
First Press

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church – Marshfield, WI

APRIL 2009

Pastor's Preface

‘If the Church really sees itself as the people of God, it is obvious that it can never be a static and supra-historical phenomenon, which exists undisturbed by earthly space and historical time. The Church is always and everywhere a living people, gathered together from the peoples of this world and journeying through the midst of time. The Church is essentially *en route*, on a journey, a pilgrimage. A Church which pitches its tents without looking out constantly for new horizons, which does not continually strike camp, is being untrue to its calling. The historical nature of the Church is revealed by the fact that it remains the pilgrim people of God. It renews and continues the history of the ancient people of the covenant and fulfills it in the new covenant. At the same time it journeys through history, through a time of complex imperfection, towards the final perfection, the eschatological kingdom of God, led by God himself. It is essentially an interim Church, a Church in transition, and therefore not a Church of fear but of expectation and hope: A Church which is directed towards the consummation of the world by God.’ -From *The Church* by Hans Kung

When Hans Kung uses the word, Church, in his theological treatise on the Church, I assume he is talking about the Church Universal with a capital “C”. The Church Universal is not bound by walls or specific denominations or locations. The Church Universal is anywhere the Spirit of Christ has drawn people together to worship God in Jesus Christ and to serve God in the world. What I noted immediately is that Kung describes the Church as an “interim Church, a Church in transition, and therefore not a Church of fear but of expectation and hope. . .”

First Presbyterian Church is a local church with a small letter “c”, but it is certainly a part of the Church Universal with a capital “C”. First Presbyterian is especially, at this time, a church in transition, and interim church/Church. I like what Kung says about the interim Church being “not a Church of fear but of expectation and hope . . .” It certainly would be easy to get caught up in the fear sweeping our country. There is fear about the dismal economy and people losing their jobs. There is fear about wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and around the globe. There is fear about keeping the borders safe from crime and terrorism. There is fear about the spiritual condition of the U.S. population. There is fear about the pollution of air and water and land. There is fear about the wave of alcoholism, drug abuse and domestic violence affecting families in Marshfield, the State of Wisconsin, and beyond.

But God’s people are called not to live in fear but to live in hope and expectation. We live in hope and expectation because we believe there is a God and that God cares about this planet and its creatures. Does this mean that we disengage from the world and do nothing about its problems? No, it means that we partner with each other and God to find solutions because we have *faith*, we have *hope*, and we have *love*. And so this interim church/Church, First Presbyterian Church, has much to do and much to pray about in this time of transition between called and installed pastors. Won’t you join me and your friends at FPC?

Faithfully,

Don

Don Houdeshell, Interim Minister

HOLY WEEK**WORSHIP SCHEDULE****April Worship and Preaching Schedule**

- April 5: *Palm Sunday.*** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Mark 15:1-39.
Preaching: Don Houdeshell.
- April 9: *Maundy Thursday Communion.***
7:00 P.M. Preaching: Don Houdeshell.
- April 10: *Community Ecumenical Good Friday Service.*** 1:00 p.m.
Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church.
Preaching: Pastor Bob Leshner of Faith Lutheran Church.
- April 12: *Easter Sunday Communion.*** Isaiah 25:6-9; John 20:1-18.
Preaching: Don Houdeshell.
- April 19: *2nd Sunday of Easter.*** Psalm 133; John 20:19-31.
Preaching: Tamara Cox-Burnett.
- April 26: *3rd Sunday of Easter.*** Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48.
Preaching: Don Houdeshell.

**TRANSITIONS**

Deaths

Leda Podbelsek
2/15/2009

Theresa Sanchez-Molina
3/12/2009
(mother of
Carlos Escudero)

Garry Peterson
3/16/2009

TNT... will meet for its regular meeting on April 1 and 15. Bring a friend and enjoy good food, fun and fellowship.

The Central Chamber Chorale would like to thank you for the kind use of your facilities and for the services you provided in allowing us to present a message of light, hope, and Spring.

