



First United Methodist Church of Ellwood City December 2019 Newsletter

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PASTOR'S CORNER

“I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.”

Psalm 9:1 (NRSV)

**No matter who you are or
where you come from
You are Welcome Here!**



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Intercessory Prayer



Prayer Chapel is available to everyone before/after worship

Prayer concerns: Please be sure to submit your prayer concerns to the office so that we can pray collectively for them.

Please pray for all those afflicted among us with health concerns, our shut-ins, our nation, our ministry leaders, the Pastor, and the continued growth of our church family both spiritually and physical.

“And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.
1 John 5:14-15 NRSV”



Christmas Cards

Current Shut-ins and Military

Ms. Carol Bash
174 Bash Lane
Portersville, PA 16051

Ms. Dorothy Buquo
235 Country Club Dr.
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Ms. Anna Mae Hall
Northview Estates
945 Border Ave.
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Mr. & Mrs. Bill and Marynelle Kness
Rochester Manor and Villa
174 Virginia Ave.
Rochester, PA 15074

Ms. Jody Miller
2504 Anna St.
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip and LaRhoda Smilek
417 Wood St.
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Ms. Virginia Purnell
425 Loop St.
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Ms. Patricia Seaburn
Trinity Oaks Personal Care Center
117 Shadyrest Rd.
Ellwood City, PA 16117

C3C Kyle Smith
P.O. Box 2493
USAF Academy, CO 80841

ADVENT

Ask The UMC: What do the candles in our Advent wreath mean?

SHARE:

The Advent wreath was originally a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Although many symbols have been attributed to it since that time, it was originally intended as a way to mark the Advent season and the weeks until Christmas.

Families would light a candle for each past week and the current week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles (all colors are used in homes in Europe). What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.

As Advent wreaths began to be used by congregations on Sundays in some places in Europe and America beginning in the late 19th century, adaptations were needed for the larger worship spaces. Candles needed to be larger and more specialized than the "daily candles" handmade or purchased for home use. They also needed to be more uniform in color to fit with other decor in the sanctuary. Purple (and more recently blue) has become the basic color of the candles to coordinate with color of the [paraments](#) used during this season.

As Advent wreaths changed from practical private use to the more symbolic context of public worship, it became important for the candles to have meaning rather than simply mark time and add light. Ceremonies were developed around the lighting of the candles each week.

In time there was an effort, largely spurred by church supply houses that sold the special candles and wreaths, to provide a particular meaning to each candle. The themes of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace became popular, based on scriptures from the one-year lectionaries used at that time. However, the historic theme of Advent is more broad and deep than any one-word theme can capture.

So what are we to say, then, about the meaning of the Advent wreath today? We can still draw meaning from its original home use: to mark time while increasing light. Advent, the first season of the Christian year, is all about time. We await the day described in Revelation 21:23 when, "The city doesn't need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's glory is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb." At Christmas we celebrate that in Christ, "The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world" (John 1:9).



This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

ACOLYTES



BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

You have an important job. An acolyte lights and extinguishes candles on the communion table. The light, or fire, represents the presence of Jesus Christ. Since ancient times, light and fire have reminded us that God is here with us. Fire is the symbol of God's spirit. When you bring in the light, you remind people that God is with us in worship. The two candles remind us that JESUS is the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. When you take it out, you are taking it out to the world.

ACOLYTE comes from the Greek word "akolouthos." It means "attendant" or someone who takes care of another. Acolytes originated in the Old Testament of the Bible. Samuel assisted Eli, the priest. In the Old Testament the acolyte helped the pastor and elders. When an acolyte, YOU join the other leaders in church service and become a member of God's team to help all people worship God.

YOUTH INFORMATION: on the web at <https://www.wpaumc.org/youthevents>
Check out all of the Youth news at <https://www.wpaumc.org/Youth>

[SPARK 2020](#)

Jan. 24-26

Sheraton Staton Square, Pittsburgh

Our conference youth rally!

