



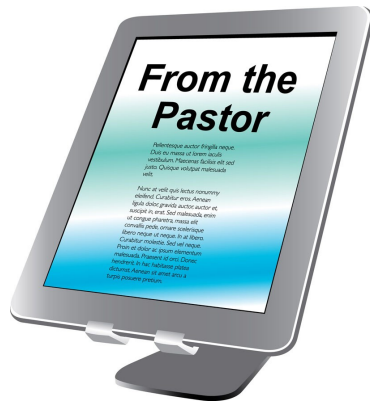
First United Methodist Church
of
Leavenworth
422 Chestnut St. • Leavenworth, KS 66048

The Jubilate

Sharing the good news of our congregation & community

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-12pm & 1pm-5pm Friday 8am-12p m

May 2020



Think on These Things – May 2020

One of my favorite aspects of the Easter season is looking forward. What happens to Jesus and the Church after the resurrection? The work of the Kingdom is taken up by the disciples who are sent out just as Jesus was sent from the Father (John 17:18 & John 19:21). Waiting is so difficult. When the disciples were told to wait for the Holy Spirit's arrival, I'm sure they grew impatient. They were looking forward to what was next? They were ready but not quite ready. So, moving forward had to wait until God's timing was complete.

The Coronavirus season is testing us as a church, individuals and a nation. A phrase I hear frequently is normal. When will we get back to normal? Will we find a new normal? I believe that the Coronavirus crisis will pass. When it passes, no one knows but it will eventually. Yes, it is testing the patience of all of us. One of my hopes when it does pass is that we will be changed. Right now, we are hearing lots of talk about being in it together, stories of good deeds being done, loving neighbors, and caring for the most vulnerable population. These stories are inspiring. Some of you are part of these stories! In little and big ways, you are doing your part to make our community better in the middle of the COVID 19 crisis. Will it continue when the trials have come and gone? If normal was the way we use to do things, do we want to go back exactly the way it was?

When this season passes, I hope we'll have a renewed passion for the Church... especially fellowship and hospitality of welcoming all people. We will desire to spend time with our neighbors and friends. We will realize how fortunate we are to gather as God's people. I hope the technological changes in attending worship, meetings and small groups will take root, too. We reach far more people on Sunday mornings through our virtual ministry! It is 21st century evangelism at its best. I look forward to seeing more of you have watch parties where you invite your friends and neighbors to your homes for church – watch the service, eat a meal, pray together and share fellowship time. Fresh expressions of church may be taking root during our time of testing that will be fruitful in the future.

Personally, I look forward to serving holy communion again, singing in the choir, greeting people at the front door, being with my small group, and serving in the community. I look forward to supporting small businesses in town. I look forward to receiving new members, teaching classes, and gathering for prayers. I have hope.

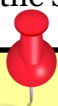
Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The COVID 19 crisis is a threat to life and our way of living. No doubt about it. A larger threat may be to go back to the way we lived before it happened. The Church can't go back to only thinking about ourselves and not engaging our neighbors. We can't focus on our own survival and self-interest. It is easy to fall back into old habits. Yet growth is about making changes. The challenge for us as we look forward: What will we keep from the Coronavirus season and what will we leave behind?

How about you? What have you learned during this season that you will take forward into the future? Is it valuing financial preparation and saving instead of living paycheck to paycheck? Is it spending more time with my family? Is it being grateful every day for small things like work, health, and home? Is it reevaluating how much time hobbies have hold of me? Is it my respect for service providers like truck drivers, train operators, store clerks, delivery people, small business owners, hair stylists, farmers, medical professionals, teachers, law enforcement and fire fighters? Is it greater appreciation for what I do have instead of what I lack? Is it learning to trust God in all seasons including ones of shelter-in-place and lockdown?

Paul's words of the resurrection echo in my mind, "Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed" 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. I am looking forward to the changes God is making in me and at FUMCL. We will not be the same. We will be changed. Glory to God!



Hey Church family,

This season has brought significant changes for all of us. One of the changes in my area is that the organization that we planned our youth summer mission trip through has cancelled all domestic 2020 trips. This changes things pretty radically for us. Fortunately, this is an opportunity to change things up.