*Paul Field, Secretary
Central Chamber Chorale*

The Blessing Box and The Care Fund

During 2008, the Care Fund received \$14,233.48. **Included in this amount is \$2,481.10 contributed by members of First Presbyterian Church of Marshfield.** The balance in the account as of December 31, 2007 is \$3,111.27.

Your contributions to the Care Fund are deeply appreciated by all the persons who receive both help and counseling not only directly from Faith Lutheran Church, but through the various agencies through which most of our funds are distributed, such as: \$3,410 was used by the Personal Development Center to help persons with rent, to obtain a driver's license, to enable a victim of domestic abuse to get bus fare to safety with family in Chicago, and a myriad of other emergency needs; \$4,068.89 was used by the North Central Community Action Program to help people in great need, even in one situation to provide "medical scrubs uniforms" so a newly employed person to accept a job at the clinic; \$727 was used by St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Center to provide baby food and other basic needs; \$800 was used by Wood County Social Services for utilities and rent assistance; and \$1,857.71 was used through Baltus to provide gas vouchers. The remaining \$3,369.88 was distributed directly by the Care Fund to persons who met with the pastor either by referral from other congregations, the various social service agencies, or who just "dropped in" in the midst of their need.

New this year is a joint decision by PDC, NCCAP, St. Vincent's Outreach Center and the Care Fund to funnel all requests for gas vouchers through St. Vincent's. The Care Fund will continue to donate money to St. Vincent's when their own funds are depleted. So far, this amount is less than what the Care Fund was previously paying for gas vouchers.

While you do not see the faces of the persons your contributions reach, know that you are reaching the lost, the least, the littlest, the hungry and the hopeless. You are helping them to know Christ in the ways you are being Christ to them.

Pastor Tricia
Faith Lutheran Church

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS...The 4th
Annual Breakfast of
Champions Pancake
Breakfast is coming to FPC
Sunday, May 18th,
following worship.
EVERYONE is invited to
come celebrate our
awesome CE volunteers
and the Class of 2009
graduates!**

**FRIDAY FISH
FELLOWSHIP...
will be held at the
Buck-a-Neer on Friday,
April 3, at 6:00 p.m.
Please call the church
office by noon on the 3rd
to make your reservation.
Thank you!**

**INNER CITY CIRCLE...
will meet at the home of
Kitty Scidmore on
Thursday, April 9
at 9:30 a.m.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING GATHERING

Presbyterian Women in Winnebago Presbytery will gather on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Frame Memorial in Stevens Point.

The day begins with registration and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. The program begins at 10:00 a.m.

The featured presentation will be from Presbytery participants in the Women's Lambing Weekend at the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas.

Other activities for the day include the dedication of The Least Coin and Birthday Offerings, sample mission projects, some personal enrichment projects, swap and sell items and displays.

Lunch will be served by the women of Frame Church. The cost is \$6.00. If you plan to attend, please contact [Margaret Faber](#) or 715.341.4746 to make your reservation, which are due by April 17.

4th Annual Rummage Sale – A New Twist

The Christian Education Committee is gearing up for our 4th annual ALL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE, to be held on Friday, June 12th, and Saturday, June 13th. We will be accepting clean, gently used clothing, crafts and holiday decor, books, toys, furniture and miscellaneous household items that you might want to clear out of storage and recycle to families who may be anxious to reuse. This year we are excited to share a new twist: *A Consignment Corner*. Items worth \$100 or more may be placed in a specially marked corner of the fellowship hall, and tagged with a consignment tag. When a shopper chooses something from this area, the church will get 50% of the proceeds and the donator will be given the other 50%. "Antiques Welcome!" A win-win donation. Gayle Strand will be our Consignment Coordinator, so check with her if you have any questions about this new plan. In the meantime, be sure to schedule the spring cleaning of those closets, attics and garage shelves, so that we can once again provide a wonderful opportunity to let Marshfield RECYCLE BIG TIME, while we raise needed dollars for our CE programs. Sign-up sheets to help us out with this gargantuan task (with the added benefit of early shopping opportunities) will be circulated in May. Items will be collected June 8-10th. Happy Spring Cleaning!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...the snow is melting, the sun is shining and I do believe that Spring is finally going to arrive. I sit in the sun by the window enjoying the wonderful weather, seeing my humans smiling and laughing as they come into church, preparing for the celebration of Easter and our Lord's Resurrection. What a glorious time of the year! Soon it will be time to clean the bookshelves in my winter home just as my humans do that thing called "spring cleaning" in theirs. There are so many good books here to take home and read. The children's books about Easter are waiting for eager readers of the church to take them home to be shared with the family. As the bookshelves at home are cleaned, and books are removed to be returned to the church library, please remember to bring them into the library, but PLEASE do not shelve them. My human partner will check them in and put them in the correct place. Thanks... Have a GOOD SPRING. THE CHURCH MOUSE.

