

# The Cornerstone

Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, September 2021

300 E. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717-697-0351 \* mechpresby.org



Beloved Children of God,

At the Session meeting the other night I read a prayer that left us with the reminder to look for God's beauty all around us. We talked about sunsets, vistas taken in on vacation, fledgling birds, and the bright blue of a robin shell. Looking for God's beauty in the details is a good reminder that despite the struggles of the world this day, there are places of healing and joy and beauty.

As we move through these days, we hold in prayer the evacuation and changing dynamics in Afghanistan, the earthquake recovery in Haiti, the devastating weather patterns and fires, those experiencing food insecurity, administrators, students, healthcare workers, anxious spirits, and troubled souls.

The world is weary, so if you are feeling the same, you are not alone.

At MPC, we long to be with you in worship and in fellowship ; in ministry and mission. We are thankful for the opportunities that have allowed us to be together, even though our masks hide our smiles and the physical distancing keeps us further apart than we'd like to be.

At this time, we are strongly encouraging mask use while indoors. Because we want to continue to worship using the elements of corporate worship that mean so much to us (liturgical readings and responses, singing) we are requiring masks during worship. Our marker for possibly returning to no masks is when Cumberland County's transmission rate is at "low" or "moderate" (we are currently at "high").

*The world is weary,  
so if you are feeling the  
same, you are not alone.*

Moving forward, we will also be asking worship attendees to sign in so if there is a COVID contact we can let everyone who was in attendance know.

We ask that if you have knowledge of being in contact with someone who tested COVID positive within the last seven days that you refrain from coming to worship. Also, if you are experiencing a fever or headache, runny nose, cough, sore throat, and/or loss of taste and/or smell—please consider using our livestream as your option for worship rather than coming to in-person.

I know that we all want this pandemic to be over so that we can move on with our lives, but we are clearly not there as a county, state, country, or world. I am choosing to believe that we will get to that place, but we are not there yet. I know that some of you will be frustrated with these decisions and some of you will be relieved. This is all so hard, and nothing anyone signed up for.

We appreciate you, your passion for this community of faith, and your commitment to the health of your neighbor.

Peace be with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor 146". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## From the Christian Education Director



Over the past several months, through the work of the Christian Education & Social Justice Committee and by approval of Session, MPC has been recognized as a **Matthew 25 Church** as well as a **More Light Congregation**.

What exactly do these designations mean for us?



Well, for starters, while we know we are More People Caring, it announces to everyone beyond our church walls that we are indeed More People Caring for all of God's beloved children, especially for those that might be seeking a safe and loving congregation. Over the next weeks and months, through Sunday School and Tuesday Nights @ MPC programming, the weekly e-newsletter, the Cornerstone and in other ways, CESJ Committee members and MPC Staff will help us all learn together. We begin by debuting a new column in the Cornerstone starting with this edition:

**Inclusion Corner.** This column will help us explore various aspects of being a More Light congregation and ways to become living disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and the world, living out Matthew 25 as we focus on building congregational vitality and dismantling structural racism. The subject of this month's Inclusion Corner is helping us identify what each letter of LBGTQA+ means. Thanks to Laura Martin for writing our inaugural column.

**September**—fall is approaching, it's back to school for educators and students, and time to resume Sunday school programming too! After a year of online lessons and studies due to the pandemic, yet hopeful with vaccinations and lower transmission rates, we were certainly looking forward to beginning this year face to face. Now with the rise of the delta variant and higher transmission rates, which we are watching closely, we are still moving towards that goal, maybe not as quickly as we had initially hoped.

**Adult classes** will be resuming in-person over the next few weeks (see bottom of the page about Adult classes).

**The Confirmation Class & the Senior High class** will begin meeting in-person on Sunday, September 19, after the presentation of Bibles to the Third and Sixth Graders. This presentation will begin at 9:30, outside the Youth Center. Those receiving Bibles this year will hear from me shortly. And, parents and students in the Confirmation and Senior High classes will receive an email shortly as well.

