17"x27")
 - new washcloth
- large, sturdy comb (at least 6 inches of teeth)
- toenail or fingernail clipper no emery boards or metal nail files
- 1 bath-sized bar of soap in wrapper (3 oz. bar or larger); No Ivory or Jergens
 - new adult size toothbrush in original sealed wrapper
- 10 adhesive bandages (3/4" by 3") common household bandages acceptable
 - 1 one gallon size re-sealable bag

Fold sides of towel to cover items. Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the Lay out hand towel and lay washcloth flat in center. Place rest of items on top of washcloth. towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in plastic bag, remove air and seal.

VALUE \$12 plus \$2 shipping

mentioned, but only the hygiene kit description follows. UMCOR does collect all three kits, BUT, the Ingathering is only collecting hygiene Notes: At the top of this page, hygiene, school and cleaning kits are kits for UMCOR in 2019.

MIDWEST MISSION KITS

All patterns at http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects/patterns

Student School Kit

3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8'x10 1/2' pair of student round tip scissors

l pencil eraser 2" or larger

pencil sharpener

ruler 12" long with metric

Place in doth bag with one handle. Pattern at http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects/patterns 1 box of 12 colored pencils VALUE with items in cloth bag \$12 plus \$2 shipping box of 24 crayons

Empty school bag

VALUE with items in plastic bag \$9 plus \$2 shipping

VALUE \$3 plus donation for shipping

6 cloth diapers Layette Kit

2 gowns or sleepers

2 undershirts or onesies

2 infant size washcloths (no adult washcloths)

2 receiving blankets -28" x 28" to 32" x 32" (no crib blankets) 2 diaper pins - must have protective plastic closures

sweater, sweatshirt or jacket - must open from the front, may be hand-knitted crocheted or

Bundle the items inside one of the blankets and secure with diaper pins. VALUE \$45 plus \$2 shipping

Birthing Kit

bar of soap - 1 to 2 oz. (hotel size)

pair thin gloves - surgical, latex or thin rubber gloves

square yard of clear plastic sheeting - 4 mil thick (no plastic trash bags or shower curtains) pieces of cotton string, each 12" long (no yarn)

single edge razor blade (cover in paper or cardboard to prevent injury)

2 receiving blankets - $28" \times 28" \times 32" \times 32"$ (no thermal or fleece blankets) VALUE \$8 plus \$2 shipping

Feminine Hygiene Kit

2 1-gallon Ziploc bags Draw String Bag

3 pairs of underwear - sizes: child: 10, 12, 14 or women: 5, 6, 1 wash cloth

2 DFG shields and 8 DFG inserts or 8 sewn pads

VALUE \$10 plus \$2 shipping

Notes:

Patterns for the drawstring bag and DFG shields and inserts should all be the same size (one of the sizes listed above) For the **Feminine Hygiene Kits**, the 3 pairs of underwear are on the Midwest Mission website (www.midwestmission.org)

For the School Kits, the items are the same as in previous years, except for the addition of the colored pencils.

Northwood United Methodist Church Council Minutes

(Unapproved) Thursday, February 14, 2019 10:00 am

Members present: Bobbi Bendickson; Joanne Steinmetz; LeAnn Steiff; Jeff Greve; Pastor Rob; Bobbi Hooks; and Karen Abrahams.

Council Chair Bobbi B. called the meeting to order.

Devotions by Bobbi H. on Growing Old taken from the Upper Room Devotional.

Motion by LeAnn; seconded by Bobbi H. to approve the January 6, 2019 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was handed out to the members.

Bobbi B. discussed job descriptions of various committees for communication purposes according to our Single Board Model Policy.

Reports from action areas will be given in writing to Bobbi B. by the first of even months when the council meets. This should speed up the meetings.

Brainstorming discussion was held on Finance; Mission and Discipleship Pathways.

Pastor's Report: Working on website for Northwood and Lake Mills to record Sunday services. March 6th Joint Ash Wednesday Services will be held at Asbury with a soup supper, then services to follow. March 24th is the 150th Anniversary of the United Methodist Women. March 10th, Pastor will be on vacation.

Action item by Trustees: Jeff reported he received a bid from State Farm Insurance for \$3800 a year for church insurance. Other bids will be coming in. Motion by Jeff to authorize the council chair to choose the best bid by an insurance company; modified by Joanne to read: Authorize the council chair and trustees to choose the insurance company for best coverage. Seconded by Joanne; motion carried.

Wade Bendickson will be added to the Trustees Committee.

Motion by LeAnn; seconded by Joanne to adjourn.

Karen Abrahams, Council Secretary

Half Truth by Adam Hamilton Bible Study will start March 10-April 14th at 5pm

We will be doing the study "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton. On Sunday evenings at Asbury United Methodist church.

Supper may be included.

Let Joyce Sherman know if you are interested at 641-590-3356.

True or false:

- 1. Everything happens for a reason.
- 2. God helps those who help themselves.
- 3. God won't give you more than you can handle.
- 4. God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- 5. Love the sinner, hate the sin.

All true? Not so fast. We've heard these phrases all of our lives, but in Adam Hamilton's new book, *Half Truths*, you'll learn that although they capture some element of truth, when compared to the wisdom found in Scripture, they're really just common Christian clichés. The five--week, DVD study can be used in small groups.



Benefit for Lynn and Donna Lair to help with the costs associated with

ADAM HAMILTON

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES AND OTHER THINGS THE BEBLE DOESN'T SAN

Donna's liver transplant. Sunday, March 31st, at the Lake Mills Community School foyer and gym. Meal served from 11 am -1 pm with a live and silent auction at 1 pm.



