



# *INSPIRATIONS 2022*

## *Pastor's Page*

Greetings:

I want to continue from last month's letter and tell you about my experiences at three other churches I visited during my renewal leave in October. The second church I visited was River City Church in Mason City and it meets in the Willowbrook Mall. They were having three services a Sunday because the area they were meeting in was too small for the number of people attending church (a good problem to have). They got the approval to knock out a wall and expand their sanctuary and were able to go to having two services each Sunday. The service I went to started at 10am when I arrived at 9:50 and only four other people were in the sanctuary. I thought I might have picked a bad time to visit but as 10 rolled around a few more people arrived and by ten minutes after the place was packed.

Next Sunday I visited Prairie Lakes Church in Osage. This church is a satellite of Prairie Lakes in Cedar Falls and is one of many church plants throughout Iowa. Each campus church has a pastor, a worship leader but the sermon was broadcast on a screen and was recorded by one of the pastors in Cedar Falls. This was interesting because an idea I had for churches in our conference that cannot afford a pastor or are without one could go with a model like this. We have our services recorded and they have someone who is there to lead the service and the message would be delivered via a recording from another clergy. Again, this service was packed too.

The last week I watched the church service online for St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Dubuque. I love this church because of the Tiffany windows and beautiful décor. Watching online you did not get to see the beauty of the sanctuary and miss out on the awe. Otherwise, I thought they did a nice job of presenting a service that was meaningful and invited you into their space. Not sure how many people were attending in person but I saw a lot of empty pews.

I am sure there are a number of factors as to why Cornerstone, River City and Prairie Lakes were a packed house on Sunday but one thing I saw as a common denominator was each church had a strong emphasis on small groups. These groups met at various times during the week and kept people connected. Small groups were a key factor in the growth of the Methodist movement and John Wesley called them class meetings. To this end I want to develop small groups at Asbury and Northwood as part of our discipleship pathway. Be thinking and praying about how God can use you to be a part of these groups. There are opportunities to be a part of a group already by joining one of the Advent studies, Pub Theology, coffee at the Swallow or gathering of people from house to house.

May God bless you this season of Advent. Till Christ comes again.

Pastor Rob

Join the Pastor on **TUESDAYS** from 10-noon at Swallow Coffeehouse in Lake Mills every week **OR** the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays** of the month for Pub Theology at 7pm at the Worth Brewing if you would care to join him for a bit of fellowship and conversation.



# December 2022 Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Tyler Gasper Andrea Ostrander Sandy Stucky Bryan Christianson	2 Faith Christianson Sue Mannes Vivian Kvale Becky Johnson	3 Kaisen Mary Daryl Sherman Charise Schwarm Wade Fridley
4 Tate Grotewold Schipper Emma Taft Kaylee Taft Michael Godfrey	5 Melissa Taft Glenn Steiff Tyce Skellenger Aaron Mannes	6 Anna Budach Mya Peterson Kyle Stucky Ben Peterson Deb Mueller	7 Michael McColloch Royce Peterson Rylan Heath Cody	8 Haley Slattum Ryan Skellenger Harriet Young Grace Skellenger	9 Char Hanson Paula Harris Jason Slattum Vernon Angel	10 Chad Tiedeman Avery Grunhovd Carol Jones Sandy Rainey
11 Jeanie Grotewold Alyssa Slattum Ian Podgorniak Gary Heimdahl	12 Drae Love Samuel Erdahl Ryan Williamson Harlan Leverson	13 Pearl Imler Edward Schwarm Foster Hartman	14 Chris Heitland Jeremy Ostrander Blake Grotewold	15 Eric Christianson August Madson Sarah Heath Rhonda Fridley	16 Breanna Mary Chris Rogstad Dennis Walser Karen Abrahams Cole	17 Finley Rogstad Sonja Tiedman Ashten Love Warren Jones
18 Noah Irons Daryl Groe Sherrylee Gasper Ben Irons	19 JJ Grotewold Schipper Lyla Rogstad John Budach Hudson Ostrander	20 Marilyn Castle Sandy Hyde Betty Vold Wanda Citurs Logan Ostrander	21 Becky Jacks Rock Bridges Jeff Greve Mary Arrett-Brandstad	22 Jackson Grunhovd Margie Barber Jill Nelson Dominic Williamson	23 Lynn Lair Nora Mammen Nancy Mathahs Jean Heitland	24 Jeff Christenson Dae Haskins Lillian Young
25 Josh Tiedman Ryan Mueller Casey Tiedman Cory Stucky	26 Kathy Christianson Sue Bridges Jim Meland	27 Anne Skellenger Alex Tiedeman CK Christianson Dan Tiedman	28 David Hooks David Taft Kenneth Nitcher	29 Gabriel Rogstad Jill Stucky Betty Langpap	30 Shirley Higbee Bryan Arnold Ruth Robb Carol Griffiths	31 Kim Bode Gary Thompson Richard Patterson