Info here: <http://www.wpaumc.org/spark>

The Next Youth and Young Adult Sunday will be December 29, 2019
If you are interested in participating, please see Pastor Angelique.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Shining Stars Christmas Program

The Shining Stars program sponsored through the Holy Redeemer Ministerium Social Services, benefits the children of low income families who live in the Ellwood City area. The tree of stars is located in the library, along with a sign-up sheet. Gifts are due Sunday, December 8.

Christmas Candy Sale

We are selling Rosalind candy. There is a catalog located in the library to place your orders. Orders and money are due by December 7 and will be delivered to the church on December 15. You may contact Carolyn, Lois, Joyce or Kathleen with any questions or more details.



We are still collecting *new* pillows for the Lawrence County Crisis Shelter

Mission of the Lawrence County Crisis Shelter

The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County empowers and advocates for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. We inspire and educate citizens to create safer communities and break the cycle of violence.

We continue to collect medical items for our Special Needs Outreach.
See the bulletin board for more details.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2019

<https://www.wpaumc.org/UMWwomen>

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

Mission & Evangelism Committee News

Holy Redeemer Social Services Food Panty is in need of the following items. During the month of **December** we will collect:

- Cake/brownie mixes, frosting
- Boxed stuffing
- Paper towels
- Deodorant

Please place items in the bin located near the entry way in the church library.



A Member of the UMCOR
Relief Supply Network

226 Church Lane

New Castle, PA 16105

missionbarn@gmail.com

p: 724-856-8241

Sponsor a Child Today!

When you sponsor a child, you'll be personally connected with a boy or girl who will know your name and treasure the thought that you care. Your support of \$38 per month provides life-changing opportunities such as:

- an opportunity to attend or stay in school
- medical care, which often saves lives
 - nourishing food
- mentoring and a safe environment through a local evangelical church
 - and most important, opportunities to hear the gospel.

Compassion child sponsorship works! Millions of children have “graduated” from our program and are now responsible, fulfilled Christian adults. Allow God to work through you in the life of a child in poverty. [Sponsor a child](http://www.compassion.com) today!

www.compassion.com

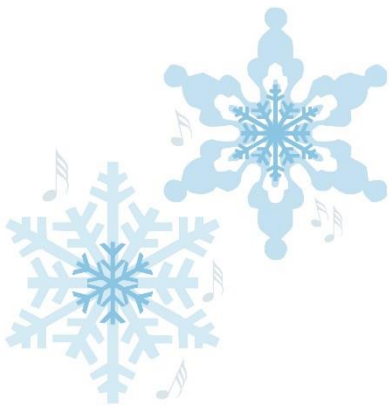
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Civic Chorale Concert

Sunday, December 1, 2019
6:00 pm



Come and listen to the beautiful sounds of Christmas.
Cake & Drinks will follow in the Fellowship Hall.
Thank you to all who signed up to donate refreshments.



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 8, 2019
6:00 pm

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00, venture over to Schill Manor, and walk around the immediate area, singing songs of Christmas cheer. When we return to the church we will feast on snacks and hot chocolate. Please bring a snack to share, and bring your whole family, too!

SUPER SATURDAY

Saturday, December 14, 2019
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Invite any kiddos you know. We always have a dynamic, fun time together. Kathy Gordon is doing an inspiring job leading the Adult Bible Study. Even if you have not been able to attend yet, her door is always open.
We will see you there!

Children's Christmas Program

December 15, 2019
6:00 pm

This year's play is called PEACE ON EARTH. We welcome participation by any children. See Sandi Rectenwald for more information.

Thank You for your donations of sandwiches and cookies.
We'll see you there!

Teaser ~ Baby Jesus will be played by Hunter Fallecker



Civic Chorale Concert
First United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 1, 2019
6:00 pm
Refreshments to follow



Monthly Bible Study for Adults
December 14, 2019

Come join Kathy Gordon for a monthly bible study. We meet once a month on the second Saturday from 10:00 pm to 12:00 pm. Bring your bible! You can find a copy of the study guide on the church website.


Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 24, 2019
11:00 pm



We are looking for a newsletter editor. If you have some interest, please contact the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS, NEWS & INFORMATION

You are Invited.....



