



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes

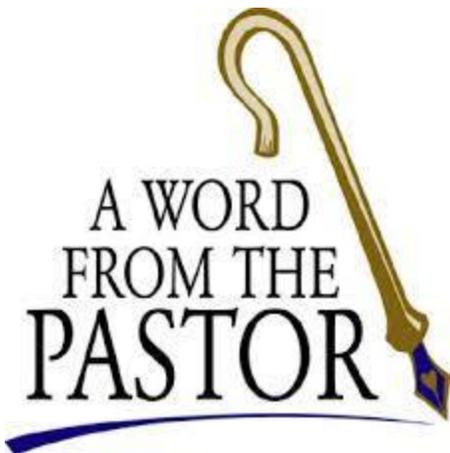
United Methodist Church

Location: 67 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, Maine
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 133, Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918
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Pastor's Email: unionchurchumbelgrade@gmail.com
Website: unionchurchmaine.org

Union Rider

August 2020 Newsletter



Dear Members and Friends,
Greetings in the name of the One who calls us "Beloved" in all times and in all things!

We have reached a "certain time of year" in the life of a church – in the life of a community of faith. It's that "certain time of year" in which we intentionally turn our minds and more importantly, our hearts, toward caring for the resources God has entrusted to us. We describe this time using rather business-like terms – "budget projections," "forecasted income," "pledging units," "commitment cards"... We also describe this time using Biblical and spiritual terms like "tithing," "prayerful discernment," "faith commitments"... Collectively, it is called the annual Stewardship Program!

In light of the many challenges of our current realities, I can't help but reflect back on where we were just a year ago, and how very much has happened between then and now. We

were embarking on a Stewardship Program we had optimistically titled "Grace Aplenty in 2020." It was our hope and prayer that the recognition of the manifest reality of God's abundant grace in our lives would lead us to become even better stewards of all to which God has entrusted us. Good things and good times were surely ahead of us in a brand new decade!

Well. In one short year's time, we have gone from anticipating God's "Grace Aplenty" to fervently praying for God's "Grace Sufficient" for each new day, as we find ourselves navigating the stormy seas of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And Yet! We have found ample opportunities to recognize where God's grace has indeed been both sufficient and "aplenty." I lift up just a few of the many ways God is gracing us and equipping us for ministry in such a time as this. Late in 2019, we learned we were the beneficiaries of an incredibly generous bequest from the estate of Barbara Sheble. Efforts to envision how God is calling us to put this giftedness into ministry and mission work was begun before COVID-19, and it will be

resumed when it is safe to gather without the need for physical distancing. We have been graced abundantly by the wise technology investment (made a few years ago!) that has enabled efficient and reliable livestreaming of our worship services. When the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the suspension of in-person worship services, we were able to make a seamless transition to livestreamed worship services. And, as we are now navigating a carefully-designed, carefully-executed, and safe return to in-person worship, we are graced abundantly by church leaders, committee members, and staff members who have gone, and continue to go, “above and beyond the call of duty” to provide for the full spectrum of worship opportunities. I am a humbly grateful pastor! I know for a fact that new people have been reached, and touched, by the ministries and missions of Union Church. For sure, “God’s Grace Aplenty in 2020!” Not the kind of grace we envisioned, but for sure, the kind of grace we need! God is good!

Together in Christ’s Love and Service,

Pastor Eleanor Collinsworth



A Parade of Colors

Bible in a Year: [Psalms 1–3](#) [Acts 17:1–15](#)

•
With your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. [Revelation 5:9](#)

Today's Scripture & Insight:

Revelation 5:7–14

For decades, London has been one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. In 1933, journalist Glyn Roberts wrote of England’s great capital, “I still think the parade of peoples and colours and tongues is just about the best thing in London.” That “parade” is still in evidence today with the blended smells, sounds, and sights of a global community. The beauty of diversity is part of the breathtaking appeal of one of the world’s greatest cities. As with any city inhabited by human beings, however, London is not without its problems. Change brings challenges. Cultures sometimes clash. And that is one of the reasons no city built by human hands can compare to the wonder of our eternal home.