Some things we've been wanting to improve for a while now are our local missions and adding more intergeneration experiences. Since we no longer have a main summer trip to coordinate and fund, we can move more resources to these endeavors. Our youth have been pretty significantly destabilized by the current environment, and I look forward to providing them with summer activities and missions to fill in that void.

As always, you all have an important role to play in helping to raise our young disciples. My challenge to you is to live a Christian example for them and show how the Lord can carry us through difficult times. There are going to be a lot of issues to deal with in the coming months, and we'll need to work together to overcome them.

God bless,
Steven

Join us Sundays for worship at 10:00am
on our webpage fumclvks.org or our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthFirstUMC/>



May

BIRTHDAYS

The Jubilate

1st	Virginia Brown	18th	Don Gaffin
	Ainslee Frederick		Luke Papineau
	Matthew McKinley		Isaac Papineau
2nd	Megan Rust		Edie VanMaanen
4th	Christina Bowser	19th	Michael McKinley
5th	Howard Hamon		Kauv Un
	Sarah Williams		Bea Yenney
6th	James Caldwell	20th	Donna Cade
7th	Linda Gleason		Kim Hancock
8th	Jackie Bain		Sandy Pepper
	John Chapman		Sheryl Reddell
	Tammy John	21st	Selci Hopkins
9th	Esther Polson		Lois Morris
10th	Max Hubbert	22nd	Penny Bowen
12th	Connie Poe	23rd	Sarah Lauber
13th	Jacqueline Zimmerman	24th	Somer Stuhlsatz
14th	Jan Glick	25th	Dana Piper
	Michael Piper	27th	Kristen Garnett
	Alexis Ramer	28th	Vera Hrabak
	Lawson Stuhlsatz	29th	Jim VanMaanen
15th	Karen Tish	30th	Jef Peckham
16th	Ollie West		Susan Williams
17th	Dinah Zeck		



Did we miss **your** birthday or anniversary? Did we get it wrong? Please call the office to confirm that we have your correct information in our computer!

We can't include it if we don't know it. (913) 682-5374



18th	Richard & Suzanne Gray	25 yr
24th	Peter & Adriane Bakke	17 yr
24th	Jim & Cynthia Walley	45 yr



2020

Join us for
SUNDAY SERVICES:
ONLINE ONLY AT 10:00am

www.fumclvks.org

Not Cancelled:

"I Love You"
"I'm thinking of you"
Encouragement
Kindness

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All church activities are cancelled until the Health Department decides it is safe to gather again. Meanwhile, continue to check on your loved ones & neighbors. Stay safe and well.					1  May Day	2 11a Samaritans' Buffet CANCELLED
3 Worship online 10:00am	4	5 National Teachers Day 	6 National Nurses Day 	7	8 Military Spouses' Day 	9 Lost Sock Memorial Day 
10 Worship Online 10:00 am 	11	12	13 National Receptionist Day 	14	15 National Chocolate Chip Day 	16 
17 Worship online 10:00 am	18 No dirty dishes day 	19	20	21 National Waiter & Waitress Day 	22	23
24	25 OFFICES CLOSED 	26	27	28 National Hamburger Day 	29	30 Water a flower day 
31	This calendar is subject to change—please check our online calendar at www.fumclvks.org/calendar for up-to-date info					



July 27 -30
9 am - noon

Plans are starting for Vacation Bible School after the stay-at-home order is lifted. VBS will be held later in the summer to include new military families moving into the area. This year we will use a new style of teaching called a Marketplace VBS. The idea is to recreate the location and time in history when your Bible story occurs. Marketplace shops simulate real life skills such as sandal making, baking or weaving. This year our Marketplace will be a follow-up of the Bible stories from last year's VBS. We will follow Moses and the Israelites as God provides for them in the wilderness. We will learn God led the Israelites through the Red Sea and provided manna and quail for them to eat and gave them the 10 Commandments.

We'll schedule a planning meeting as soon as the stay-at-home order is lifted. If you're interested in more information now, contact Sandy Wood at swood@fumclvks.org or call the office.