# *Dedication of the Sunnyside Cemetery Monument*

~ ~ ~ May 28, 1978 ~ ~ ~



*This Monument is given to the glory of God and for use at Sunnyside Cemetery in memory of Ray T. Peterson by his Brothers, Sisters, Nephews, and Nieces. The digging for the foundation was given by Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Biddle.*

The Land was given to the church in the 1870's by C.D. Smith. Mr. Smith owned much land in this area and is credited with founding the town of Lake Mills. The early operation of the cemetery had little organization. A group of families of the church would usually bring their equipment to mow the grass and tidy things up before Memorial Day. But by the end of the summer the upkeep had been forgotten. The only funds came from occasional donations and the \$5 and \$10 for purchase of a lot.

Ray Peterson became the chairman of the Cemetery and treasurer in 1944. He took the responsibility of seeing that the grass was mowed regularly and that other repairs were made. He took great pride in having the Cemetery grounds look nice. He also began sending out yearly letters asking a maintenance fee from each lot owner.

But the cost of straightening the markers, mowing the grass maintaining the road and general upkeep kept rising and the Cemetery's income was small. So in 1972 Ray initiated what had been his dream a Perpetual Care Fund. He worked long and hard encouraging the lot owners to pay the \$200 for perpetual care. He was successful. This money was placed in a Trust where the principal cannot be used, but the interest is available for maintaining the Cemetery. Through the Perpetual Care and the raising of the lot fees to the current \$100, Ray, Almost single-handedly, helped Sunnyside Cemetery become self supporting. He also provided for the upkeep which has resulted in the present excellent condition of the cemetery.

Ray T. Peterson died September 9, 1976. It is very appropriate that we dedicate the monument this Sunday as Memorial Day was the focal point of the year for Ray. We can be thankful for Ray's dream and his work in accomplishing that dream for Sunnyside Cemetery.

## **HELP! HELP US PLEASE!!!**



Now that we have your attention, our own Sunnyside Cemetery is in desperate need of financial help.

After years of generous volunteers, memorials and donations to maintain our cemetery, times have changed.

Costs of mowing, trimming and weed control have increase yearly while our cemetery income has decreased dramatically to the point we are not even close to covering our yearly expenses.

Please consider helping us fund present and future expenses. Sunnyside is full of memories and history. We are committed to keep these grounds maintained and respectable FOREVER!!!

Donations can be made to Sunnyside Cemetery,

Mailed to Asbury UMC or Dan Tiedman

24226 425th St , Lake Mills, IA 50450

Thank you, Dan Tiedman Co-Chair Cemetery Committee

## **A Brief History of Sunnyside Cemetery— From the 1978 Dedication**

Sunnyside Cemetery is located on the south edge of Lake Mills on Lake Street. It belongs to Asbury United Methodist Church, as Lake Mills has no community cemetery, but each church owns and maintains its own.

# Meet Me At Arlington by Dave Clark/Jimmy Fortune

I was standing in my kitchen listening to the morning news  
Some angry man was talking God he didn't have a clue  
He was putting down our soldiers fighting all those wasted wars  
And I just had to turn it off I couldn't take it any more

I wanted to tell him there's more than what he sees  
And before you tell me that I'm wrong come spend a day with me

## Chorus

Meet me in Arlington I'll introduce you to my son  
And maybe then you'll know just how I feel  
White stones that go on and on 400000 strong  
Broken hearts and wounds that never heal  
Reliving every memory praying he'll come back to me  
But knowing in my heart he never will  
Then tell me that you feel the same way still  
Meet me in Arlington Meet me in Arlington

## Verse2

You can almost hear the stories of the lives they left behind  
Names and numbers etched in stone here before their time  
When you see the caisson rolling and you hear the music play  
When you see a child kneeling by his fallen father's grave

Well man if that don't change you then I don't understand  
Cause if you can't see from where you are then look from I am

## Bridge

Well there's a stone for every soldier  
And the reason that you're free  
To say the things you wanna say  
and believe what you believe

Meet me in Arlington  
Meet me in Arlington  
Meet me in Arlington





**ASBURY UMC CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**  
**IN MEMORY(GOLD LIGHT) and IN HONOR(BLUE LIGHT)**