When the apostle John was transported into the presence of God, diversity was one of the elements of heavenly worship, as the redeemed sang, “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” ([Revelation 5:9–10](#)).

Imagine heaven: a parade of every people group in the world celebrating the wonder of being children of the living God—together! As

believers in Jesus, may we celebrate that diversity today. **By: Bill Crowder**

Reflect: What are the best things about the church being so diverse? What can make that diversity occasionally challenging?

Pray: *Father, I thank You that no people group is excluded from Your great love. Teach us to truly love one another, as You have so generously loved us.*



Exploring Church Membership

If you have been attending Union Church for a while now, and if you like what you have experienced as part of this worshipping and serving community of Christian faith, then you are invited to join Pastor Eleanor in a couple of informal gatherings to explore becoming a member of Union Church. **The first Class was held on Sunday, March 8th after our morning Worship Service.** It was a time of informal information-sharing and conversation. There will be at least one more Class if not two; dates for those will be announced soon. If you would like to be part of these gatherings, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Eleanor, or one of our Lay Leaders (Kathy Gerard and Carol Johnson). This is an exciting time of new

growth at Union Church, and we welcome those interested in having a part in it!

The next Class will be determined once we don't have to "Social Distance" ourselves.



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOR LUNCHEON

**Thursday,
August 9, 2020
from 11:30 to 1pm.**

While we are unable to share this time together; while you are eating your lunch, pray for those who usually join us for lunch on this day for fellowship



Their regular meetings are on Saturdays from 9AM to 10:30AM in Friendship Hall.



**UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN'S
YARD SALE
POSTPONED UNTIL
2021**

**SADLY; WE HAVE
HAD TO MAKE THE
DECISION TO PLACE THIS EVENT ON
HIATUS THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 AND
THE SOCIAL DISTANCING
REQUIREMENTS.**

**THIS WAS NOT AN EASY DECISION TO
MAKE AS THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS
EVENT GO TOWARD MAKING SURE
CHILDREN AT THE BELGRADE CENTRAL
SCHOOL HAVE WINTER CLOTHING**

**If you are able and have the space; please
store your yard sale items so you can share
them with us next year! We would greatly
appreciate it.**

**Should you feel so inclined and would like
to donate toward the *BELGRADE CENTRAL
SCHOOL WINTER CLOTHING PROGRAM*,
We would be most grateful. Please make
your checks payable to *UMW* and send your
donations to *Union Church of Belgrade
Lakes, P. O. Box 133, Belgrade Lakes, ME
04918.***

THANK YOU!



**Matthew 25
Ministries
Empty Pill
Bottle
Recycling**

**The United Methodist Women's Group will
be collecting empty, label free pill bottles.**

**There will be a box specific for this project
placed in Friendship Hall in the near future**

In developing countries, medicines—when actually obtainable—are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any other available container.

Matthew 25 Ministries accepts donations of basic medical supplies such as empty pill bottles to help improve health care quality in developing nations. Donations of clean, unlabeled pill bottles help the poorest of the poor in many ways: Medicine can be distributed in sterile containers. Pill bottles that are not appropriate for shipping are recycled for cash that goes towards Matthew 25:Ministries' programs.

This plastic recycling program keeps thousands of bottles out of landfills each year. Placing a nickel, dime or quarter in each pill bottle helps with shipping costs to send the bottles to developing countries.

Matthew 25: Ministries accepts the following types of empty pill bottles:

Prescription pill bottles
Large and small pill bottles
Pill bottles with and without child resistant caps
Over-the-counter pill bottles.

You can help improve the quality of health care in hospitals and health clinics in developing countries by saving and donating basic medical supplies such as pill bottles.

Acceptable collection items include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
- Large and small pill bottles
- Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child-resistant): **Caps are a must!**

Pill bottles that are not appropriate to include with shipments of medical supplies are recycled and may generate revenue that supports Matthew 25: Ministries' programs. If you wish to prepare bottles for shipment rather than recycling, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Bottles included in shipments of medical supplies must have an all plastic lid.