Marketplace VBS benefits

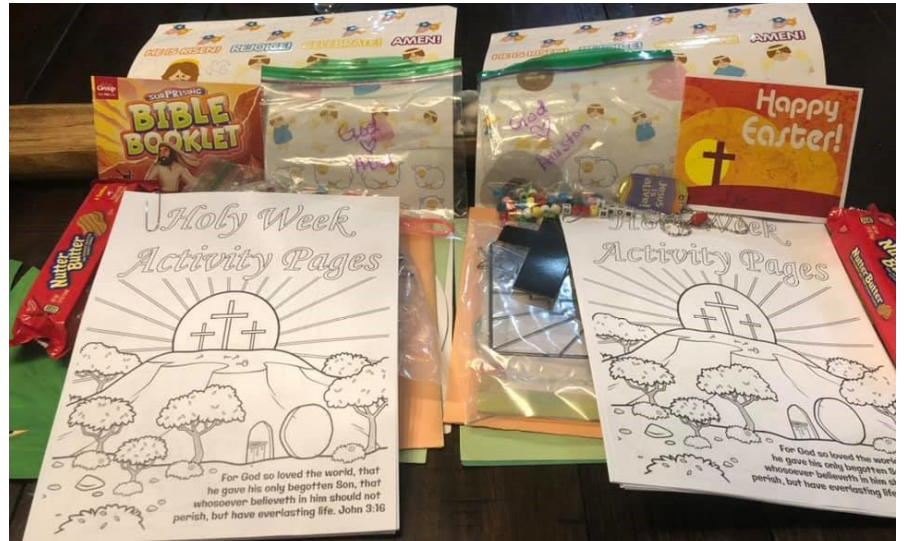
- Links the Bible story to real time and place to help with recall
- Teaches world history and life skills as well as Biblical history
- Help children distinguish between fiction and nonfiction
- Snacks and games still add fun to the experience
- Only 4 days

Marketplace VBS differences

- Kids go to shops and learn what life was like in a different time and place
- Shop leaders have small groups and are encouraged to chat with kids
- Bible story is told in the large group and Family group time is for story reinforcement

Marketplace shops

- Baker - kids will bake a sweet treat
- Cobbler - kids will make sandals from a kit
- Dairy - kids will make fresh butter
- Potter - kids will make a small pot from air dry clay
- Music shop - kids will make a tambourine from a kit
- Shepherd - kids will make a goat bell from a kit -
 We'd love to have sheep or goats if available.
- Carpenter - kids will build a small bird feeder from a kit
- Weaver - kids will weave a pot holder from a kit

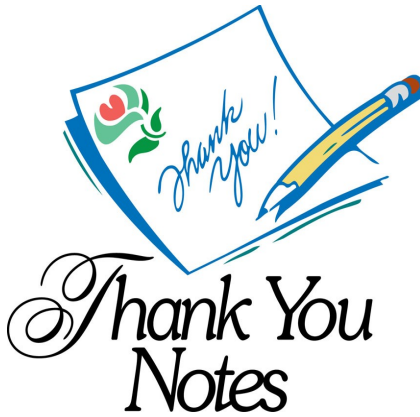


How do you celebrate Easter with a stay at home order in place? When kids can't come to church, the church goes to the kids. Thirty-nine kids received Holy Week packets to teach them about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection for Easter. They also receive a weekly email with a message from Sandy Wood. You can see from the smiling faces, they enjoy learning about Jesus.

Last week, kids received six weeks of activities for a new series on Hebrews 11, called "Heroes of Faith". The packets include Bible story comics, worksheets and crafts to help parents teach their kids the foundational stories of Genesis. Parents have always been the spiritual teachers of their children, but it is the church's desire and privilege to help parents train up their children.

Hopefully we will be able to worship together again soon. But in the meantime, we will continue to provide resources and aid to parents.





Thank you so much for caring so much for the safety of our elders and staff. The masks are such a blessing and much needed protection. We are so blessed that you took the time to do the masks for us.

God Bless—Elders & Staff of Chapman Valley Manor

Thank you for the lovely lunch after services for my Mom. Would you convey my appreciation to the church members that assisted? It was comforting to be able to have more intimate fellowship with close friends of the family and you provided us with that opportunity.

With heartfelt appreciation, Kathryn West



Staff: Thanks for all you guys are doing.