P.S. VBS plans are coming soon. Watch for the announcement.

Hosanna
in the
Highest

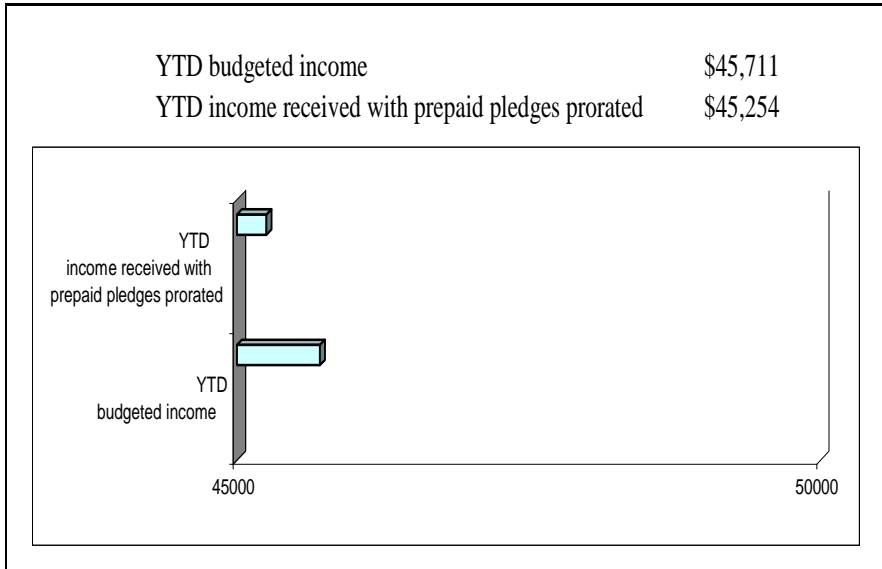


Administrative News

Financial Report

General Fund as of February, 2009

	February 2009	February 2008	YTD 2009	YTD 2008	YTD Difference
Income	22,030	20,313	66,783	104,494	-\$37,711
Expenses	25,726	22,147	48,879	53,593	-\$4,714
Income Less Expenses	-\$3,696	-\$1,834	\$17,904	\$50,901	-\$32,997



- Thank you to everyone who has contributed to get us to within \$871 of our goal. This year's per capita rate is \$27 per confirmed/ active member. Using the 2007 membership count of 404 x \$27 = \$10,908. We have set a goal of \$4,000 of income on the per capita. If you would like to contribute for the per capita you can pick up an envelope here at church or you can simply write per capita on the memo line of your check. Let's make this goal a reality!
- Festival Food receipts from January through March, 2009, need to be turned in to the office by April 5.

**Serving our church
2008-2009**

 Session

*Randy Hartwig, Steve Kirkhorn
Don Zais
Becky Volenec, Patty Faber
Nancy Root, Mike Schulein
Barb Gillespie, Helen Lohrenz
Bruce Lautenschlager
Cathy Sutterer*

 Deacons

*Jim & Dolores Aue
Kathy Phillips, Karna Sandok
Janet Singer, Gayle Strand
Darlene Wagner
Janet Crossley, Mary Mabeus
Eleanore Nikolai
Tracy Olson, Carmen Ramirez
Kristi Brandner, Jan Clouse
Bridget Eberl, Wendy Evert
Jennifer Lurvey, Kerri Wichlacz*

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Interim Pastor...

