

The Kresge Courier February 2023



ANNA KRESGE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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From our Pastor's Heart

January 30, 2023

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs. ...

This mission is our grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world announced by Jesus. God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in the Bible. It is *expressed* in God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, in the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, and in the ministry of the prophets. It is fully *embodied* in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is *experienced* in the ongoing creation of a new people by the Holy Spirit. ...

Whenever United Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our Church to save persons, heal relationships, transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness, thereby changing the world. In order to be truly alive, we embrace Jesus' mandate to love God and to love our neighbor and to make disciples of all peoples. ...

We make disciples as we:

- proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ;
- lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace, such as Wesley's Christian conferencing;
- send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel; and
- continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ." (2016 UM BoD, pgs 93-94)

To make disciples of Jesus Christ one must first be a disciple of Jesus Christ. A disciple is a personal follower of Jesus who accepts His teachings as the Way, the Truth, the Light and the Life and shares His teachings with others. Disciples practice spiritual disciplines - practices that help us grow our faith, our hope, and our love of God and neighbor.

To share with others, one must share life with others. This is accomplished most meaningfully by being connected in Sunday school classes, small groups, prayer groups and corporate worship. Participating in a small group of believers who watch over each other in love, encouraging each other and holding one another accountable while practicing the means of grace (worship, Bible study, prayer, and Holy Communion) together is a most effective way to live this out.

Jesus calls us to be His disciples, He calls into discipleship, "Follow me!" our response is either an act of faith or rebellious denial.

Let us respond positively! Let's decide to join together in groups, some of us are already grouped up (Sunday schools, mid-week small groups, prayer group) some of us are attempting to live our Christian lives completely alone - lets change that. Group up with each other, form bands of 3-5 who will commit to meeting together to read scripture, pray together and honestly answer these questions:

1. How is it with your soul?
2. What are your struggles and successes?
3. How might the Spirit and Scriptures be speaking in your life?
4. Do you have any sin that you want to confess?
5. Are there any secrets or hidden things you would like to share?

Pray Ephesians 3:20-21 with me: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

I remain in His grip, Rev Ed



Special Offering Sundays

(G) Human Relations Day - January: Second Sunday

(NGA) Homeless Offering - February: Last Sunday

(G) UMCOR Sunday - 4th Sunday in Lent

(G) Native American Awareness - April: Third Sunday

(NGA) Wesley Woods - May: Mother's Day

(G) Peace with Justice - May: Third Sunday

(NGA) Annual Conference Special Offering - June: First Sunday

(NGA) Murphy-Harpst - July: Third Sunday

(NGA) Golden Cross - August: Third Sunday

(NGA) Wellroot - September: Third Sunday

(G) World Communion - October: First Sunday

(NGA) Aldersgate Homes - October: Fourth Sunday

(G) United Methodist Student Day - November: Last Sunday

KEY

(G) = *General Conference*

(NGA) = *North Georgia Conference*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Birthday & Anniversaries are marked on the calendar in red</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p><i>Shannon McGee</i></p> <p>Leviticus 1-3</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>S.H. Maria Masi</i></p> <p>Leviticus 4-6</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Leviticus 7-8</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Elsie Moore</i></p> <p>Leviticus 9-10</p>
			<p>5</p> <p>Worship @ 10:55 Masks Optional</p> <p>SPRC 4:00</p> <p>Leviticus 11-13</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Small Group 12:00</p> <p>Leviticus 14-15</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Tues. Mom Prayer Group 10:30 am</p> <p>Worship 4:00</p> <p>Leviticus 16-18</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Leviticus 19-21</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Worship @ 10:55 Masks Optional</p> <p>Numbers 1-2</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Small Group 12:00</p> <p>Numbers 3-4</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Tues. Mom Prayer Group 10:30 am</p> <p>Numbers 5-6</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Numbers 7</p>	<p>16</p> <p>CLEAN TEAM <i>Williams, Cooper, Portersmarck</i></p> <p><i>Clara Jean David</i></p> <p>Numbers 18-9</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Numbers 10-11</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Numbers 12-13</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship @ 10:55 Masks Optional</p> <p>Numbers 14-15</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Small Group 12:00</p> <p>Numbers 16-18</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Tues. Mom Prayer Group 10:30 am</p> <p>Numbers 19-20</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Numbers 21-22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Numbers 23-25</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Lynn Self</i></p> <p>Numbers 26-27</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Numbers 28-29</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Worship @ 10:55 Masks Optional</p> <p><i>Brenda Cobb Hannah Cooper</i></p> <p>Numbers 30-31</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Small Group 12:00</p> <p>Numbers 32-33</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Tues. Mom Prayer Group 10:30 am</p> <p><i>S. H. Judy Cook</i></p> <p>Numbers 34-36</p>				