



Igniting Transformation under God's Direction UMAB Vision Statement

United Methodist-American Baptist Church

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July and August 2013

FROM THE PASTOR

How can I help you? Those five little words, according to Reggie McNeal, the keynote speaker at this year's Yellowstone Annual Conference, are a huge step forward in moving from being people who think about church as a place (people who *go to church*) to being people who think about church as a verb (people who *church*). In the earliest days of our faith, church was not a destination. It was a movement. It was not a club that you joined, it was a relationship. It was a way of being in the world that reflected and shared the blessings of God with others. Being the church - or "churching" - is about bringing Christ to people right where they are - right in the middle of their life every day, rather than expecting them to come and meet us in our building on Sunday morning.

Right now in the western world, one in three people under the age of 29 consider themselves without any religious affiliation whatsoever. In fact everywhere in the world where the model of church as a destination (a *place* where something in particular is supposed to happen), the church is declining. What that says to me, and to many others, is not that the younger generation has abandoned the church, but that "church" in the way that we have conceived it for a long time now, is not reaching them or meeting their needs.

The really tragic thing about all of this is that we know that life is difficult. We know the blessing and grace and newness that Christ brings into our lives. And we know, because we can see all around us, that Christ's message of forgiveness, reconciliation, love and acceptance is just exactly the kind of good news that is *sorely* needed by all people - the ones who come to church and the ones who prefer to sleep in on Sunday morning. As Paul said in Romans "Now are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?" (Romans 10:14)

So that's where those five little words - how can I help you - come in. We know that, as Reggie McNeal reminded us, we're all just getting by. If we can, in the name of Jesus Christ, help others to lighten their load a little bit, we can be both a blessing and a witness to God's love. And it's not even that hard.

On the last day of conference in Billings, a lay delegate was out for her morning jog, when she noticed a young woman sitting at the bus stop outside the hotel in tears. She went to her room, got some money, and went back outside to see if the young woman was still there. She sat down on the bench and said to the woman "How can I help you?" The young woman explained that she was from Pennsylvania and her boyfriend had been arrested the night before. She had no money and no place to go. The lay person her the money and said, "I'm here for a church conference. Would it be alright if we prayed for you today?" The young woman said yes, that she would like that. The lay person said to her, "It's Sunday morning, I know there are lots of churches around here. Please go to one this morning and let them that you need them." The young woman agreed and thanked the lay person. That morning in worship at conference, we prayed for her.

As I was driving between Billings and Denver for conference, I stopped to get gas somewhere in Wyoming. I noticed a woman sitting in her stalled car just inside the parking lot of the gas station. I went to her window and said "How can I help you?" She said, "Oh, I've already called someone, but thank you." It was really hot that afternoon and so I asked her if she would like one of the bottles of water that I had with me in the car. "That would be nice," she said. When I gave her the bottle I said "Would it be okay if I prayed for you?" Her eyes lit up and she said "Sure, that would be fine!"

As Christians we are called to be people of blessing. Blessing the life of another - "churching," as Reggie McNeal would say - is as easy as offering help or offering prayer. Over the next few months, I invite you to practice churching by intentionally blessing people you meet as you go about your daily life. And be sure to let us know what happens!

Grace and Peace,

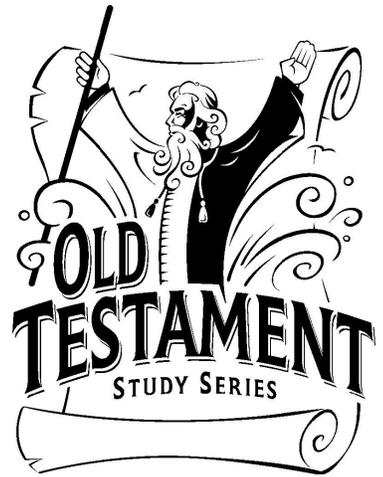
SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Do you have memories of a Sunday school teacher expecting you to memorize all of the books of the Bible in order? Can you still recite them?