Provide a Christmas light in memory or in honor of family members and friends. Make our church shine as we celebrate Christ's birth. All proceeds will go to a mission project. Mail or bring this form with your check payable to Asbury UMC and marked for "Christmas Lights." Each light costs \$5.00. **Mail to Asbury UMC, 107 East Main, Lake Mills, IA 50450-1106.** Names will be listed in the bulletin on December 20th.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

A **GOLD** Light will burn IN MEMORY of your family members or friends who are deceased. Print name clearly. Please include \$5.00 for each name.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

A **BLUE** Light will burn in HONOR of your family members or friends who you choose. Print name clearly. Please include \$5.00 for each name.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

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1. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

# Asbury United Methodist Church

## Administrative Council Minutes

(Unapproved) **Wednesday, October 25, 2022 6 pm**

Chairperson David Taft called the meeting to order at 6:05. Members present were Dave Imler, Donna Lair, Wayne Mannes, Dan Tiedman, David Taft, Joyce Sherman, Daryl Sherman, Jill Nelson, Sue Bridges and Brad Grotewold. Prayer was given by Joyce.

Secretary's Report was given by Jill due to Donna not having a voice. Brad moved with Dave I. second to approve the minutes. Approved.

Treasurer's Report was given by Daryl. Apportionments are paid up to date. Balance as of today is \$23,900.73. Discussion of recycling. New parttime custodian salary is \$315.00/monthly. Sue moved with Jill second to approve report. Approved.

There was a discussion about computers being used for church business need to be updated. Brad will talk to NGT for sanctuary computer; Daryl will check with the conference for programs for the treasurer.

### New Business

\*Insurance discussion.

\*Charge Conference report. Our Safe Haven policy needs to be reviewed and updated every 2 years.

\*Cemetery Committee now has 501C status.

\*Trustees report by Dave Imler.

Trees in front of the parsonage have been removed. They were both dead and the east tree was hollow with water standing in it. The trees are down, the stumps are gone, and the yard has dirt in it. The \$5,000 cost is covered from the Trustees savings account,

Parsonage information has been updated since the Congregational Meeting due to firm quotes were finally able to be obtained. Looked at the information from contractors, bids for moving the house, for tearing the house down or repairing it.

It cannot be used as a parsonage because it does not meet Conference standards and is not ADA equipped. It was recommended to remodel and rent it out.

Quotes submitted were Option #1 \$93,000 from Aaron Mannes; Quote #2 repair bad siding sections (City violation) \$350, replace roof \$13,831.81, replace all windows \$25,450, all new siding \$25,527. Bid #2 submitted by Young Construction.

The committee recommends repairing the siding, replace 2 doors and remodel upstairs bathroom for an estimated \$5,000 plus removal of upstairs carpets, cleaning of downstairs carpets and paint/refresh all walls by March 2023. Spring of 2023 goal of replacing roof, \$13,450. 2024-25 goal of replacing windows and siding, \$50,977.64.

Brad moved with Dave I, to accept the Trustee's proposal #2 to prepare to improve and prepare house for rental. Fundraising to be done to 2027. A hand vote was held with 5 voting for the motion, 3 against the motion and 2 abstaining from voting,

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Lair, Ad. Co. Secretary.



## **New Bishop Elected for Iowa United Methodist Conference at 2022 Jurisdictional Conference.**

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai has been assigned as the resident bishop for the Iowa Area, effective Jan. 1, 2023. She was elected to the episcopacy at the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. Before her election,

she served as the chief connectional ministries officer of the Connectional Table for the United Methodist Church since 2018.

Bishop Bigham-Tsai, has served as a district superintendent in the Michigan Annual Conference and as a local church pastor in Kalamazoo and East Lansing, Michigan.

Bigham-Tsai said of her vision of the church: "I envision a United Methodist Church that fully claims its identity as a church that centers grace. This is a church that is open and inclusive of all people. It is a church that addresses racism in the church and in society and actively seeks reconciliation, healing, and justice for its LGBTQIA+ children. Such a church approaches ministry with an outward-facing and invitational love." She describes her leadership as a "relational, collaborative, and innovative leader who makes my own physical, emotional, and spiritual health a priority. I am a visionary who is mission-directed and willing to experiment. I believe in surrounding myself with strong leaders, then equipping and allowing them to lead. I enjoy leading with people who are open to the creative movement of the Spirit, and I enjoy mentoring and developing new leaders."

Bishop Bigham-Tsai is married to Kee Tsai. They have two children, Keeton and Kandem Bigham-Tsai, and a German Shepherd, Kylo.

