



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

United Methodist Church

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Union Rider – September, 2018 Newsletter



Disaster Response News Update

**How can we in New
England help?**



- Prayers
- Donate to “[UMCOR Disaster Response](#)” U.S. Advance #901670
- Create “[health kits or cleaning \(flood\) buckets](#)”
- Register for one of the upcoming “[disaster response training](#)” sessions being offered here in New England

Learn more about how to help by reading “[Top four worst, and best, ways to help after a disaster](#)”

If you are a certified Early Response Team member: The South Central Jurisdiction, which includes the Rio Texas Conference, has asked for help from ERTs outside the jurisdiction. Current needs include removal of debris and downed trees, and roof tarping. Many homes have water damage from damaged windows and roofs.

- Teams will base out of Corpus Christi and should register at <https://riotexas.org/ert-volunteer-team-registration>.

- ERT trained individuals/small groups that are not part of a team should register at <https://riotexas.org/ert-individual-and-small-group-signup>.

From United Methodist News Service:

Texas floods force rescue of many

United Methodist ministers have been among those rescued from rising waters in Houston as Tropical Storm Harvey continues to bring catastrophic flooding to much of south Texas. *Shannon Martin and Sam Hodges report for United Methodist News Service.* [Read story](#)

Harvey' floods hit Houston churches

From flooded buildings to pastors and other staff forced to flee their homes, United Methodist churches in Houston and elsewhere in south Texas grappled with the consequences of a storm that wouldn't go away. Cleanup from Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath will take years, church leaders say. *Sam Hodges reports for United Methodist News Service.* [Read story](#)

**From Barbara Burnside,
New England Conference**

**Disaster Response &
Mission Coordinator:**

We are watching and are in prayer for those in the path of Hurricane Harvey.



Westbury United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, was a hub for relief work by various agencies after flooding in the city in May 2016.



Don't Underestimate the Power of Prayer

Rise up from your rut and reclaim your spiritual passion.

Priscilla Shirer



Image:
JOSHLAVERTY /
ISTOCK

Have you ever found yourself in a spiritual rut? I know

I have. Life gets busy, church feels like one more thing on your to-do list, and prayer feels both cumbersome and ineffective.

Beyond the fact that life itself can become overwhelming, even sapping your spiritual vitality, there is a more pressing culprit that threatens to marginalize your prayer life: You have an Enemy waging war on your soul.

Make no mistake, this *is* a war. You are in the fight of your life. A very real Enemy has been strategizing and scheming against you, assaulting you, coming after your emotions, your mind, your future.

But I say Satan's reign of terror stops here, now. He might keep coming, but he won't have victory because his power starts failing when we start praying.

The Mystery of Prayer

I'm willing to admit, right up front, that I don't fully understand this. There's an undeniable, unknowable, invisible mystery to the power of prayer. That's why our first reaction to prayer may be to dismiss it, downplay it, or even devalue its critical importance. Prayer, we think, is a good idea in theory—if only it would actually make a difference.

That thinking is what gets us in trouble. When we underestimate the power of prayer, when we think it doesn't work, when we choose to

believe that God won't answer our prayers or that he isn't listening, we wave a white flag and invite Satan into our situation.

Believe me when I say that praying is the last thing Satan wants you to do. He will discourage you from doing it. He will dissuade you from it, and he will disarm you by putting a distaste for prayer in your mouth. He wants to see you passionless, prayerless, and powerless. Perfectly quiet. And because prayer is the divinely ordained mechanism that leads you into the power and victory of Christ, Satan knows you'll remain defeated and undone without it.

The Power of Prayer

Despite what we may or may not understand about prayer, God has deliberately chosen this particular vehicle as the one that drives his activity in his people's lives. It is the means by which he allows us to partner with him in the fulfilling of his will. He has created prayer as a primary way of putting us into personal contact with him and with his eternal realities, any hour of the day or night.

Prayer is the portal that brings the power of heaven down to earth. It is kryptonite to the Enemy and to all his ploys against you.

When Paul describes our [spiritual armor](#), he includes the belt of truth, the body armor of God's righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit—the very Word of God. But he doesn't stop there. "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere," Paul says in Ephesians 6:18. There it is. The fuel that drives everything: *prayer*.