Lori Teh Rectenwald
&
Darren Heaberlin

Joyfully Invite You To Join Them In
Celebrating Their Marriage
At An Open House
Wedding Reception At The
Ellwood City
First United Methodist Church
January 18, 2019 From 2:00-7:00
All Family & Friends Are Invited
To This Event
Food & Fun For All Ages

RSVP at
theknot.com/us/lorianddarwin

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS, NEWS & INFORMATION

2019 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ORDER

Orders **MUST** be in by **December 1, 2019**

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Poinsettias

Please indicate preference:

6 ½ inch Single Stem \$8.00 # ordered _____
7 ½ inch Double Stem \$14.00 # ordered _____ Total # ordered _____

Poinsettia Colors: Please indicate preference:

Red # _____ Pink # _____ White # _____ Marble # _____

7 inch White Mums \$8.00 Total # ordered _____

TOTAL # Ordered (all flowers) _____ Total cost \$ _____

Method of payment: Cash \$ _____ Check # _____ \$ _____

PLEASE DONATE MY FLOWERS I AM TAKING MY FLOWERS
(Please check one of the above.)

Please return order form **with payment** to church office by **Sunday, December 1, 2019**

Please indicate if you wish to have your flowers placed in honor or in memory of a loved one.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS, NEWS & INFORMATION

Holiday Calendar Events

Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 6:00 pm
Civic Chorale Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm
Christmas Caroling at Schill Manor

Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 10:00 am
Super Saturday and Adult Bible Study

Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm
Children's Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 6:00 pm
Family Worship with Candle Lighting Service at Homewood UMC
127 1st Avenue Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 11:00 pm
Contemporary Candle Lighting with Communion Worship Service at First UMC

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 at 11:00 am
Free Christmas Dinner at First UMC
Hosted by Local Churches and Businesses of Ellwood City

Sunday, January 5, 2019 at 11:00 am
New Year Celebration Worship
and Communion Service

First United Methodist Church of Ellwood City
416 Crescent Avenue
Ellwood City, PA 16117
724-758-6278



WPAC BUTLER DISTRICT & ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS



Nativities on Display

Wurtemberg United Methodist Church 1244 Portersville Road, Ellwood City

Thursday, December 5, 2019 4:00 PM to December 7

December 5 & 6th 4pm - 8pm, December 7th 11am - 3pm

FREE. "Nativities on Display" is a display of over 200 Nativities for your viewing pleasure. They include old & new Nativities; from all over the world and USA.

Also, Refreshments and Kid's Activities; including a Nativity they can "play" with. A Free Nativity drawing and a Cookie Walk benefitting People In Need of Ellport.

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!!

Keep Christ in CHRISTmas!!

WPA Ministers' Chorus

Where: Slippery Rock UMC, 130 Water St, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Thursday, December 5, 2019 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM



Western PA Conference Ministers' Chorus Christmas Concert .
ALL are invited to an evening of music, with some of our "singing" clergy!

SCHOLARSHIPS There are a variety of scholarships at www.umc.org/resources/scholarships and at www.wpaumc.org/scholarshipforms.

Keep Up With Upcoming Events - WPAUMC Conference

The website for upcoming events is: <http://www.wpaumc.org/events>.

Western PA Conference
The United Methodist Church Butler District
1204 Freedom Road
P.O. Box 5002 Cranberry Township, PA 16066-0002
Phone: 724-252-3198

HOMWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS



AA Meetings are held every Thursday at 1:00 pm at
HUMC

OPEN DOOR FELLOWSHIP

Join Homewood United Methodist Church each week on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm for “Open Door”. This is a time of sharing the Love of God with our neighbors and offering Radical Hospitality.

