



Igniting Transformation under God's Direction
UMAB Vision Statement

United Methodist-American Baptist Church

UMABC@cybernet1.com

211 North 6th Street Hamilton, MT 59840

www.umabchurch.org

363-2465

April 2013

FROM THE PASTOR

“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”
- First Corinthians 12:13

Dear friends,

As you know, over the past months, many of the folks in church leadership have been thoughtfully and prayerfully discerning the ways that God is leading us forward as a congregation. The process involves looking closely at our strengths - the gifts and graces God has blessed us with - most especially all of you who call this congregation your spiritual home, and who participate in the life of the congregation with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. The various leadership groups within the congregation (including the Administrative Board, the Vision Team, the Ministry Areas and Committees) have been discussing, with much thought and care and prayer, how best to use the gifts we have to serve God and to serve others. That is our calling as Christian disciples, and one of the important tasks of the church is to help guide us.

As this process of discernment unfolds, the leadership of the church must also look at areas where changes are necessary - where the traditional ways we have done things, while they have served us well in the past, may not be the best way to be stewards of our resources now. As those of you who attend 11:00 worship are certainly aware, even as new people join us, the number of people attending that service continues to decline. Over the course of several months, the Worship and Music Ministry Area has been discussing what to do about this particular issue. On Wednesday at the Administrative Board meeting, they recommended that we permanently combine our two worship services into one which would meet at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. The new schedule for Sunday mornings would be Sunday School from 9:00-9:45 am and worship at 10:00, followed by a short fellowship/coffee hour. Having been at the meetings where these discussions took place, I can assure everyone that this recommendation comes as the result of lots of careful conversation, taking into consideration many of the issues involved, including the concerns that have been voiced about what the change in service times would mean. The Worship and Music Ministry Area determined that this was the most reasonable option, given our congregation's current circumstances. They also believe that a combined service would revitalize us and present us with opportunities to engage in the worship of God in new ways as we combine the gifts, graces, and perspectives of folks from both services.

It is important that everyone understand, that this is the *recommendation* which the Worship and Music Ministry Area presented to the Administrative Board this week. On my recommendation, and with the recommendation of our District Superintendent John Daniels, the Ad Board decided to hold an all-church meeting to discern whether or not this recommendation is the best path forward for our church. A few days after the meeting, the congregation (both members and regular attenders who are not members) will have the opportunity to vote on the recommendation of the Worship and Music Ministry Area. The

meeting will take place on Sunday April 28 during the Adult Sunday School hour (9:30-10:40 am) in the basement Fellowship Hall. Jim Trowbridge, the Ad Board chair, has agreed to lead the discussion. The vote on the recommendation will be on Tuesday April 30. Those who wish to vote can come by the church from 10am to 6pm on that day.

This is an important decision that you as a congregation will be making about the future of the church. But as important as the decision you make, is the way in which you make that decision. By opting to have an all-church meeting and vote on this subject, your church leadership is saying that they realize this is a decision best made by the entire congregation rather than a small group of leaders.

The meeting that will take place on April 28 is not intended to be a debate on the issue. It is intended to be a conversation where we listen for God's direction as we hear from one another. The "churchy" term for this type of conversation is "Christian conferencing." It is a specific type of conversation in which we pray together, read Scripture together, and approach one another first and foremost as brothers and sisters in Christ. In this type of conversation we seek not simply to speak from our own perspective, but to listen and understand the perspective of others; not only to have our own voice heard, but to ensure that everyone's voice is heard and respected, knowing that through everyone's voices we are hearing God's word for us too. In this sort of conversation we do not engage in blame or accusations, manipulation or ultimatums, neither do we speak "on behalf" of anonymous individuals. Rather we approach one another with respect and we speak our own truth in love. After all, it is when we are honest and loving with one another that we hear God's voice the clearest.

I realize that this is deeply personal for some, and for others less so. My prayer is that as we face this decision we do it united as brothers and sisters in Christ, realizing that above all else, we are called to love God, to love one another, and to serve each other in Christian love.

Grace and Peace,

Sarah

UMAB WOMEN

On Thursday April 11 at 12:30, the UMABW will be having their monthly luncheon meeting in the Memorial Room. All women are welcome. It will be a potluck meal, so bring your favorite dish. Special guests will be the women from the Corvallis United Methodist Church. The program will be presented by a member of the Bitterroot Quilt Guild.

NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

The church website, umabchurch.org, has a new look and some great pictures from Easter Sunday. Stop by sometime and check out what's new. You can also find a transcript of the Easter sermon, a copy of the monthly newsletter, and a list of events for the week!

THE CHURCH IN PICTURES

As you walk through the church, be sure to stop and take a look at the bulletin boards in the Narthex and right outside the front doors. There are lots of great pictures of stuff that's been happening, all taken by Steve Hinton.



WE ARE PRAYING FOR

Health:

John Savochka, Dave Donkle, Michael Padmos, Shaun Maddy, Jody Parson, Connie Hause, Ken Graybeal, Bob Fowler, Laurie Burnham, Bruce Daly, Bill Richard, Linda Springer, Carrie Spackman, Sister Marie Geraldine, Saxton Crump, Donna Roth, Margaret Peterson, Bill Stewart, Patty Rennaker, Norma Secor, Carl Spoonheim, John Andersen, Stuart Donaldson, Carleen O'Connell, Sandy Goodwin.

Living in Care facilities:

Jessie Faye McEntire, Donna Hosko

Other Prayers:

Our nation, Middle East conflicts

Military Service:

Matthew Vetch, Brian Ellinger (US Air Force), Jonathan Raymond, Joseph Gleghorn (nephew of Millers serving in Afghanistan), Eric Joiner, Daniel Morris (USMC- Afghanistan), Tim Lane (serving in Afghanistan), Vladamir Gartner (son of Brian and Lena Gartner, beginning basic training in Georgia).

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST: please call Lynette Donkle, 363-1360, JoAnn Whitlock, 363-1353 or Helen Buker, 363-1371



APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|------|----------------|------|---------------------------|
| 4/6 | Tom Lund | 4/18 | Lee & Colleen Miller |
| 4/10 | Jeanie Angel | 4/26 | Fred & Carolyn Weisbecker |
| 4/16 | Bill Bean | | |
| 4/17 | April Johnson | | |
| 4/24 | Joyce VanAtta | | |
| 4/28 | Linda Springer | | |
| 4/30 | Pat Boyd | | |

FOUND!

A women's Timex wristwatch was found in the Memorial Room. It has a silver link band and the watch face is pink. Call the church (363-2465) to identify.

SARAH IS GOING ON VACATION

Sarah will be on vacation April 9-22. Sabrina Crum, the director of the Wesley House in Missoula will be preaching on April 14 and 21. Lucy Bean has contact information for other pastors in the area, so if you need to speak with a pastor while Sarah is away, please call the office (363-2465). If you need to speak with someone outside of office hours, call Lucy at home.

UMAB NEWSLETTER April 2013

United Methodist-American Baptist Church
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Church Office: 363-2465
UMABC@cybernet1.com
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Sarah Beck, Pastor
381-6137
sarah@umabchurch.org

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Worship Services at 8:30 & 11:00
Adult Sunday School at 9:30
Children's Sunday School at 11:00

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— Noon

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



HAVEN HOUSE:

1st SundayCanned fruit
2nd Sunday.....Canned vegetables
3rd Sunday.....Packaged, boxed or other canned goods
4th Sunday.....Coffee, tea, juices
5th Sunday..... Paper products

On the fourth Sunday items may be brought for the Bread Basket in Darby