Love — Audra Morris

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$5,000 to Leavenworth Backpack Buddies. Your gift will provide healthy weekend food for over 18 children.

Your support of this program is appreciated so much. You are making a positive impact on our local children!

Sincerely, Sandy Lowery, & Second Harvest

Nurture & Care Work Group—

Tony and I consider ourselves very fortunate to be a part of the FUMC Leavenworth family. We really appreciated the books sent to us periodically on “Journeying Through Grief.” They were not only helpful for us, but I passed them on to someone I felt would benefit from them!

So again, we thank you for sharing your Christian hearts.

Gratefully,

Tony & Nina McNeill

Dear FUMCL Staff,

Thank you so much for a very meaningful Holy Week. I know it must have taken a lot of effort and planning to offer virtual services. I saw (tuned in) to all three. Thanks again.

Sheila Bailey



Congratulations!

To Arlen Briggs for the new position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Armed Forces Insurance.

Armed Forces Insurance (AFI) announced today that Arlen Briggs, currently AFI's Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chief Risk Officer (CRO), will succeed Kurt Seelbach as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective March 15, 2020.

Having worked in the insurance industry for several years with Zurich Insurance Group, Briggs joined AFI in 1994 as the Assistant Vice President, Finance and Accounting. During his career at AFI, he helped form Armed Forces Insurance Agency (AFIA) and Armed Forces Insurance Foundation, a not-for-profit educational foundation serving our Nation's military families. Briggs currently sits on the Board of Directors for AFIA, he has served as Chief Financial Officer since 2010, Chief Risk Officer since 2012 and as AFI's Executive Vice President since 2017. Over his career, Briggs has been a champion for AFI's members and the military community.

Briggs currently serves as the President and a member of the Board of Directors for the Kansas Association of Property Casualty Insurance Companies, sits on the Audit Committee for the Kansas Insurance Guaranty Association, serves on the Board of Directors for Armed Forces Insurance Foundation, serves on the Board of Directors for the Saint Luke's Cushing Foundation and serves as a trustee for multiple private charitable trusts that support local area youth and local organizations.

(excerpt from AFI article by Lori Simmons)



We are the church! It isn't the building, it is how we are showing God's love through service to others. Here's a few ways we have been doing it during the shelter-in-place ruling:

Children's time and worship team song set videos are available on our [Youtube channel](#).

Backpack Buddies foods have been taken to the schools for distribution to families with school kids.

Nearly \$8,000 have been donated by our church family to Trinity House food bank.

Itch'n to Stitch group has made hundreds of face masks & headbands for healthcare workers, military & members.

Members of our church council have been making wellness calls to our church family. Haven't had a call? Maybe we don't have a good phone number for you. Call the office to check.

Our online worship reaches people in India, Africa, Ohio, Colorado, Nebraska, and many unknown areas.

Samaritans' Buffet chefs have prepared meals and delivered them to the homeless shelter.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

It's been an extended period since I last spoke to you, not just because of the pandemic, but because I've also had our sweet daughter, Junia. I've missed you all! We've more or less been in lockdown since her birth, February 12 because Juni was born early and preemies are more susceptible to influenza and RSV, so we are really looking forward to when this is all over and we can see everyone again.



Maternity leave has been so wonderful to have time to reset and focus on getting to know my daughter. I've also had many nights of rocking her in the quiet of her nursery, praying and dreaming about what it means to be a part of the Kingdom of God, not just in the midst of a pandemic, but also in the weeks and months to come as we settle into the new normal we will live in until a vaccine is developed.

This week I started back to work in my basement office at home with Ryan next to me doing his own work and a snuggly, sleeping baby strapped onto my chest. This isn't how I imagined coming out of maternity leave, but here we are. This time really has me thinking about the future of ministry at FUMCL. Although it is so difficult, the time away provides us with a unique opportunity to think about the ministries we are doing. What do we need to stop, start or continue?

In my isolation, I have been especially reminded of the importance of human connection. I sit and think about the times I've spent with the youth and it's not the lessons that stick out, but the moments of connection and love that remain in my memory. Yes, a large part of my job is to teach our youth about God, but perhaps the most important part is to show them God's love and welcome. If they remember anything about my youth program, it's so much more important for them to know that they are loved by God and by me than it is for them to know who Methuselah or Melchizedek were.