Mission Statement of Homewood United Methodist Church

“To spread the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by means of fellowship and discipleship, from our loving hearts through our giving hands”

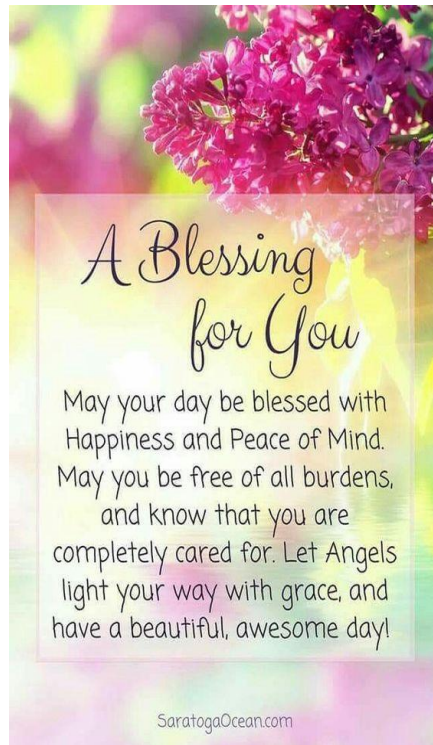
127 1st Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010
(724) 846-1212



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

December **BIRTHDAYS**

1 Danny
Fenechi
1 Grady Smith
2 Jason Biddle
3 Evan Ottaviani
3 Kathy McDonald
4 Braydon Erhard
5 Madison Burgess
5 Tiffannie Widmaier
6 Kelsey Fox
6 Emily Rouse
6 Alicia Wiley
7 Judy Hall
8 Alexis Brown
8 Cindy Miller
8 Paul Moyer
9 Dave Hinckley
9 Ruth Yeager
10 Sandy Durbin
10 Joyce Fenechi
11 Mary Jo Hamilton
11 Laura Kauffman
13 Levon Hudson



December **BIRTHDAYS**

16 Tyler Clyde
16 Eva Ringer
17 Brittany Durbin
17 Brian Reiser
18 Sharon Allen
19 Bradley Kirkham
19 Mason Nail
20 Natasha Houk
20 Joe Parise
20 Wendy Sylier
20 Ryan Widmaier
21 Jonathan
Greathouse
21 Erin Wiley
23 Rick Hudson
23 Logan Jones
23 Nicholas Jones
23 Chris Newell
24 Beth Aiken
25 James Irwin III
27 Linda Heaberlin
28 Lucas Boyle
28 Amber Cooper
28 Stephanie
Householder
29 Frank Conti
29 Nia Kingston
29 Lori Mohr
31 Logan Eickmeyer

December **ANNIVERSARIES**

26 Dan and Joyce Fenechi

***Our records need updating....Please contact the church office via telephone or email with any birthday/anniversary updates. Thank you**

FUMCEC CALENDAR

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday in Advent 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC Civic Chorale Concert 6:00 pm	2 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm	3 Quilters Christmas Party 9:00 am-1:00 pm	4 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	5 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Prog. at HUMC 6:00 pm	6	7
8 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC Christmas Caroling 6:00 pm	9 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	10 Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	11 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	12 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	13	14 Super Saturday Bible Study 10:00 am-12:00 pm
15 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC Children's Christmas Program 6:00 pm	16 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	17 Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	18 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	19 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Program at HUMC-6:00 pm	20	21 UMW Meeting 9:30 am
22 4th Sunday in Advent 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	23 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	24 Christmas Eve Worship at HUMC 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship at FUMC 11:00 pm	25 Community Christmas Dinner 11:00am-1:00 pm Christmas Day	26 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	27	28
29 Youth and Young Adult Sunday 9:00 am-Choir Practice 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	30 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	31 New Year's Eve				

FUMCEC CALENDAR

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Prog. at HUMC 6:00 pm	3	4
5 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	6 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	7 Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	8 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	9 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	10	11 Super Saturday Bible Study 10:00 am-12:00 pm
12 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	13 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	14 Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	15 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	16 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Program at HUMC-6:00 pm	17	18 UMW Meeting 9:30 am
19 Human Relations Sunday 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC MLK Service 4:00 pm	20 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	21 Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	22 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	23 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm	24	25
26 9:00 am-Choir 9:45 am-Sunday School 9:30 am-HUMC 11:00 am-FUMC	27 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	28 Quilters 9:00 am-1:00 pm	29 Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	30 Open Door Fellowship at HUMC-10:00 am AA Meeting at HUMC-1:00 pm String Instrument Program at HUMC- 6:00 pm	31	