..... Pastor Donovan Houdeshell
Parish Nurses.....
Marge Huntwork, Carolyn Opitz
Confirmation Coordinator...
Deb Murrell
Children's Ministries Coordinators
Ann Straughan, Denise Sonnemann
Adult Forum Coordinator...
Nadene Lautenschlager
Youth Ministries Coordinator
.....Cheryl Hall
Nursery Attendants.....Therese Brooks
.....Milca Escudero
Business Manager Ellen Leick
Admin. Secretary.....Harriet Brandt
Custodian Coord.....Dennis Nagel

Financial Report continued

- Cropportunities is going out of business on April 18th and everything is 25% off. We still have four scrip cards which we are selling for \$19 each which is at our cost.
- For a limited time you can earn 3.00% APY on new funds invested in a Fixed Rate Term Note with a thirteen-month maturity through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program. For more information you can call (800) 903-7457, ext. 5865 or go online at www.pcusa.org/pilp.

Memorial / Building Fund as of February 2009

Cash and Investments	81,506		
Designated Funds:			
Bldg Items	2,491	Bldg Fund/Parking	44,685
Parish Nurse Program	163	BF Mission	17,357
Music/Worship	1,031	CE Prog./Library	14,089
Youth Programs	821	Outreach	187
H. Scidmore Mem Garden	555	Audio Tapes	125
<i>*Note: Lorraine Mason memorial (\$31,973) is not included above.</i>			
Line of Credit	0		
Notes Program Loan Payable	371,804		
Notes Program Interest Payable	31,433		
Building Fund Total Debt	403,237		

- The rates for the Notes program as of August 12, 2008 are 3.75% for \$10,000 or more and 3.25% for under \$10,000. Please call or e-mail me if you are interested.
- Please call or e-mail me (eleick@verizon.net) if you have any questions or comments ~ Ellen Leick, Business Manager

Greetings,

I extend by "heart-felt" gratitude to the First Presbyterian Church of Marshfield and its members for remembering me and my family at the death of my mother, Lois A. Thomas.

It is an immeasurable joy to know the gift of oneness we share in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness during my time of grief. Please extend my gratitude to the congregation.

Peace be with you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Marcia J. Thomas





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Confirmation year is winding down! The ninth grade students will have class on Sunday, April 19, and then they are finished for this year. After this last class, our tenth graders will be working on their personal faith statements in preparation for Confirmation on May 10. All students need to get worship reports and hours of volunteer service handed in to Deb by the end of April.

Our last class session will be April 19. We will have fun reviewing our year and talk about “Why the church?”, a topic of importance to the ninth graders in the middle of the Confirmation process, to the tenth graders choosing to be confirmed, and still important to those of us who already are church members. At this class we will also discuss the faith statement “assignment” with the tenth grade students. As we are short one class period this year due to Easter falling on our regular meeting day, so let’s everyone be able to attend on the 19th.

Tenth graders being confirmed this spring will meet again with their mentors on Sunday, April 26, to work on writing their faith statements. Past years we have set aside this hour after worship for the student/mentor partners to work together, not in a formal class setting, but to meet as a pair in a quiet spot at church. Tenth graders and mentors, please communicate with each other for this project, especially if you have a conflict on the 26th.

This year’s 10th grade confirmation students, parents/families, and mentors are invited to a reception and the Presentation of Faith Statements with the Session on **Sunday, May 3**, at 11:00. The Rite of Confirmation will take place **Sunday, May 10**, during morning worship.

Volunteer Opportunities:

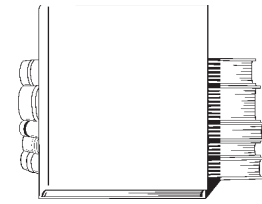
(Check your calendars and let Deb know when you can help)

April 24: Boy Scout Food Drive to benefit S.O.S., set-up from 2:00-4:00 at church.