When our most stringent restrictions are lifted and we are allowed to meet again (in whatever capacity that might be), I plan to have a renewed focus on the relationships in youth group. I will allow us more time for check-in to talk about our week and where we are seeing God. I will remember that the time I get to laugh and share life with them over dinner before our lessons are just as much the point as the lessons themselves. I will make more time for outings and play and I will do everything in my power to live into the irresistible love that God has for me and to show that love to each and every one of them. Of course, I have always valued my time with "my kids," as lovingly refer to my youth, but this time apart has been a reminder to keep the main thing, the main thing and in youth ministry, that is God first, and each other second. I love each and every one of your kids and I can't wait to see them again.

As for young adults, the same lesson stands – relationship is key. If nothing else, this time has only served to reinforce the importance of fresh expressions ministries. In a time when our ability to meet together may have size restrictions, there is an added bonus to meeting in more intimate groups. The plan is still to have a fresh expressions ministry (or two or three!) on the church campus and I think that it is especially timely for us to be able to meet in smaller groups as we may see continued restrictions once things begin to open back up, but also because the need for human connection is present now more than ever. Fresh expressions allow you to connect with others in the group in a way that traditional church is just not really designed to do. I'm not sure what the timetable for beginning this will look like – that will likely depend on local, state and national guidelines for when we can begin gathering again – but I believe that there may have never been a more perfect time to give fresh expressions a shot in our lifetimes.

In the meantime, stay safe and healthy and know that you are in my prayers. I look forward to seeing you all again! Kristen



»Read all
ABOUT«
»it!

WE MADE IT! It's the time of resurrection. During the time of remembering the manifestation and revelation of Jesus Christ and as we completed the Lenten season, we should have asked ourselves if we sacrificed enough to avoid temptation by Satan as the Lord would have us sacrifice. Did we celebrate the arrival of Jesus into the Holy City and then follow that sorrowful path alongside him to his death on Good Friday? Did we mourn his passing yet have faith that he would return, as he stated numerous times throughout Holy Week. Glory be to God that Jesus Christ has risen and the Holy Ghost is leading us in spirit to a thriving future sharing of Christ's love and transforming lives. It's time to move forward within whatever circumstances we are in and have faith in our Lord.

First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth, KS (FUMCLVKS) has been telling the story over several years of a church in transition or transformation for the future. We have used the phrase, "Growing the Church". We continue discerning why FUMCL is here and the answer continues to be the same each time, "... the local church is to minister to persons in the community where the church is located ..." By definition, "The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs." "The local church is a strategic base from which Christians move out to the structures of society." "Trying to live according to the ways of God's Kingdom naturally leads to transformation within ourselves and in the world around us, through God's power, working in the love we share." (All quotes come from UMC sources.)

We have been presented circumstances over the past two months causing many to enter a time of grieving. It's time to get back to looking forward and not backward. Easter presents us another opportunity to continue starting anew and be a better disciple in another new season presented to us through the Trinity. We can share the divine nature combined with human nature just for the reason that Jesus was brought back from the grave. It's time to get back to finding ways for sharing that with everyone around us and throughout our community. It is time to get past our grief and get back to the future for Jesus Christ who ordered the making of disciples now and forever.

FUMCLKS must be brave and think about the next 100 years by taking a 3-5 year approach or path for planning. Count on bumps in the road but continue to have faith as described in Hebrews 11. We are not the first throughout history to be facing fear of the unknown and we certainly aren't the first to overcome our fears through faith. As we look to our future generations, we intend to better serve our current generation and build for future generations just as generations of the past provided for us. Many of our resources have been serving us well for the past 160 plus years and so everything we are doing now needs to be bold for those to come behind us.

We are in the third year of our current planning and implementation cycle and growth has been much about sustaining and preparing for our future of growth. As hard as it is to admit, we were in a season of shrinking but current assessment is that we have slowed, if not eliminated, the decline. There have been some significantly audacious changes happen in the last 3 years that made the difference and there are more to come. This is possible through the patience and trust of all as has been demonstrated by all. Hold on to your hats because there are more to come in order to turn the corner for true growth.