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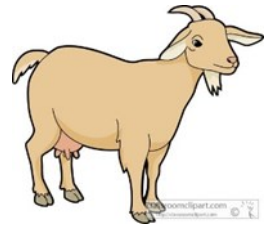
**Making A Difference**  
**Retirement Celebration Honoring Bishop Laurie Haller**  
**Sunday, December 4, 3:00pm**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**1001 Pleasant St., Des Moines, Iowa**

United Methodists and ecumenical friends across Iowa are invited to celebrate the ministry of Iowa Bishop Laurie Haller as she prepares to retire at the end of 2022.

Bishop Laurie was elected to the Episcopacy in the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church on July 14, 2016. Prior to her election as a Bishop and assignment to the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, she served for many years as a United Methodist pastor in the Michigan area. In several settings, she served alongside her husband, Rev. Gary Haller, also an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church.

**ASBURY UMC DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING -HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL**

Ruwaida and Salehe Abdul's family received a goat from Heifer. The gift of a goat has changed their lives forever. Goats are known for providing delicious milk, which can be used to create cheese that can be sold for income, in turn providing a family's children the opportunity to go to school. Goat milk is more easily digestible, and one animal can produce up to four gallons a day. Goats are ideal for zero grazing, which means very little land is needed to raise them. Their natural curiosity and intelligence also makes great pets for families with children. Asbury's December Noisy offering goes to help families like Ruwaida's and Salehe's to have animals like goats, bees, ducks, cows, etc.



**Asbury's United Methodist Missionary to Visit Iowa**

Serving as a United Methodist missionary in Nepal, Katherine Parker is supported by several Iowa churches including Asbury of Lake Mills. Parker serves as a Health Advisor with the United Mission to Nepal with a focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene-WASH, maternal and child health, and adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights. These assignments require her to trek into many isolated, rural villages where she meets with local groups to discuss plans for addressing these various concerns.

Katherine has been approved for itineration in the second half of 2023, so will be returning to the United States. Itineration plans will include her visiting Iowa supporting churches between June 1 and November 30. She would appreciate prayers as she transitions into an itineration mode. Supporting churches will be contacted once a schedule has been developed.



A big thank you to all who participated in Asbury's Harvest Festival. The festival was another successful event because of all the help we received.

Thank you— Sue Slattum



Asbury U.M.C. welcomes Jeff Crosley as our new custodian. Jeff started September 1st. He welcomes communications through his box in the church work office at Asbury.



# WELCOME TO THE BIBLE CHALLENGE!

The Challenge is to read the entire Bible over the course of a year.

Below are the verses to read and in

ONE year you will have read the whole Bible!

## Reading Plan - Chronological

Read the Bible in the order that the events happened.



1-Dec Psalm 106-107 2 Samuel 5:11-25; 2 Samuel	11-Dec 2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 20	21-Dec 22; Psalm 30
2-Dec 6:1-23; 1 Chronicles 13-16	12-Dec Psalm 32, 51, 86, 122	22-Dec Psalm 108-110
3-Dec Psalm 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68 Psalm 89, 96, 100, 101, 105,	13-Dec 2 Samuel 13-15	23-Dec 1 Chronicles 23-25
4-Dec 132	14-Dec Psalm 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55	24-Dec Psalm 131, 138-139, 143-145 1 Chronicles 26-29; Psalm
5-Dec 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17	15-Dec 2 Samuel 16-18	25-Dec 127
6-Dec Psalm 25, 29, 33, 36, 39	16-Dec Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64	26-Dec Psalm 111-118
7-Dec 2 Samuel 8-9; 1 Chronicles 18	17-Dec 2 Samuel 19-21	27-Dec 1 Kings 1-2; Psalm 37, 71, 94
8-Dec Psalm 50, 53, 60, 75 2 Sam10; 1 Chronicles 19;	18-Dec Psalm 5, 38, 41-42	28-Dec Psalm 119:1-88 1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1;
9-Dec Psalm 20	19-Dec 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57	29-Dec Psalm 72
10-Dec Psalm 65-67, 69-70	20-Dec Psalm 95, 97-99	30-Dec Psalm 119:89-176
		31-Dec Song of Solomon 1-8

Bible Sunday Recognition Nov 20th. Congrats Tate, Anna, Kennedy and Haley. Enjoy your bibles.



**Please pray for these:** Myra Greve, Erica Sorenson-Fort Meyers-hurricane, Kathy Voorhes, Jane Christianson, Jerry Robertson, Joan Kvale Christian, Carole Yocom, our military and their loving families, the unemployed, Iowa UMC Cabinet and Bishop.

### In Our Thoughts...

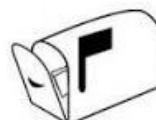
#### Lake Mills Care Center...