Have you ever been in conversation with someone who quotes so many Bible verses that you wished you knew more about the Bible?

Were you ever in a Bible study when the leader asked everyone to look up a Bible passage and you weren't sure where to look?

Have you ever avoided going to a Bible study because you were sure you would feel out of place?



If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then this summer’s class, “The Bible from Scratch” may just be for you. Beginning on Sunday June 23 and continuing through August, Sarah will be leading a basic overview of the Old Testament during the Sunday school hour. The class will give an introduction to the scriptures and will help you to see how the different parts of the Bible fit together, as well as help you to place the events and characters of the Old Testament in their historical and cultural context. We will be using the book *The Bible from Scratch: The Old Testament For Beginners* by Donald Griggs. The cost for the book is \$9, and you can pick one up in the office. Whether you are brand new to Bible study, or you would like to see the Old Testament from a new perspective, we hope to see you on Sundays at 9am in the basement Fellowship Hall!

THELMA SORENSON MEMORIAL SERVICE

A celebration of the life of Thelma Sorenson will take place on Saturday June 6 at 2:30 pm in the church sanctuary. Join the family for a reception in the Memorial Room following the service. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the church.

OLD FASHIONED SUMMER PICNIC

On July 7 from 2-4 pm, join your friends and neighbors for the second annual Old Fashioned Sunday Picnic sponsored by the Ravalli County Ministerial Alliance. The hamburgers and hot dogs will be grilled to perfection by the pastors, but please bring your own side dishes and desserts. This is a picnic, not a potluck, so bring what you would like for your own group. Enjoy a bouncy house for the kids and live music for everyone. And we will end the afternoon with community worship and praise.

SUMMER CHOIR



This summer, the choir will be offering special music in worship several Sundays a month. We'll be going “unplugged” and “robe free” - just us, the piano, and some of our favorite (familiar) songs. In July, the choir will be singing on the 7th and 21st. If you would like to join us, come to the Memorial Room at 9:30am to rehearse on the Sundays we sing.



MISSION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

Once again this summer, we will be giving out bottles of ice cold water at the Hamilton Farmer's Market. Last summer, we gave away over 1,000 bottles over three Saturday and one Wednesday market. This year, our goal is to make it to five Saturday markets. In order to do that, we need your help in the form of both water/monetary donations and volunteers. You can help out with the

Water Outreach Project by:

- **Donating cases of water.** We estimate that we will need about 2,000 bottles this summer. Please pick up a case (or two or three) when you are out and about and bring it by the church. You can put your water bottle donations in the Memorial Room.
- **Donating some money for ice.** It takes a whole lot of ice to keep the water nice and cold on a hot Saturday in July! If you would like to give money for ice or to buy extra water, please put your donation in the offering basket. Be sure to designate "Water Outreach Project" on your check or offering envelope.
- **Volunteering your time.** Volunteers are needed to help load up the water and transport it to the market, to give out water at the market, and to pack up and transport back to the church. Dates for this summer's project are July 13, July 27, August 10, and August 24. You can sign up to volunteer at the Welcome Center outside the sanctuary or by calling Martha Hayes.

KNITTING PROJECT

As of this writing there are 18 knitted hats in the office and there are more coming soon. The goal is to have 100 hats to take to Washington School by October 1. There is plenty of yarn available and there is a pattern in the office. If you crochet and have a pattern you would like to share please bring it by the church. Donation of gloves and mittens will also be accepted. In the summer it is hard to think about knitting or crocheting, but while you are sitting in your air conditioned house, sitting in the shade of a large friendly tree, or "sitting along the side of the river watching your husband fish," you might think of doing this mission project. THANK YOU

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The free will offering taken August 4 supports the outreach of Habitat for Humanity of Ravalli County, which is beginning a new home in Stevensville for a chosen partner family. You may remember their last two homes are only a few blocks from the church. Habitat also has many opportunities for volunteers of all skill levels and different degrees of involvement: work at the construction site, in the office or from your home. They now operate a ReSale store in Hamilton with a selection of windows, doors, appliances and various fixture and tools-donation of these types of items are always needed and shopping is encouraged. Call the Habitat office at 375-1926 with questions or to donate materials. Thank you for your interest in this worthwhile organization.