Our sympathies to the Mammen Family, Jerry Mammen Passed away on February 15th John Scherb
Karen Abrahams
Donna Lair
Bryan Hooks
Carole Yocum
Kathy Voorhes
our military and their loving families,
the unemployed, Iowa UMC Cabinet and Bishop.

Lake Mills Care Center... In Our Thoughts...

Carol Griffiths Lillian Smith

Good Shepard Mason City...

Ivan Olson

Sandy Nitcher Norma Kay Martinson Bernice Estes Nancy Whitesell

Lutheran Retirement Home in Northwood...

The Pines—Winona Hennigar

Northwood Sunday Schedule

10:30 am Worship Service-N 11:45 am Fellowship –N



Asbury Sunday Schedule

9:00 am Worship –A 10:00 am Fellowship –A 10:00 am Sunday School-A

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:30 pm World Day of Prayer at Sacred Heart Catholic in Manly	2
3 Regular Schedule	4	5 4:30 pm UMW Business Mtg at Jane's	6 2pm Rachel Circle-A Ash Wednesday Soup Supper & Worship Service 6pm at Asbury	7	8 International Bell Ringing for Women's Rights	9
Regular Schedule 5pm Lent Study at Asbury	11	12	13 7pm Esther Circle-A	14	15	16
Regular Schedule 5pm Lent Study at Asbury	18	19 UMW District Mission Study at Algona UMC	20	21	22	23
24 Regular Schedule 5pm Lent Study at Asbury	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Regular Schedule Lair Benefit at LMCS Foyer starting 11 am	April 7th & 14th 5pm Lent Study at Asbury					



SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

NORTHWOOD

2019	3-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	24-Mar	31-Mar
Scripture Reader	Bobbi Hooks				
Ushers	Glenn & LeAnn Steiff	Glenn & LeAnn Steiff	Glenn & LeAnn Steiff	Pat & Nancy Mathahs	Pat & Nancy Mathahs
Coffee Servers	Karen Abrahams & Bobbi Hooks	June Low & Karen Hove	Nancy & Patrick Mathahs	Mary & CK Christianson & Penny Robb	Karen & Chuck Hove
Communion Steward	June Low				

We are always in need of volunteers! Check the sign up sheet in Wesley Hall to let us know when you can help. If you find that you are unavailable to help on the Sunday assigned, please trade with someone else on the list and let the Office know (641-324-1557).

STAFF PARISH PASTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

If you have concerns or compliments regarding the church, please talk to Pastor Rob first. If you talk to Pastor Rob and still have a concern, please contact a SPRC member.

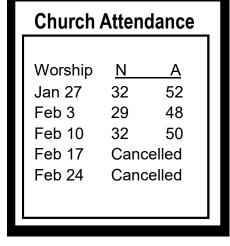
<u>ASBURY UMC</u>
<u>2019</u>
Betty Robertson
Joyce Sherman
David Taft
Richard Schwarm
Megan Peterson
Scott Nelson
Donna Lair

NORTHWOOD UMC

2019

Bobbi Bendickson
Karen Abrahams
John Greve
Mary Christianson
Mike Bode

If you have any compliments about your church, share them with everyone!



Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!

Asbury

- 2 Vivian Kvale
- 2 Charise Schwarm
- 7 Rylan Heath
- 8 Harriet Young
- 11 Alyssa Slattum
- 12 Samuel Erdahl
- 15 Sarah Heath
- 19 Noah Irons
- 20 JJ Grotewold Schipper
- 20 Betty Vold
- 21 Rock Bridges
- 21 Jill Nelson
- 23 Jean Heitland
- 26 Casey Tiedman
- 27 Sue Bridges
- 28 Alexander Tiedeman
- 29 David Taft
- 29 Betty Langpap
- 30 Carol Griffiths

Northwood

- 1 Becky Johnston
- 3 Wade Fridley
- 4 Michael Godfrey
- 5 Tyce Skellenger
- 7 Kyle Stucky
- 9 Grace Skellenger
- 12 Ryan Williamson
- 16 Winona Hennigar
- 16 Karen Abrahams
- 20 Wanda Citurs
- 21 Jeff Greve
- 21 Dominic Williamson
- 22 Jared Brackey
- 26 Dae Haskins
- 27 Bradley Jaspers
- 28 Jim Meland
- 29 CK Christianson
- 30 Kenneth Nitcher
- 31 Richard Patterson





We appreciate receiving your articles for upcoming church events!

TO DO LIST

- Spend time with Jesus Psalm 27:8.
- Let Him prioritize my day Matthew 6:33.
- Pray instead of worrying Philippians 4:6.
- Be honest about my sins-James 4:10.
- Think of others Philippians 2:3-4.
- Wait patiently for God to act Psalm 27:14.
- Be willing to do hard stuff Matthew 16:24.
- Read God's Word Psalm 119:9-16.
- 9. Do what it says James 1:22
- Let Christ lead me Matthew 11:29.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:



REMINDER:

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER

March 15th

If you have material that you would like included in the newsletters or bulletins or any corrections to information, please contact us in one of these ways:

wants you!

641.324.1557

send the information via email northwoodUMC@msn.com

or mail to

Northwood UMC ATTN Newsletter PO Box 104, Northwood IA 50459

Northwood and Asbury United Methodist Churches

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INSPIRATIONS-2019

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Northwood United Methodist Church 1000 1st Avenue North PO Box 104 Northwood IA 50459

> Phone 641.324.1557 (N) NorthwoodUMC@msn.com

THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:
TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS,

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.