- Sort bottles by color and type.
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.
- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
- Rinse and dry thoroughly.
- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.
- Place clean, recapped bottles in large ziplock bags marked "Clean Bottles." These will be blended with medical supplies.

THANK YOU!!!



The United Methodist Women's Group is also collecting glasses you are no longer able to use; either readers or

prescription. We have a basket for them to be placed in on the stairs in the Sanctuary. They will be delivered to the local Lion's Club.

Thank You!



Good Shepherd Food-Bank
Feeding Maine's Hungry

Our 2020 Global Mission Initiative will be donated to the **Good Shepherd Food Bank** (donations will be sent to them quarterly)

Joys & Celebrations Total
As of 7/26/2020: \$1,230.00

Our yearly goal is \$2,500;
Our first quarter goal is
\$625; Weekly
Goal \$50



Meetings at a Glance:
August 2020

Worship Committee: 8/11 @ 7 p.m. in person and online with Zoom

Prayer Shawl: 8/10 and 8/24 @ 1 p.m.
At your own homes; keeping everyone in prayer while you knit

Staff Parish Relations: 8/11 @ 5 p.m.

Trustees: 8/17 @ 6:30 p.m.



Our Mission Ministries

Through the year in this Newsletter we highlight our mission projects and programs where we serve God through Christlike compassion, mercy and transformation; reaching out, lifting up, building up. **We will list some of the ways during 2020 contributions from Missions and Outreach** through your support received in our weekly worship offerings, pledges and special giving.

The Good Shepherd Food Bank

We will support this work that provides food to local food banks throughout Maine. "Feeding families living with food insecurity makes an impact that goes beyond a nutritious meal." (At our February 23rd Church Council Meeting it was approved our Joys and Celebrations monies will be sent to this organization)

The Belgrade Rome Food Pantry with special monthly "Wish List" donations; January through December we will be fillin' our shopping cart. - Many thanks. "March Madness": Chili, Hash and Stew

Kenneth Workman Youth Sports Program - Ever notice the sign at the **Belgrade Ball Park**? Our donation each year supports this local youth program and shares our active presence in the community in Christ's service.

Maine Justice Foundation, Augusta, Maine. We supported this work that serves the LGBT, gay community those of whom are among the poor and vulnerable among us, facing issues of employment and housing discrimination, domestic violence, homelessness. In this manner we extend our church Welcoming Statement into the community beyond our own worship doors. Our \$500 donation was sent on March 3rd.

Messalonskee High School – In December we sent \$500 to support the High School's Food Pantry. Each year their empty Bowls project supports our local Food cupboards and the Food Cupboard at the High School we will continue to contribute and will share information of this year's project in March as it becomes available . In June we look to provide leadership and participation in their Baccalaureate program for new graduates.

We have Pints of Maple Syrup still available - *again* this year for your Summer enjoyment and purchasing. With Fair Trade pricing 100%

of the purchase price goes to assist their ministry programs that transform lives in here in Maine; \$600.

Bread of Life Ministries. Through the year, each month we provide a Tuesday evening meal for the residents of the temporary Shelter Program. It's been a blessing to meet folks there and see how this ministry gives them both shelter and a boost to what is next as they move forwards in life by God's grace. We will again contribute to this program in 2020. **Our Christmas Eve Offering of \$487 was mailed to them December 30th**

Maine Adaptive Sports – We again support this program in 2020 as an affirmation of their annual Ski-A-Thon that supports programs that empower adaptive athletes towards a healthy, active and rewarding life. A \$100 donation was sent in February.

Neighbors Driving Neighbors, this local ministry program serving to help folks who would be otherwise home bound was supported with our **\$500 gift in February 2020** and through the engagement of those offering to serve as drivers, and part of the programs leadership

Winthrop, Maine: United Methodist Camp Mechuwana. Scholarship support of campers will be forwarded in **May of 2020.** The year-round camp and youth programs happening there transforms lives of children and youth.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund – With generous donations we are able to assist families with urgent housing needs; **and will continue helping through 2020** Each specific in their own way where we were able to be a means of God's Grace in troubling times.