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOR LUNCHEON

Soups or Salads, sandwiches, desserts and more!

**Thursday, September 14, 2017
from 11:30 to 1pm.**

Come Join in the fellowship with our friends throughout the community.



Thank you Tim Pike and Anne McCandlish for hosting this luncheon in Augusta.

Please consider donating a soup or dessert. Please let Tim Pike or Kathy Gerard know if you will provide either of these items.



**Friends and Neighbor Luncheon,
2nd Thursday
A grateful conclusion.**

A ministry here since 2007. During this time we have hosted thousands. But more importantly we have provided not only a meal without charge but a place for welcome, conversation and community building. Here is a place to welcome friend, neighbor, and to find a new acquaintance. This ministry began with the leadership of Tony and Nancy Mastromarino has been blessed not only by

their commitment to host this each month, but by the many that join in the work with set up, providing soups, salads, desserts, and clean up. To **Tony and Nancy** we thank you and with Jesus we say; "**Well done good and faithful servants**" (Matthew 25). Now in these days they have come to retire from this particular ministry leadership. We remain ever grateful for the ministry that invited so many to join in with them in this hosting. We are grateful for this time, over a year, for conversation and discussions to equip a transition.

The Luncheon will continue now in September, and in October. We are grateful to Tim Pike and those that will join in hosting this ministry for these three months. **The Friends and Neighbor ministry is now scheduled to conclude in October.** If - there is another - or others that are knowing a calling to lead this Luncheon ministry please contact Pastor Joe, or Tim and Shelly of our Missions Ministry Team. Are there new leaders? Will you be among those that will bring this ministry to prayer? --prayers of thanksgiving for the leadership we have, prayers to discern, and to call and new leaders if this is to be, prayers to be with those that have come to attend this monthly luncheon, that have found a bit of joy, conversation and blessings through this time together. We are blessed to be engaged with many wonderful community ministries. God will equip, what God ordains.



Our Weekly Worship Joys & Celebration Contributions Supports our Global Mission Initiative W.a.S.H.

The gift you brought Jesus; "whatever you have done to the least of these; you have done unto me". (Matthew 25)

**As of 8/27/17 we have reached \$1643.30
We will now work towards our year end goal for 2017 of \$2,500.**

In 2016 we sent to UMCOR a total of \$2,678!

WaSH, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, our 2016-2017 Global Mission Initiative is reaching out to those in need of the very water we have in such abundance here in Maine. In local community settings the WaSH program through our United Methodist Commission on Relief (UMCOR) partners with other global and local agencies to help communities both here in the US and globally have clean, accessible water. Our two year Mission Initiative Goal of \$5,000 is being met with your generous contributions like those received at the start of each worship service with our Celebrations Prayers and Gifts. May we reach out so others may sip fresh water. With your generous gifts to this ministry, Jesus' compassion and love are revealed, like an overflowing spring. *Together we are accomplishing more than any one church, or community could do on their own. Together we provide a mighty lift, an equipping hope and a Gospel fulfillment of Matthew 25 "Whatever you do unto the least of these you have done unto me [Jesus]."*

W.A. S. H. is our 2016- 2017 Global Mission Initiative here at Union Church

UMCOR Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) accompanies and empowers families and communities to identify their water, sanitation and hygiene behavior goals and decide solutions that will ensure continued access to clean water and healthy disposal of waste in an integrated manner towards improved health and service outcomes.

Objectives

1. Underserved populations have sustainable access to basic WASH services, including improved indoor air;
2. UMCOR field offices and external partners exchange best practices to jointly achieve clear and concise global targets;
3. Monitoring and evaluation of WASH activities demonstrate impact and communicate needs;
4. Individuals, congregations, and agencies within the Methodist church share strategic

direction and resources to increase the impact of WASH activities.



More Water, Less Hunger

In Zimbabwe, UMCOR worked with a community to expand a reservoir.

By Julia Frisbie*

Everyone uses water. We need it not only to drink, but to cook, to clean, to grow crops and to care for livestock. But 780 million people around the world don't have access to it. Through its Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene programs, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working to change that.