April 25: Boy Scout Food Drive today, 9:00 – 3:00 at church (but the work may be done earlier in the afternoon)

May 9: Post Office Food Drive, 11:00-5:00 at the Post Office

June 8-13: Church Garage Sale (set-up and sale days)



THE OPEN BOOK GROUP

April 9, 2009

Meet at 9:00 a.m.

**Discussion begins at 9:30 a.m.
at the home of
Georgeanne Cusic
1510 N Broadway
387.3087**

Roots and Wings: The Human Journey from a Speck of Stardust to a Spark of God by Margaret Silf

Margaret Silf is a British author and much of her spirituality has Celtic Christian elements. This is a series of meditations on life from the perspective of science and spiritual traditions. She writes, “I find myself fired by the wonders that science is revealing, as well as deeply inspired by the wisdom of the spiritual traditions of human family.”

“A story is growing inside of you... a story as beautiful and as mysterious as the universe itself. And your personal story is an essential chapter in the Big Story. We are told that the story of life begins with elements released into space at the death of a star. But what about our destiny? Does that speck of stardust also hold within it a ‘spark of God’? Is life evolving toward levels of consciousness that we cannot yet even imagine? *Roots and Wings* is a book full of

The Open Book Group continued on page 8

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: sharing resources, changing lives

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Where is your treasure?

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find hope for a brighter future. Presbyterians' gifts support the work of The Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

After deducting administrative costs (up to 5 per cent) and the costs of creating and distributing promotional materials (roughly 5 per cent), the remaining undesignated gifts are divided among three programs as follows:

Presbyterian Hunger Program (36 per cent)

For ministries working to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in local communities, in the nation and throughout the world, as well as ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing. Learn more about the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32 per cent)

For disaster response and ministries with refugees. Learn more about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Self-Development of People (32 percent)

For partnerships with groups of people who are oppressed by poverty or social systems, who want to take charge of their own lives, have organized to do something about their own condition and have decided what they need to do to produce long-term benefits for themselves. Learn more about Self-Development of People.

Learn more about the offering: If you would like to get more details on line, go to the pcusa link: www.pcusa.org/oghs/index.htm

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings will be collected at both the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services this year.

Food Pantry Needs

Canned or Bottled 100% Juice, Mayonnaise, Dried Soup, Canned Carrots, Canned Noodle Meals, Canned Meat (not Tuna or Salmon), Chili and Stew, Fruit Cocktail, Canned Peaches and Pears, Mixed Vegetables, Ramen Noodles, Broth.

Non-Food Items: Deodorant, Shaving Cream, and Razors, Shampoo, Brown Paper Bags

SOS...Mark your calendars: The next FPC week in the Food Pantry will be May 4-8.

The Open Book Group continued

questions to inspire deeper thinking. It invites you to participate in an age-old conversation about our origins and our destiny. It encourages you to think about what it might mean to become fully and truly human--and to discover your own response to that perpetual question. Margaret Silf deftly brings science and spirituality together, allowing a bold new synthesis to emerge between them." (from the book cover)

Are you looking for a different kind of book group? We would love to have you join us.

**You are invited to a
Community Appreciation Event to
CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERS!**

April 29, 4:30 – 6:30 P.M.

At Marshfield Eagles, 1104 South Oak Avenue

4:30 Appetizer Buffet and Cash FPCBar
5:45 Keynote Speaker: Todd Diedrich, Marshfield Savings Bank

If you volunteer or utilize volunteers, you are invited to this recognition/thank you event. This includes those of you who volunteer for SOS, Habitat, Cultural Fair, etc. Learn how volunteers are enriching our organizations and community.

Reservations are requested: Call 384-9992 or email by April 21 to unitedway.sarah@tznet.com.

BOY SCOUT FOOD DRIVE

Volunteers are needed for the 2009 Boy Scout Food Drive on Saturday, April 25. Two hour shifts are scheduled from 9-11 a.m.; 11-1 p.m.; and 1-3 p.m. (may finish earlier).

All volunteers will be working at FPC in the fellowship hall.