The core ministries to achieve the Church mission are Nurture, Outreach, and Witness. We do this using the resources of the Church. Planning and implementation for the future requires determining the path for the ministries so that we can apply or attain resources to support the mission. Growth in the church starts with growth in these three ministries by first making Disciples of Jesus Christ within the congregation and then sending them to care for the needy and provide all individuals and families expressions of witness for Jesus Christ in order to transform the community.



One of our greatest assets provided by past generations is facilities and property to offer to our community. Here are a few things achieved these past 3 years due to our diligence together as we look toward future efforts supporting the mission and ministries.

Educational Building – retaining wall, basement repairs from flooding, Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) replacement, ADA stair lift, ADA restroom, electrical outlets (w/USB ports), security cameras for improved Safe Gatherings, and adding a nursery

Main Church – roof repair, stained glass renovation, stone repair, Audio/Video capabilities for online Worship, security cameras for improved Safe Gatherings, and multiple improvements to reduce risk of fire.

Declutter – HVAC rooms throughout entire campus, nursery, pulpit area storage, Music Room, storage rooms and classrooms in educational building, and the storage building (commonly known as the old bank)

Our current campus is 106 years old so repair, renovation, and modernization efforts must be focused on growing young and making space for generations to come for another 100 years. Stay tuned as we continue to tell our story of campus growth. Things to come for growing our church over the next 2 years include – angled parking along east lot, HVAC replacement and modernization in main church, Community Worship Park on east lot, Chapel Café in Educational Building, ADA ramp, more online capabilities, sanctuary modernization of north pulpit area, and improved parking west of 5th Street.

The abundance in our church goes beyond our facilities and property as listed below. This provides a glimpse at the time, talent, and treasure available to the Church for achieving a future for our Christian descendants.

Talent and Time – We have 479 professing members and throughout the year 461 people attended worship with us. If each of the 461 people spent just 1 hour per month with service within our community, that would be 5,532 hours of service in a year, which equals 230 days out of 365 in the year. Of course, this is ideal but take any portion of the attendees and good stewardship efforts by the Church would provide significant impact throughout our community.

Financial Treasure – Money cannot resolve everything but it can do a lot in a consumer based economic system for the community.

Annual Operating Revenue – Approximately \$600,000 depending on economic conditions of each year

Annual Capital Revenue – Approximately \$150,000 depending on market conditions each year (from investments)

Current Cash Equivalent Assets -- \$660,000

Facility and Property Asset Value -- \$2,900,000

Current Long Term Investment Assets -- \$1,500,000

In this season of resurrection and time of complicated circumstances, we as Christians continue our mission of growth as disciples of Jesus Christ and growth of the community around us in their transformation. We have the abundance for resourcing this growth through our time, talent, and treasure and all that is left is to show the courage to move forward through nurturing, outreach, and witness. God has given us all the abilities we need for ministering and being that strategic base in Leavenworth from which Christians move out to the structures of society. Let's continue to make those bold changes and step out into the future.



First United Methodist Church
Leavenworth

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

422 Chestnut
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Phone: 913-682-5374
Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495

We're on the web!
fumclvks.org

www.facebook.com/LeavenworthFirstUMC

Greetings and blessings to one and all. I never thought these wonderful stitchers would be making masks to keep our families protected from this ugly virus. Our projects have been focused on baby quilts and honor quilts. They have been working hard these last few weeks to make hundreds of masks for us as well as the nursing homes in Chapman and Abilene but also for the military. They are such troopers and I personally am very proud of each and everyone of them. If you see or talk to them on the phone or send them an email to let me know how grateful we are too them.

If anyone is in need of a mask please feel free to send them our way. To date 229 masks were sent to the rest homes and 108 have been given out To church members and some military folks.

Be safe and God bless you BEA and TERESA

= OUR MISSION=

*"We are a Church of the Ages, Serving the Present Age by making Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of our community and world"*

= OUR VISION =

Transform lives through sharing Christ's love and being a thriving, spirit-filled church

=CONGREGATIONAL VALUES=

Primacy of Scripture, Devotion to Divine Trinity, Wesleyan Heritage, and Hospitality for All.