When UMCOR provides relief to a community affected by famine or disease, water is part of the equation. For example, in Zimbabwe's Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe (UMP) District, about 100 miles northeast of the capital city, Harare, people struggle to feed their families. Access to clean water helps them to stay healthy, allows for more working hours, and also helps farms be more productive.

In the UMP District, UMCOR is an implementing partner in a World Food Programme project that has benefited more than 28,500 people. The project has provided temporary food assistance and rehabilitated long-term community assets like dams, irrigation systems, community gardens, and dip tanks for cattle.

A dry community garden will become productive with water from the expanded reservoir. Photo: James Rollins



Rehabilitated dams allow for cleaner water to be stored in reservoirs. UMCOR also enlarged the reservoirs so more water is available. That water can now be used through an expanded irrigation system in the district, which will improve the productivity of farms and community gardens. UMCOR supported the cultivation of community gardens to increase the amount of food available. And finally, UMCOR rehabilitated dip tanks for cattle so that farmers can protect their livestock from tick-borne diseases. Healthier livestock means more food.

Now that people in the UMP district have access to more water for farming, they're able to produce more of their own food. Cleaner water also means fewer waterborne diseases, which means better health for people and improved productivity of their gardens and farms.

And this is just a small piece of the puzzle when it comes to UMCOR's work in Zimbabwe. We're training farmers in moringa cultivation and beekeeping. We're working with the Zimbabwean government on malaria control. And we're increasing the educational opportunities for orphans and vulnerable children.

"UMCOR's integrated project approach is a collaborative process," says Mike Barbee, UMCOR technical officer for its Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Officers like Barbee come together from a variety of sectors—including sustainable agriculture, community-based primary healthcare, and nutrition—to make a plan of action. Through these holistic efforts, "we

achieve a better quality of life both for families and the wider communities where UMCOR works," Barbee explains.

"The basic requirements of living a healthy life are linked to the basic resources that we need, such as water, sanitation, good health practices and income generation," says Barbee. These needs "must be given attention and investment as a whole." That's what integrated projects do best: they address a community's needs from many angles. This is how we create sustainable change.



The United Methodist Women-UMW-have outlined their activities for 2017.

Our regular meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 9AM to 10:30AM in Friendship Hall.



United Methodist's Women's Group Craft Day at Bobbi's

September 30th from 10 – 4Lunch will be Provided All

Welcome! Come have a fun time together making crafts for the Harvest Festival. Please let Bobbi know you will be attending so she can prepare for lunch. Her address is: 17 Rock Garden Estates, Belgrade Phone: 495-2470

- October 14th Foliage Trip and Luncheon
- November 18th Thanksgiving Program and Community Food Drive
- December 9th Christmas Trip to the Botanical Gardens

**Come to our next Event
All Welcome!**



**Meetings: A Month At A Glance
August 2017**

Prayer Shawl: 9/11 and 9/25 @ 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist Women: 9/16 @ 8:00 a.m.

Trustee's: 9/18 @ 7 p.m.

Worship: 9/19 @ 7 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES:



Union Church ended 2016 fiscally sound with income exceeding expenses by \$4,808. The projected budget

for 2016 included \$10,000 of income from fundraisers. In 2016 the Church's five major fundraisers contributed \$9,081 to the budget, or 90.8% of our goal. That was exceedingly good. That success was due in large measure to the dedication of those who coordinated each of the events: Italian Night Dinner, Kim Haggan; Strawberry Short Cake (July 4th), Phyllis Matson, Carol Johnson, and Gail Rizzo; Turkey Dinner, Shelly Fitzgerald; Harvest Festival, Kathy Gerard; and the Christmas Stroll, Bobbi Mahler.

To meet our 2017 income projections, we are relying on the fundraisers for another \$10,000. We are grateful for the leadership that contributed to the success of those events last year and for all who participated in making them a huge success financially as well as worthwhile and endearing fellowship opportunities.

The **success** of the proposed fundraisers for 2017 will, once again, **depend on coordination and leadership. We still have "unclaimed opportunities" for aspiring leaders!**

Perhaps a shared opportunity might be less intimidating, so we invite you to consider being a **co-chair** for one of the activities with assistance from those who have previously been involved in the event. You needn't fly 'solo', at least initially.