Our **Elementary program** will begin on Sunday, September 12 @ 9:35 am. Whether we begin in-person, on Zoom, or hybrid, will be based on the comfort levels the Sunday School teachers and parents. I will be communicating with everyone over the next week or two to see what might be the best course of action as we begin the year.

Our **Nursery Ministry** is looking for volunteers to help staff during worship! We have had a few families asking when we will reopen the nursery. If interested, let me know (csnyder@mechpresby.org). While we encourage the participation of our wee little ones in worship, we know that sometimes they need a break. As we work towards staffing the nursery, the Christian Education & Social Justice Committee has suggested that in the meantime, we reopen the nursery wing for parents to have a place to go to with their child(ren) if needed (a "cry-room"). Plans are to do so beginning September 12.

Thanks! *Cathay*



The **Joyful Heart Sunday School Ladies** will resume meeting on **Sunday, September 12 @ 9:35 am**, meeting **outside behind the Youth Center** as weather permits. As the season turns cold or in inclement weather, they will meet in the Library. Currently this group is studying the Book of Matthew as they read a chapter a week. Discussion questions are sent out early each week and on Sunday mornings the group reads the chapter together and discusses the questions. They would love to have you join them on September 12.

The **Dave Petko Class** also will resume on **Sunday, September 12 @ 9:35 am**, meeting in the **Conference Room**. They are currently studying the Book of Romans.

The **Thoughtful Christian** will begin on **Sunday, September 26 @ 9:35 am** in **Upper Fellowship Hall.**, with discussions, presentations, and studies. We will begin with programming focusing on Matthew 25.

**Race & the Church: TBA**

## *From the Director of Music*

Welcome back to the Chancel Choir of Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church!

All are welcome to join our Choir Family! Just speak to me, call me, or email me. I promise that we'll start with some easy music!

- We will hold our first two rehearsals this year on 9/22 and 9/29.
- We'll sing our first Sunday at 11:00am on 10/3, arrival 10:30.
- Rehearsal this year will be 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.
- All are welcome.

Praise God. These are the plans right now and while plans could change, we're hopeful to be back to Choir this year.

We're asking that everyone be fully vaccinated to participate in choir. Please show me your vaccination card the first time you come. Choir is a community and volunteer effort. We must do everything we can to maintain a safe environment.

We've all missed our choir. It will be good to be together, Praise God and Sing.

*Mark McKeever*



### **Preschool Place: Time to get your new, white sneakers dirty.**



We are happy to welcome our preschool families to this new school year. The start of school is always bittersweet. Those lazy days of summer without a set schedule are almost done. We turn our thoughts to new backpacks or lunch boxes with the latest character or sparkle on them. New clothing and sneakers are needed because the children have grown like crazy. We didn't notice because they have been barefoot and in shorts or bathing suits most of the summer. This excitement for school is real, really fun and really scary too. Every year comes with a mix of emotions in our children, and our parents too. That is okay, we are social and emotional beings. What a great place for children to learn about our feelings, with teachers who care and the support of family.

Our teaching teams can't wait to know their new students and are excited to get their classrooms ready for the year. The smell of new crayons and sharpened pencils (the chunky kind for little hands) is in the air. Nametags are being laminated and spaced out around the room and in the hallways. We want the children to feel welcomed and safe in this new environment. They will thrive when they are comfortable.

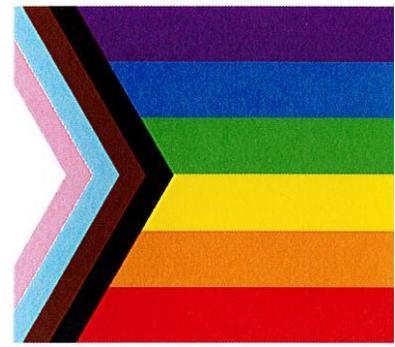
September 13<sup>th</sup>, is the first day of class. The hallways will be filled with new friends as well as familiar faces. It will be time for the children to get to work. **That means playing**, touching, looking, exploring, questioning, singing, smelling, wiggling and getting those new, white sneakers dirty. Let's get to it!