COMMUNITY NEWS



ELLWOOD CITY LET THERE BE LIGHTS!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

4:00- 5:45 PM "The Polar Express" Free movie showing at the Lincoln High School auditorium
6:00-9:00 PM Light Up Night on Lawrence Avenue featuring craft & food vendors, music, kids activities, trackless train rides, inflatable snow globe photographs, and letters to santa.
6:00 PM Lighting of the Christmas Tree & Concert featuring the Lincoln, Riverside, & Laurel Choirs.
6:00- 8:00 pm Strolling Holiday Characters featuring Frosty the Snowman & Rudolph
8:45 PM Fireworks in the Community Plaza

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

3:30- 4:30 PM Christmas Parade on Lawrence Avenue
6:00- 9:00 PM Opening Night of Christmas in the Park with Santa

Thank you to our sponsors:

INMETCO

WesBanco Bank * Ellwood City Forge* Nalco
Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Sewickley

WAMPUM "LIGHT UP THE TOWN"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 - 6PM, MAIN STREET

LIGHTING OF THE LUMINARIES—6PM , FIREWORKS—6:30PM

BAKED GOODS, FOOD

CHRISTMAS CAROLERS, DJ, DANCERS, LIGHTED BATON TWIRLING

CRAFTS, HANDMADE JEWELRY, WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS, CHAIN SAW CARVER

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS & GIFTS, YOUNG LIVING OILS

CARICATURE ARTIST, FACE PAINTER, STORY TELLER

"I LOVE WAMPUM" T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

THE STORE & MAIN STREET DINER

CHRISTMAS HAY RIDE & MORE



Free Cookies, Hot Chocolate & Coffee

WAMPUM AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

WAMPUM AREA CHRISTMAS PARADE

Ellwood City Municipal Woman's Club ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR

December
14th

10am
to
3pm



Proceeds
benefit
Gazebo Fund
&
Civic Projects

Tickets can be purchased at:

Market Place on Main

Shop at the Underpass

Blocher's Jewelers

Posies by Patti

or Call Susan at 724-944-5112

TICKETS - \$ 10

COMMUNITY NEWS

Free Christmas Dinner

December 25, 2019

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

416 Crescent Ave.

Ellwood City, PA 16117

Hosted by Local Churches and Businesses

If you are interested in volunteering, donating finances, or donating new giveaway items, please contact Rev. Norina Owens at 724-714-3308



Our wish list this year includes:

Toys for all ages

Sheet sets

Hygiene products

Makeup

Socks for all ages

Gift Cards (Walmart, Aldi, Giant Eagle, Amazon etc.) for the program to help purchasing food, gas and other items they may need.

Drop off Can be at:

Franklin Township Building

897 State Route 288

Fombell, PA 16123

Monday-Friday 8:30-3:30

Franklin Twp. Fire Dept.

808 Old Zelenople Road

Ellwood city. PA 16117

Monday nights 6:00-8:00

Questions can be emailed to franklintwpchristmasangel@gmail.com

Thank you for your Help!



First United Methodist Church
416 Crescent Avenue
Ellwood City, PA 16117

Worship time 11:00 a.m. year-round.
Prayer Chapel is available to everyone before worship.
Church Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 8:30 am-12:00 pm and Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
CLOSED Friday

How to Reach Us...

Rev. Angelique Bradford, Senior Pastor Email: pastor@firstumcec.org
Jennifer Agnew, Church Administrator Email: secretary@firstumcec.org
Office Phone: 724-758-6278 Pastor's Cell Phone: 412-722-2806
Church Website: <http://firstumcec.org/>

Please feel welcome to call Pastor Angelique to schedule a pastoral care appointment if that is helpful to you

The Mission of the United Methodist Church

“The mission of the Church is 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

The First United Methodist Church is a community of believers under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is a redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached sacraments are administered, and the Gospel is taught and proclaimed.