Take the title of a popular book and movie, 'Eat, Pray, Love', to heart and may it motivate YOU to claim a coordinating role in one of the following fundraisers for 2017:

Harvest Festival **October 7th**
Coordinator : **Kathy Gerard**
(Looking for a Co-Chair)

Christmas Stroll **December 2nd**
Coordinator: **Bobbi Mahler**

The success of our Ministries at Union Church depends on meeting our projected budget; that in turn depends on the success of our fundraisers. Please consider playing a role in that success! **Thank you for prayerfully considering this request.** Let Pastor Joe or Kathy know your intent.
– Tony Mastromarino



Maple Syrup
\$12 per Pint or
\$20 per Quart

We support the ministry at the **United Methodist Economic Ministry** in Salem

Township, as we extend the grace of God outward regionally. 100%, all of the funds raised from sales go directly to the Economic Ministry Programs that equip folks for Life Skills, work readiness, Home Repairs, Thrift Shop, Food Cupboard, Christmas Gifts, Winter Clothing (New Coats and Boots), Backpacks (school supplies, essential clothing) Program.

Shared by Carol Johnson during our
Sunday Worship Services
during the past month.



Choose to Live In Joy!

Life goes by in the
blink of an eye
It's too short to live

upset, angry, resentful or ungrateful.
If you look for the good, you'll find it.
Choose to be happy, to be at peace.
Decide that each day is going to be a great day
and grab each moment and make the best of it.
Refuse to let negative thoughts take root in
your mind and refuse to let negative people
and situations drag you down.
Trust your journey and know that if you make a
mistake, it's okay.
See it as a lesson learned and keep moving
forward.
Spend less time worrying and more time being
grateful for those who love you and all of life's
goodness.

CHOOSE TO LIVE IN JOY!



WELCOME TO 4th GRADE

A 4th Grade Teacher Welcomed her students in
this way:

I am so glad that you're here.

Here is a little goodie bag to help kick off the
year.

The **eraser** is to remind you that it is ok to
make mistakes

We'll work and learn together, no matter what it
takes.

The **stickers** mean we'll stick together and
work hard as a team.

The **puzzle** shows how we fit together, working
towards a common theme.

The **bookmark** is to show you You always
have a place. If you ever feel a little lost We'll
help you find your space.

The **smarties** are to remind you how smart I
think you are.

Work hard and do your best Remember to aim
far!

Works for all students and us Adults too



**Always
Pray**

To Have **EYES** That See the Best in People

A **HEART** that forgives the worst

A **MIND** that forgets the bad

And a **SOUL** that Never loses faith in God



The Word For You Today, by Bob Gass

“That My Joy May Remain In You.” John 15:11

DON'T LET BAD NEWS STEAL YOUR JOY

Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may *remain* in you, and that your joy may be full.” If you think things are ad today, consider the world Jesus and His disciples lived and ministered in. The Roman Empire ruled over every nation, including Israel. Taxes were through the roof. Freedom of speech and religion was so restricted that you could be imprisoned or killed for being a Christian. Immorality and perversion were not only tolerated, but promoted. Eventually Christ’s disciples would be put to death for their faith. Yet He promised them that the His joy would “remain in them,” and that their joy would be “full”. So don’t let what’s going on in the world around you today dictate your attitude as a redeemed child of God. Yes, there’s bad news. But there’s also good news. Let’s look at just a few (1) *Muslim’s are coming to Christ faster than ever before.* In his book *A Wind in the House of Islam*, author David Garrison says that something unprecedented is stirring in the Muslim world. “We are living in the midst of the greatest turning of Muslims to Christ in history.” He cites evidence of powerful Christian movements that have started among Muslims since the year 2000. (2) *The gospel is transforming China.* A few