Grace and Peace,  
Mrs. Taylor

**Be Safe, Happy & Kind**



# INCLUSION CORNER



Inclusion Corner is a new section of the newsletter where you will find bite sized educational pieces designed to promote understanding, inclusion, and acceptance of all of our Siblings in Christ through awareness and education.

In this, the first installment of Inclusion Corner, we will be looking at the letters LGBTQIA, what they stand for and their meaning.

According to the definition found on the More Light Presbyterian's website,  
"The LGBTQ+ Community is an umbrella term used to refer to people who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and all those whose identity transcends the bounds of culturally prescribed norms for gender and/or sexuality."

Let's take a look at each letter and its definition.

**L**esbian- A term often used for a person identifying as woman whose primary sexual or romantic attraction toward people of the same gender; i.e., another woman.

**G**ay- A term often used for a person identifying as man whose primary sexual or romantic attraction is toward people of the same gender; i.e., another man.

**B**isexual- A term used for any person who has an attraction to both men and women. This attraction can be emotional, strictly physical, or sexual in nature.

**T**ransgender- Transgender is often shortened to Trans. Shortening to Trans is not derogatory or degrading, but often preferred by people in the Trans community. Transgender is used to describe a person whose gender identity is different from that assigned at birth. A trans male is a person who was assigned female at birth, but identifies as male. You may see this abbreviated FTM (female to male). A trans female is a person who was assigned male at birth, but identifies as female. This may be abbreviated MTF (male to female).

**Q**ueer or **Q**uestioning- Although once used as a derogatory term toward people in the lesbian and gay communities, Queer has been reclaimed by our siblings in the LGBTQ community to represent those whose gender or sexuality do not conform to typical gender or sexuality categories.

Questioning is just that, someone still questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation.

**I**ntersex- A term used for a variety of medical conditions in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not correlate with typical male or female anatomy. A person with an intersex condition was once referred to as "hermaphrodite."

**A**sexual- also abbreviated "ace," is a term used to describe a person who experiences a lack of sexual attraction. Asexuality is more of a spectrum with varying degrees of asexuality.



Thursday, September 23, 7 pm

Cold Springs Inn Brewing Co.

Join us for some lively conversation and libations! Cold Springs Inn is located at 993 Park Place, Mechanicsburg. Questions? Contact Cathay Snyder, [csnyder@mechpresby.org](mailto:csnyder@mechpresby.org)



Our September selection is *We Were the Lucky Ones* by George Hunter, a fictionalized account of the true story of the Kurc family and their experiences as a Jewish family living in Poland at the start of World War II, their separation,

and eventual reunion. Join us in the library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28 as we discuss this inspiring novel.

Interested? Contact Terry Cornish, [tjhc@aol.com](mailto:tjhc@aol.com) for more information.

4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
@ 304

Games – Fellowship - Pizza

All rising 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12 graders and parent(s)  
@ the Youth Center

**NEXT 4TH @ 304 IS SEPTEMBER 26TH—COME ON OUT, NO RSVP REQUIRED!!!**

**The Youth's Pick-a-Number Fundraiser Continues!**  
Help us raise money to send interested youth to Triennium next summer by choosing an envelope from the bulletin board in the Gathering area and matching the dollar amount of the number on the envelope. Questions? Contact Cathay Snyder, CE Director, [csnyder@mechpresby.org](mailto:csnyder@mechpresby.org)

At the August 23 Session meeting:

- We opened our Zoom meeting with the lighting of the Christ candle, devotional, and prayer.
- The Clerk of Session informed us that closing on the house at 35 Oakwood Avenue is scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- We approved vacation for Pastor Kathryn (10/11-17), outdoor coffee fellowship (9/12), an outdoor parking lot yard sale (9/11), and hot ham and cheese sandwich take out lunch (10/3)
- We approved Troop 80's request to do a campout for hunger at the church on Friday, November 5, pending approval/permission from the Borough of Mechanicsburg.
- We approved the hanging of LGBTQIA+ flags outside of the Youth Center. Check out the **Inclusion Corner** in this and future newsletters for more info!
- We approved "Mission Special Offering Envelopes" to be used by those who want to give special gifts to the missions MPC supports.
- We received the recommendations from the COVID-19 Task Force including: waiting for transmission in Cumberland County to recede to moderate or low before removing the requirement for face masks during worship, using more specific language for symptoms to check before making the choice to come to worship, leave the hymnals/Bibles out of the Sanctuary for now. The Session also recommended adding sign up sheets in the building to help us record attendance in case there is a reason to communicate to those in attendance about a close contact with COVID.
- We heard from the Associate Pastor Transition Team about next steps which include a major survey of the congregation. We hope to launch this survey in early September.



We gave thanks for one another and our time together, we assigned pray partners for the month, ended our time together in prayer, and adjourned to serve.



The Fellowship Committee will be hosting outdoor coffee hours on **Sunday, September 12** after both worship services and after the **8:15 am service on Sunday, October 3**. Just look for the big white tent across the street!

Been missing those hot ham and cheese sandwiches with the special sauce? Stop by **after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, October 3**, and grab lunch to take home with you. Menu will include hot ham and cheese sandwich, bag of chips, cookies, and applesauce. Yum!

If you signed up for a prayer group, the committee will be contacting everyone shortly to get started.

**Joy Stitches and Love Quilters** will return to meetings in September at Gail McVitty's house.



Love Quilters will meet on September 13th from 1pm -3pm.

Joy Stitches will meet on September 20th from 9:30am - 11am. All are invited, returning and new members.

Please give Gail McVitty information on congregational babies born in the last year and a half for baby quilts. Include; Parents' names, the baby full name, and the baby's date of birth. Thank you.

For information and answers, contact Gail McVitty at [gmcvitty@verizon.net](mailto:gmcvitty@verizon.net).



*The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!!  
Mechanicsburg/West Shore  
Crop Walk*

**HOSS'S COMMUNITY NIGHT  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

**Hoss's\* coupons are located in the Gathering Area or contact Bonnie Zink or Laura Martin!**

**\*Gettysburg Pike Location**



Mark your calendars for October 17 and join the walk to bring attention and much needed funds to the problem of hunger in our community and around the world.

Watch the Cornerstone for further information.

**PROTECT YOUR COVID - 19 VACCINATION CARD**

We should not laminate our original COVID-19 Vaccination Card, BUT if you are interested in having it copied and then have the copy laminated, please bring your card to the Church Office and Angela Stevens will take care of it for you!





Ron & Betsy Steele celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on July 14th, 2021. Congratulations!

We extend our sympathy to the **Middleton Family** on the death of **Bob Middleton, husband of Karen Middleton**, on July 26th, 2021. *Blessed are those who see the Lord face to face.*

We extend our sympathy to the **Grable Family** on the death of **Jo Grable** on August 10th, 2021. *Blessed are those who see the Lord face to face.*

**Jim & Mary Speedy** celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary on August 20, 2021. Congratulations!

## Volunteers needed for new Safety Committee

Session has approved the creation of a Safety Committee to oversee all aspects of safety at MPC. An ad-hoc committee created an emergency preparedness and action plan that will be the foundation of this committee's responsibilities.

The Safety Committee's mission is to promote a safer environment when we are gathered for worship. We will do this through development and implementation of best practices and training that will ensure the protection and well-being of our community.



The committee will be chaired by Tim Wonder, who is looking for others to spearhead the implementation of safety measures. If you have an eye for safety or experience related to risk management, first aid, or promoting safety at your place of work or school, we have a place for you.