Prayer Shawl Ministry. This group meets twice a month and distributes prayers shawls

to both women and men who are dealing with health issues and or hospital stays.

Belgrade Central School – The Mission and Outreach Committee at their August meeting found that the school could use donations of snacks and school supplies and will be working closely with the School Administrators as to their **needs in 2020**

The Committee will develop a schedule of monthly mission giving in 2020. We will update the above listing monthly as these occur.



Bread Of Life Ministries

Our Next Bread of Life Homeless Shelter Dinner will be August 18th

There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those wanting to designate their participation in this ministry. Signing up is important so that we are aware of what you will bring so that we can complete planning for whatever else needs to be prepared and donated. Thank you!

We would like to encourage as many volunteers as possible to help donate items for this dinner.

Thank you to Anne McCandlish, Mary Friedman, Betty Weaver, Sharron Burnell, JoAnn McElvaine and Kathy for providing a dinner Tuesday, July 21st.

Right now they are only housing around 20 due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. They are hoping to help many more within the next few weeks.

We share a hot meal on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

In addition to providing the Bread of Life Homeless Shelter with a hot meal every month; we have learned that they are in need of the following items. If you are interested in donating, please drop off and we will deliver at our next meal delivery.

Pillows



Bath towels



Face Cloths



Twin size bed in bags



Bedding is so important to us because the shelter clients take this with them when they move into their own apartments.

Thank you!

Maple Syrup

\$12 per pint
We only have pints left



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 Ministries that help folks, that equip them for work readiness and life; Home Repairs, Thrift Shop, Food Cupboard, Christmas Gifts, Winter Clothing (New Coats and Boots), Backpacks (school supplies, essential clothing) Program, Life Skills, work.

Pick Some up for Gifts of any occasion!

Finance Committee Update

Financial Update:

For several months our lives have been altered by the

COVID-19 pandemic. With 'virtual' worship services each Sunday and weekly Christian educational opportunities over the internet or in person, Union Church has successfully navigated this situation. Other ministries of the church have also functioned 'normally' while others have been temporarily suspended or put on hold. Overall, however, the operation of the church has continued unabated. And not unexpectedly, the costs associated with those activities have also continued to be incurred. Monthly expenses, including utilities, insurance, maintenance, payroll, Mission Shares, and a host of other financial obligations, did not take a hiatus nor were they quarantined. Throughout the pandemic, our church treasurer, Kathy Gerard, continued to pay the bills.

YOU, the members of Union Church, have understood all of that and in response to our urging in recent monthly newsletters, you have

continued to be faithful stewards and have given generously. THANK YOU!

Through June 30, 2020, the church's income was 90% of our projections, totaling \$67,570, while our expenses were 88% of our projections, totaling \$74,705. Although the net operating income is **-\$7,135**, the checkbook balance is in the **black** as a result of having received a \$14,700 PPP (Payroll Protection Program) loan. Shortly we will be preparing a PPP Loan Forgiveness application and expect that most, if not all, of the loan will be forgiven.

Nevertheless, since the pandemic has significantly altered our plans, the church remains vulnerable, especially since our fundraisers contribute approximately \$10,000 (6.6%) of the church's income and their future is uncertain. The first fundraiser on July 4th was a non-event, the UMW's annual yard sale has also been canceled, and the fate of the remaining fundraisers, the Harvest Fest and the Christmas Stroll, has not been determined.

Your continued generous support is appreciated and essential. Thank you for answering the call and we urge you to continue to be the faithful stewards that you are of the mission and ministries of Union Church, most especially during this pandemic.