years ago, *The Telegraph* reported that Christianity is growing so fast in China that it will most likely be considered a Christian nation by 2030. Give China’s economic power, this has huge implications. So rejoice, and don’t let the bad news steal your joy. (3) We are in a church-planting boom. Church expert Ed Stetzer says new churches are actually being planted in the United States more quickly than old ones are dying – and research shows that 60-80 percent of people who join new churches are from unchurched backgrounds. This is true in other nations too. That means more people are being reached with the gospel today than when churches talked about evangelism but failed to do it. (4) *Latin America is experiencing a political and spiritual awakening.* Political change in Venezuela is one more indication that leftist governments are losing power. Similar movements against corruption are occurring in Argentina, Brazil and other Latin American countries – at a time when evangelical churches are growing at unprecedented rates. (5) *The Bible is still the most popular book ever.* It’s also the best-selling and most widely distributed book. Nearly four billion copies were printed and sold globally in the last five decades – far exceeding any other book. Don’t let the bad news steal your joy. If you have become negative and fearful because of what’s going on in the world, push your rejoice button and reset your spiritual life.

**God is moving and all who trust in Him
have something to celebrate!**



Cystic Fibrosis Update

Through Jen Austin, Lynn, Carter and Emma's Mom has shared a beautiful update on Carter and Emma in regard to the ground breaking medicine Kalydeco. That they started on August 22nd. Ultimately it is the donations from our Church Family that have helped fund research and created this medicine. Alleluia!!! Amen!!!

"Kalydeco is one of two drugs that treats the underlying cause of Cystic Fibrosis in certain gene mutations. Kalydeco just added 5 more mutations to its coverage and now treats a total of 23 CF mutations out of over 1700 known mutations. Studies reveal that Kalydeco not only helps maintain lung function but also increases lung function scores of 5-10%. It has also shown to reduce exacerbations and increase weight/BMI % which is always a struggle for Emma. Now is the perfect time for Carter and Emma to begin treatment as they are so very healthy right now. Their lungs could barely improve but it just means they should be able to sustain amazing lung function for a much longer timeframe. This is breakthrough medicine made possible by your donations. We are on the brink of bigger and better treatments which means Carter and Emma will be at the top of their game because of Kalydeco." You can also read more at the website listed below. http://fightcf.cff.org/site/TR/GreatStrides/100_Northern_New_England_Nashua?team_id=58350&pg=team&fr_id=6205



Turkey Dinner

We are grateful to Shelly for her leadership with the Ministry of chairing this event. The dinner was well attended and several folks enjoyed just sitting and chatting with others during the evening. Proceeds in the amount of \$1,022 that came in that night will support our ministry in our community.

"THANK YOU to our queen turkey, Shelly" and her flock!



See You Next Summer; Stay in Touch Over the Winter Months



It is so hard to believe that most all of our Summer Folks have headed back to their Winter Homes. We have

so enjoyed our fellowship time with you over the summer. We pray that your travels are safe and will keep you and your families in our prayers over the Winter. We will keep in touch through our emails/calls and Newsletters. Please call or contact us if you would like any prayer request during our Worship Services. We look forward to seeing you again in June.



**Union Church, where
Faith, Family,
Friendship
and Service come
together.**

**Stewardship Campaign for our 2018
Ministry**

August 27th, 2017 Update

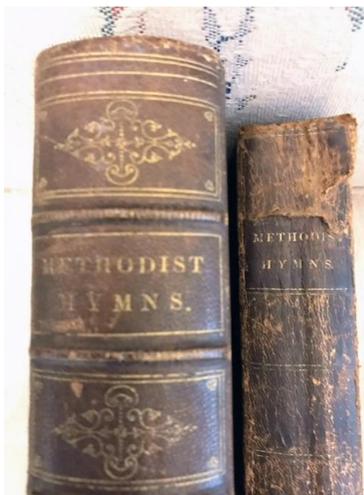
*Thank you for your participation and
prayers!*

Current Results: 30 Pledges, with 2 new
pledges, and 9 with increases over last year;
these total \$54,130.

With your support, we are well on our way
towards our ministry **Goals: 1. 59 pledges,**
2. Including 5 new pledges, 3. Totaling
\$115,500

Do you need a pledge card?

*Please prayerful consider your
response today.*



Belgrade Lakes Village History Night

Historian Eric H. Hooglund delivered a lively
program to a full, full house on August 15th.
We celebrate our congregation's early
beginnings dating to 1870. On September 10th
we will have a special recognition of this during
worship, and again on February 25th. Come,
see, hear. We are looking ahead to
celebrating 150 years of ministry in 2020.