Want more information? Contact Tim at [timothy.wonder@gmail.com](mailto:timothy.wonder@gmail.com) or 717-503-072



Moving forward, the church has invested in seasonal silk flower bouquets for the two gold vases at the front of the sanctuary, replacing the weekly sponsored fresh flowers.

If you wish, you may still memorialize a loved one or special occasion with a cut flower arrangement for display in MPC's sanctuary as follows:

### Order direct

- Contact Royer's Flowers Carlisle store at 717-241-6100;
- Deadline is Wednesday before the Sunday you want;
- You pay Royer's when placing the order;
- Royer's will deliver the arrangement to MPC.

### Contact MPC with wording for the Bulletin

- Call Angela Stevens at the church office 717-697-0351;
- Deadline is Tuesday before the Sunday.

Please take the arrangement with you after Sunday service.

Thank you for your past sponsorship!

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



As school begins a "new normal," and families prepare for in-person school this upcoming academic year, your generosity provided 53 backpacks filled with a variety of school supplies for our families at Stop the Violence, as well as 20 more supply-filled backpacks were donated to Rock Church in Allison Hill for use in their ministries.

Thanks for supporting the Deacon Backpack Bonanza campaign at this important time.



**MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TREASURY REPORT- JULY 2021**



<b>2021 MPC BUDGET</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Current Pledge	\$ 38,443.33	<i>Property &amp; Maintenance increase due to taxes being paid for 300 East Keller &amp; condensor repair</i>
Youth Pledge	\$ -	
No Pledge	\$ 4,000.00	
Prior Year's Pledge	\$ -	
Initial Envelopes	\$ -	
Per Capita	\$ 416.66	
Loose Offering	\$ 416.66	
Sunday School	\$ -	
Building Use Donation	\$ 200.00	
Interest - General Account	\$ 1,333.33	
<b>TOTAL 2021 MPC BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 44,809.98</b>	<i>Worship &amp; Music increase due to coverage for Mark McKeever Vacation</i> <i>Office Expense increase due to Online Ministries/Computer Support</i>

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>INCOME YTD</b>	<b>BUDGET YTD</b>
Pledges	\$ 29,447.86	\$ 281,987.31	\$ 289,103.31
Sanctuary Offering	\$ 240.45	\$ 5,456.19	\$ 5,416.58
Other Income	\$ 8.43	\$ 10,787.33	\$ 10,733.31
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 29,696.74</b>	<b>\$ 298,230.83</b>	<b>\$ 305,253.20</b>

<b>SALARY &amp; BENEFIT EXPENSE</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>SPENT YTD</b>	<b>BUDGET YTD</b>
Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 24,535.14	\$ 199,301.04	\$ 209,995.35
<b>TOTAL SALARY &amp; BENEFIT EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 24,535.14</b>	<b>\$ 199,301.04</b>	<b>\$ 209,995.35</b>

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>SPENT YTD</b>	<b>BUDGET YTD</b>
Worship & Music	\$ 700.00	\$ 4,194.33	\$ 3,208.36
Youth & Young Adult Fellowship	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,710.74	\$ 2,070.85
Christian Education	\$ 132.47	\$ 4,345.35	\$ 5,804.11
Church Office	\$ 3,736.54	\$ 19,685.65	\$ 16,329.17
Utilities & Maintenance	\$ 10,133.66	\$ 69,495.79	\$ 56,966.78
<b>TOTAL ADMIN EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 14,732.67</b>	<b>\$ 99,431.86</b>	<b>\$ 84,379.27</b>

<b>COMMITTEES</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>SPENT YTD</b>	<b>BUDGET YTD</b>
Committees (Mission Committee on Next Page)	\$ 1,115.75	\$ 5,922.93	\$ 2,508.17
<b>TOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,115.75</b>	<b>\$ 5,922.93</b>	<b>\$ 2,508.17</b>