Additionally, beginning on August 9 Union Church will launch its annual stewardship appeal for 2021, *Living in Community*. For the purpose of planning, we urge your prayerful consideration and commitment in responding to God's gracious and abundant blessings in our lives. The pledges received will be used to support our mission and outreach projects (Outreach), our Christian educational programs (Nurture), and our worship services (Worship).

THANK YOU for your generous support through the first half of 2020 despite the difficult times imposed on each of us. Respectfully submitted,

Tony Mastromarino,
Chair of Finance Committee



“Pathway to Tomorrow” – Union Church Capital Campaign

Last Summer I announced that the church was embarking on a year-long Capital Campaign to raise \$45,000. The funds are to be used to make several improvements to our church facility including the brick walkway, new signage and new lighting in front of the church; new decking on the ramps and stair landings and an enlarged and paved parking lot in the rear of the church. I am pleased to announce that to date we have received gifts and pledges totaling \$37,650

That means we need to raise \$7,350 to reach our goal. I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to those who have already contributed and invite everyone else to make

If you would like to contribute, please make out a check to Union Church and write “Capital Campaign” on the memo line. Put it in the offering on Sunday morning or send it to the church office. Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, UMC, P. O. Box 133, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918.

Thank you,
Lynn Matson,
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee



**RETURNABLE BOX
@BELGRADE
TRANSFER
STATION**

**Our Returnable Box
is Back!!!**

**If you need a place to
take your returnables
and want to support**

**the Missions & Outreach Committee (they
support several non for profit groups in the
community); please take them to the
Belgrade Transfer Station.**

**Ernie has graciously offered to deliver
these to yet a different Redemption Center ;
Damon’s in Waterville to turn all the
bottles/cans in. Thank You Ernie!**

**All proceeds will go towards needs in the
community, such as the Belgrade/Rome
food pantry, Belgrade Central School, etc.**

THANK YOU!



United Methodist Economic Ministry

**Is in need of items to stock their food
pantry - Personal Care Items - Adult
Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Shampoo
Laundry Detergent and Dish Soap**

We have identified two drop off sites for non-perishable food and paper products:

Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, UMC,
Contact the church office to arrange a time
207-495-2677 or
unionchurchmaine@gmail.com

Bath UMC, Contact the church office to
arrange a time 207-443-4707 or
bathumc@me.com



New Book Store in the Village

OLIVER & FRIENDS

**87 Main Street,
Belgrade**

(207) 707-2123

And just like that, it's summertime in Maine! Need something to read while you're relaxing

lakeside this summer? We've got journals too! Come visit new reading room!

Just a reminder that even though we're open for browsing, curbside pick up is still available. It's every bit as easy as Finn makes it look!



Coming Soon!



New Salon/Spa (Opening 8/4!)

Jess Boutin, owner of Remedy Salon and Spa of Waterville, will be relocating right here in Belgrade Lakes! She is setting up shop in the mini mall area smack dab middle of Main Street. She and hubby, Jeff, are still working on renovating and spiffing the place up.

Call 859.8886 to make your appointment!

They will be offering haircuts, styling, coloring, etc., Massaging, Chakra (healing with tuning forks), Waxing, Himalayan Salt Infrared Sauna Sessions, Pedicures and Manicures.

She is looking to hire a nail technician; so, if you know anyone looking for a job, have them get in touch with Jess at 680-8886

Please join us in welcoming her and her employees to our neighborhood!
Congratulations, Jess!



2021 Stewardship Campaign

"Living in Christian Community" – this is the Stewardship Program theme your Finance Committee has selected, looking forward to a new

giving year that will begin in January, 2021. Soon you will receive a letter inviting you to be part of this Stewardship Program, as we celebrate the many ways God calls us and equips us as Union Church of Belgrade Lakes UMC to live in Christian community locally, regionally, and globally. In our worship services in the month of August, we will explore stewardship as a vital part of our life in Christian community, through the words of Jesus as we find them in Matthew's Gospel, and through the words of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. We will also receive the testimonies of those who represent the beneficiaries of our efforts of "Living in Christian Community." All of it culminates in Commitment Sunday on August 23.