This is one of two major community food drives and 10 – 12 people are needed per shift.

Please call SOS @ 387-1796, or Harriet in the FPC office 384-2484, to sign up.

In addition, volunteers will be needed Monday-Wednesday, April 27 – 29, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. to sort donations.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Shirley Forbish
- 5 Lori Zais
- 6 Irene Johnson
- 7 Richard Halle
Bennett Lang, Gracia Sandok
- 8 Nathan Boson
- 9 William Toyama
- 10 Milca Escudero
- 11 Janet Crossley
- 12 Aimie Eckelberg, John Lueck
Amy Place
- 13 Margaret Lenz
- 14 Kelly Hoehn, Eliza Prebble
- 15 Carole LeMoine
Muriel Mickel
- 16 Caitlin Engel
- 17 John Keel, Ralph Mueller
- 18 Fritz Buss, Katherine Olson
Bailey Schmitt
- 20 Esther Dehn
- 21 Brianne Schmoller
- 22 Delores Madler, Janet Singer
- 23 Alice Guttman, Ben Soehl
- 24 Del Allgood
Anthony Hartwig
Dot Shields, Reid Woolworth
- 27 Cliff Overli
- 28 Stacy Daniel
- 29 Jeremy Luchterhand
Olive Peterson

ALL-CHURCH EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



April 22, 2001

The Green Team invites all members and friends, preschool through our special long time members, to a fun celebration on Sunday, April 19th. Immediately after worship, we will be showing the Academy Award winning Pixar production, **WALL-E** in the fellowship hall. This spectacular movie appeals to viewers of all ages and will touch your heart forever. If you've already seen it, you will enjoy the second viewing even more. This special event will take the place of BLAST and ADULT FORUM, with another famous FPC potluck served during intermission. This is even better than movie popcorn!

Approximately seven hundred years in the future, the earth is over-run with garbage and devoid of plant and animal life; the consequence of years of environmental degradation and thoughtless consumerism. We hope that you will join us in watching the endearing little robot, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class), who, after many years of doing exactly what he was MADE to do, discovers what he was MEANT to do. The message in this movie is one that we should all consider, as we celebrate EARTH DAY. Watch for the potluck sign-up clipboards coming soon.

RECYCLING ELECTRONICS JUST GOT EASIER!

Remember those Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. If you have electronics you no longer need, consider selling or giving the item to someone who may need it. If it needs to be disposed of, remember that electronic components should NOT be discarded into landfills. Best Buy Co, Inc., began a comprehensive recycling program for electronics in all of its stores nationwide in February. Consumers may bring up to two (2) units per day per household for recycling at any Best Buy store. They will accept most consumer electronics, including televisions and monitors up to 32", computer CPUs and notebooks, small electronics, VCR and DVD players, phones, as well as accessories such as keyboards, mice and remotes.

A \$10 recycling fee per unit will be charged for items with screens, such as televisions, laptop computers and monitors. **HOWEVER**, the consumer will instantly receive a \$10 Best Buy gift card in exchange for the recycling fee. Bravo, Best Buy!

The following items cannot be accepted through this program (check the Wood Co. toxic waste collection date this spring):

- Televisions or monitor screens greater than 32"
- Console televisions
- Items containing Freon, including air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and mini-refrigerators
- Microwaves
- Large appliances

The Green Team

First ✠ Press

First Presbyterian Church

200 S Lincoln Avenue

Marshfield, WI 54449

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Marshfield, WI 54449

Permit No. 288

**Our Mission**

“First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin, seeks to welcome all to join us on our journey of faith, denying no one, based upon his or her particular human condition, participation in the life of the church. We want to be a safe place, a sanctuary where people are accepted, included, and cared for as they are. We will be agents of God’s transforming power, aligning ourselves with the Holy Spirit as we pray, worship, learn, share fellowship and serve together. By attending to the love of Jesus Christ in our midst, we discover a deepening faith that makes a difference in our lives. As a community based on God’s love, we strive to be of service to our neighbors and to the world.”