HARVEST
FESTIVAL
2017

**Summer seems to be flying by
and now it is that time of year again
when plans are getting underway for
Union Church's annual Harvest Festival.
It is the big draw in town; many folks
have already asked about our event and
are looking forward to attending again
this year!**

Octoberfest is on October 7, 2017 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Be thinking about ways you can help out - many hands needed! Lots of volunteers needed to make this a success again this year. Hoping that each and every one of you will come join us in the fun and fellowship as we share in our preparations. It is a great way to connect with old friends, meet new friends and get incorporated into the life of the church and community.

We will be meeting right after the 9:30 service on Sunday, September 10th. We will establish sub-committees at that time and enlist people to help in the different areas.

ALL ARE WELCOME to come to this meeting and subsequent meetings thereafter. New ideas are always entertained, so put on your thinking caps. ALL ARE WELCOME to Volunteer your talents in preparing for the event and working on the day of the event.

It truly is a very fun day and you get to work with your Church Family and meet all the town folk that come take part in this special event.



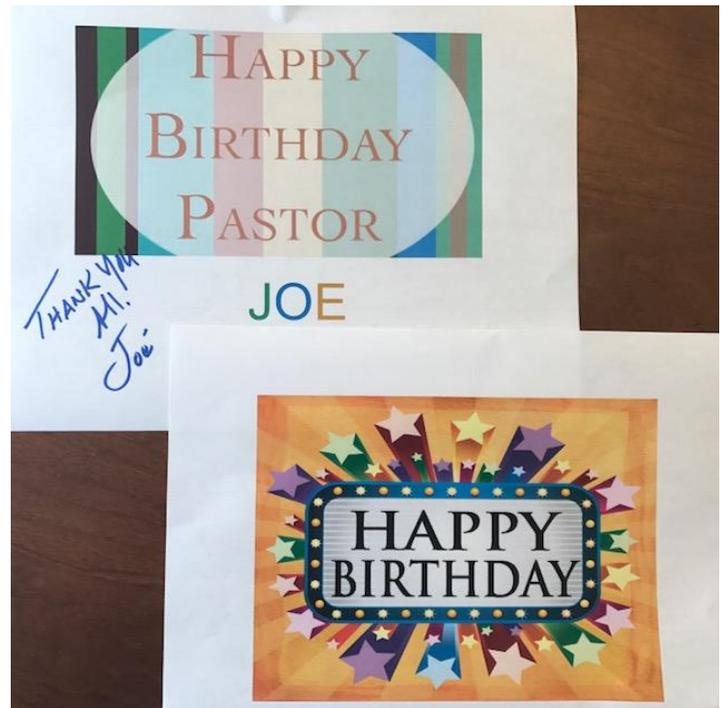
In the meantime; save the date, start canning, crafting, woodworking, picking out your recipes for baked goods and items for our freezer (soups, entrees, etc.). Go through and identify which jewelry items and/or Christmas decorations you no longer want to keep, we will have tables for those items. If you know any shopkeepers; see if they would be willing to donate something to our Silent Auction. Look for "really good" things in your attic or basement that you can donate to the auction, or make something using your special talents. Please contact Kathy Gerard (Chair) at kakoala5@gmail.com or Carol Johnson at caroljohnson@allstate.com (Chair of Silent

Auction) if you have any comments/questions/ideas and would like to step up and volunteer.

Thank you and God Bless!

THANK YOU ALL!

Birthday Month Is Complete



What a spoiled kid!

Well... :) I am grateful for the many birthday cards, notes, the delicious cake, the Sunday morning gifts made to our Global Mission Initiative, W.A.S.H. - Clean Water Project Birthdays. Why celebrate them only for a day, when the whole month is available. Try it. Maybe it will bring an extra smile - for you, for another! Now, who's will we celebrate in September, for the whole month!

-Pastor Joe

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United Methodist Church
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Our Mission is to live our experience of God's love
in all that we say and do...

Our Vision is to be a growing spiritual faith community in the manner of
Christ, where all are welcome and cared for...