May God richly bless our efforts to be good stewards of ALL God has entrusted to us!



**Belgrade
Public
Library**

**Library
services**

Belgrade Public Library is open by appointment to patrons.

The Selectboard approved the following precautions to ensure the health of the Library's staff and its patrons:

- Patrons are permitted access to the Library building by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 207-495-3508 or email belgrade@belgrade.lib.me.us. Patrons may also continue to access no-touch service in which materials are requested to be left on the library's front porch for pickup.
- Patrons and staff must wear masks at all times during an appointment. Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entry. Patrons and staff must remain at least six feet apart.
- Book browsing appointments will be scheduled in 30-minute intervals.

- Patrons using the computers may request additional time, which will be allowed at the discretion of the librarian on duty. Library appointments will not exceed 1.5 hours.
- No more than two patrons – one at the computer and one in the stacks – will be allowed in the Library at a given time.

Patrons are encouraged to continue to return their materials to the dropbox outside the Library.

For residents who cannot drive, [Neighbors Driving Neighbors](#) will deliver requested items to patrons' front doors.

Hours of Operation:

10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays

2 p.m.-6 p.m. Wednesdays & Fridays

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays

Closed: Sundays & Mondays

Phone:

207-495-3508

Address:

124 Depot Road

Belgrade, ME 04917

12 things to always remember

1. *The past cannot be changed*
2. *Opinions don't define your reality*
3. *Everyone's journey is different*
4. *Things always get better with time*
5. *Judgements are a confession of character*
6. *Overthinking will lead to sadness*
7. *Happiness is found within.*
8. *Positive thoughts create positive things*
9. *Smiles are contagious*
10. *Kindness is free*
11. *You only fail if you quit*
12. *What goes around, comes around*

Type 'Yes' if you agree.

LifeLearnedFeelings



Drew Dionne graduated from Kents Hill School this year

He was inducted into their Cum Laude Society (top 10) and was one of two students to receive the Luther & Lydia Sampson award for excellence in classroom and extracurricular activities. He is planning on going to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY in the fall to study architecture. Congratulations, Drew!

Please join us in celebrating and praying for him as he begins his new life's journey.



JOIN US ON TUESDAYS DURING THE SUMMER

12 P.M. TO 1 P.M

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC (AND CHAIR IF YOU PREFER)

WE WILL ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY (SOCIAL DISTANCING) AND GOOD CONVERSAION AT THE VILLAGE GREEN

IF INCLEMENT WEATHER (INCLUDING TOO HOT) WE WILL MEET IN THE SANCTUARY



Operations Giving Tree

This giving tree is located in Friendship Hall on top of the Hope Chest. It has been there for some time now. However; this seems to have become a not so known opportunity for us to give in another way. Ever wonder how you might help keep our church operating like a well- oiled machine?... We place envelopes that list areas of our everyday operating expenses with a suggested amount (you may donate any amount you wish), such as Office Supplies, Electricity, Fuel Oil, etc. As we all know these expenses seem to increase each and every day. Your donations are a gift to help with our budget in a way that pledges may not.



Thank You!



Trustee's Hard at Work

If you haven't had a chance to walk by church; take a few minutes and do. Tom Kelly and his helper Justin have spiffed up the front lawn with new sod and crushed stone. Gail has been diligently working with Sign Works in Farmington and our new signs have been installed. The painters are there Monday through Friday giving our walkway railings, shutters and doors sprucing up. It



is looking just beautiful. We are so thankful to all who are giving of their time, talents and donations. Speaking of which we are grateful to Scott Chapman, Trustee at Old South Church, who donated the crushed rock.

God Bless You All!

In Person Service Church Reservations



Please be sure to email (unionchurchmaine@gmail.com) by noontime each Friday if you wish to attend Worship Service in person on Sunday.

AND please be sure to bring a sweater or blanket if you tend to be on the cool side as we have to keep the windows/doors open and the fans on.



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes
United Methodist Church
67 Main Street
P.O. Box 133
Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918

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...