Carol Griffiths

#### Lutheran Retirement Home in Northwood...

Becky Johnston  
Wanda Citurs

Norma Kay Martinson  
Rick Low



NOTE!  
ADDRESS CHANGE

Vivian Kvale  
311 S 10th Ave E  
Apt. #205  
Lake Mills, IA 50450  
Phone number is  
641.590.1655

**Northwood Sunday Schedule**

10:45 am Worship Service-N




11:45 am Fellowship

**Asbury Sunday Schedule**

9:00 am Worship -A

10 am Fellowship

**Sun****Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

Join the Pastor on <b><u>TUESDAYS</u></b> from 10-noon at Swallow Coffeehouse in Lake Mills every week <b>OR</b> the <b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays</u></b> of the month for Pub Theology at 7pm at the Worth Brewing if you would care to join him for a bit of fellowship and conversation.				1	2	3
4 Regular Schedule 6pm Advent Bible Study-A	5	6 10 am Swallow Coffee House LM	7 2pm Advent Bible Study-N <b>4pm Confirmation</b>	8 7pm Pub Theology	9	10
11 Regular Schedule 6pm Advent Bible Study-A	12	13 10 am Swallow Coffee House LM	14 2pm Advent Bible Study-N	15	16	17
18 Regular Schedule 6pm Advent Bible Study-A	19	20 10 am Swallow Coffee House LM	21 2pm Advent Bible Study-N <b>4pm Confirmation</b>	22 7pm Pub Theology	23	24 5pm at Asbury 
25 10am at Northwood 	26	27 10 am Swallow Coffee House LM	28	29	30	31 

**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.

**ASBURY UMC****2022**

Joyce Sherman

David Taft

Richard Schwarm

Scott Nelson

Lynn Lair

**NORTHWOOD UMC****2022**

Mike Bode

Bobbi Hooks

Dean Mueller

John Greve

Nancy Mathahs

**Church Attendance**

Worship	<u>N</u>	<u>A</u>
Oct 16	16	31
Oct 23	19	40
Oct 30	29	—
Nov 6	—	40
Nov 13	18	52
Nov 20	23	67
Nov 27	29	

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

## Asbury

- 3 Sue Mannes
- 4 Daryl Sherman
- 4 Emma Grace Taft
- 4 Kaylee Ann Taft
- 5 Royce Peterson
- 5 Mya Peterson
- 6 Ryan Skellenger
- 10 Avery Grunhovd
- 13 Frederick Holtan
- 14 Pastor Rob
- 16 Christopher Rogstad
- 17 Finley Rogstad
- 21 Marilyn Castle
- 22 Jackson Thomas Grunhovd
- 23 Lynn Lair

## Northwood

- 1 Bryan Christianson
- 1 Trent Akemann
- 9 Paula Harris
- 16 August Madson
- 16 Dennis Walser
- 20 Sandy Hyde
- 23 Nancy Mathahs
- 25 Ryan Mueller
- 28 David Hooks
- 29 Jill Stucky
- 29 Bryan Arnold
- 31 Ruth Robb



## ASBURY MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

As of 10/30/2022

*Joyce Imler Account	\$2,013.00
* Don Grotewold Account (kitchenette)	3,755.00
* Doris Grotewold Account (kitchenette)	2,265.00
*Undesignated Account	2,260.61
August Interest	.44
Total	2,261.05
GRAND TOTAL	\$10,294.05



**United Women in Faith** Northwood UMW/UWF are planning to meet for lunch

**December 7 and adjourning to the church for business meeting later. Phone calls will be made closer to the date. Heads up on checking you calendars**

**UMW/UMWF met at Karen Hove's on October 5. We shared fellowship and meditation on the kindness of strangers; how women helped in biblical times and what we can do today.**



The Newsletter Team **WANTS YOU!**

call the office at

**641.324.1557**

**We appreciate receiving your articles for upcoming church events!**

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

send the information via email  
**northwoodUMC@msn.com**

or mail to

**Northwood UMC ATTN Newsletter**  
**PO Box 104, Northwood IA 50459**

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS**

**15th of the Month**

***Northwood and Asbury United Methodist Churches***

PO Box 104  
1000 1st Avenue North  
Northwood IA 50459-0104

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Northwood IA  
50459  
Permit No, 46

Return Service  
Requested



Each of us is an  
*Innkeeper*  
who decides if there is  
room for *Jesus*  
-Neal A Maxwell

# DECEMBER INSPIRATIONS-2022

Asbury United Methodist Church  
107 East Main  
PO Box 4  
Lake Mills IA 50450

Phone 641.592.1106 (A)

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.**