<b>TOTAL SALARY, ADMIN &amp; COMMITTEES</b>	<b>\$ 40,383.56</b>	<b>\$ 304,655.83</b>	<b>\$ 296,882.79</b>
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<b>\$ (6,425.00)</b>	<b>\$ 8,370.41</b>
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MISSION COMMITTEE	2021	SPENT YTD	2021 BUDGET
Downtown Daily Bread	\$790.00	\$790.00	\$790.00
Compassion International	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$456.00
Camp Krislund	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Presbyterian Church (USA)/Dori H.	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Presbyterian Church (USA)/McGill Family	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Meals on Wheels	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
CROSS, Inc.	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
NEXT Church	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL MISSIONS</b>	<b>\$14,556.00</b>	<b>\$14,556.00</b>	<b>\$14,746.00</b>

MORE PEOPLE CARING	2021
Stop the Violence (Margie's Love Sunday)	1,230 Items of Food
Cumberland Vista	270 Paper Towel Rolls
Meals on Wheels	81 Pans of Desserts/44 Dozen of Cookies
Deacons - Accidents Happen, Clothing for Kindergarten Academy	155 Pairs of Socks, 201 Pairs of underwear & 39 Pairs of Shorts/Pants
"Get Healthy Snacks" Deacon Project to Allison Hill	1,100 Snacks to over 30 Families

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	JULY	TOTAL INCOME
Capital Campaign Income (Beginning balance for 2020 - \$144,974.61)	\$ 7,299.30	\$ 571,890.62
		<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>
MPC Capital Campaign Projects	\$ 4,795.00	\$ 507,803.78
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Income minus Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 64,086.84</b>	<b>\$ 64,086.84</b>

Projects:	Spent on Project YTD/2021
Sanctuary Upholstery	\$14,946.28
Sanctuary/U.F.H & Gathering Area Flooring	\$42,214.40
Security System	\$26,875.00
Electrical Work	\$9,455.40
New Exterior Doors	\$63,055.00
Locks for Exterior Doors/Rekeying of Doors	\$9,434.00
Piano & Organ Moved for Chancel to be refinished & Moved Back	\$490.00
Chancel & Choir Loft Refinished	\$11,470.00
Bathroom Renovation	\$167,835.00
Lobby & Alcove Painted	\$5,320.00
4 Pianos Removed	\$600.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$351,695.08</b>

## Find us online!

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 @mechpresby • Facebook:  
 Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church  
 or  
 Mechpresby Members and Friends

## Church Correspondence & Envelopes

If you have been receiving a MPC newsletter by mail and would only like them by email, please let Angie Stevens know so your information can be updated!

Also, If you would no longer like to receive offering envelopes each year please let Angie Stevens know at 717-697-0351 or by email at [astevens@mechpresby.org](mailto:astevens@mechpresby.org)



## *The Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church*

300 East Simpson Street  
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-6596

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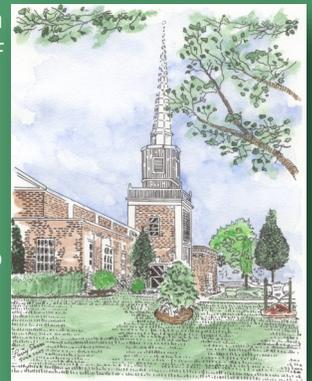
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2021

## MPC Mission Statement

The Mission of the Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church is to glorify and serve God as a community of believers, and to bring people into the transforming presence and power of Jesus Christ through:

- **Worship** – Worship expresses our love for God through praise, prayer and proclamation.
- **Christian Education** – Christian Education invites us to risk opening our minds to transforming possibilities.
- **Christian Nurture** – Christian nurture puts a human face on God's Love.
- **Mission Calling** – Our ministry to others sets our feet in Christ's footprints.
- **Welcoming the Stranger** – Welcoming everyone into a relationship with God, not just into our building.



**In order to be faithful to this Mission, we will be:**

- A welcoming, diverse and hospitable community of faith,
- Committed to open communication within the community of faith, and
- Willing to risk our time, talent and financial resources trusting in God's faithfulness