A VISIT TO UMCOR WEST

By Lucy Bean

On June 6th, I had the opportunity to visit the UMCOR West depot in Salt Lake City. My college roommate is an active volunteer at the center and she was anxious to show me the facility. In fact she was instrumental in setting up the sewing room where baby layettes and school bags are made.

When we arrived I met the assistant Director, Micah. He was excited to show me around. There are actually three warehouses totally 22,000 square feet where items are sorted, stored and readied for shipment. When a request for flood buckets, layettes, school kits or health kits is made the items



Micah is the Assistant Director of UMCOR West.

come to the warehouse

where they are inspected and if needed repacked and made to specification. There is a large sorting area where volunteers organize and pack. The sewing room is where volunteers sew baby layettes and school bags. When items come to the depot that don't quite fit the requested need such as blankets or baby gowns or sleepers, they are given to other agencies that can use them. Nothing is thrown away.

While I was there a youth group from Wyoming was working in the warehouse packing containers. They were having a great time, singing and working.

Volunteers are welcome to come sort, pack or sew. In the room where volunteers are given instruction, the walls are covered with names of churches from the Western Jurisdiction who have participated in working at the depot. Actually some groups have come from as far away as Alabama.

The shelves are packed to the ceiling with cartons of items to be shipped out to places in need.

There is a place for worship and when a group is ready to leave after volunteering for a few days, the director thanks them for their service and offers communion and sends them on their way.

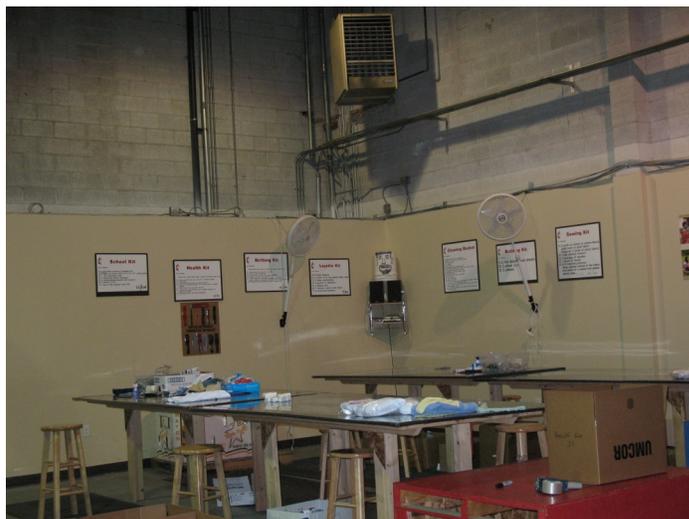
If you are interested in statistics in 2011, 370,994 health kits were distributed world wide as well as 102,324 school kits, 4664 layettes, and 13,420 flood buckets. A value of \$7,597,242 and 695,602 pounds of items. **OUR MISSION IN ACTION.**

ADD TO UMCOR'S HEALTH KITS

You can help UMCOR by bringing in items for the health kits that are distributed to people in need all over the world. Bring the items to church and put them in the Memorial Room.

In July - please bring single toothbrushes (NOT child size) in their original wrapper.

In August - please bring finger nail clippers.



The sorting room at the UMCOR West Depot in Salt Lake City. Here volunteers sort items for kits that are sent to people in need around the world.



In the depot's Sewing Room, samples of school bags and layettes are displayed for volunteer sewers to use while they work.

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH

those dealing with health issues: Jim VanSickle, Dave Donkle, John Savochka, Michael Padmos, Laurie Burnham, Martha Brien, Amber Rodriguez, Tom Sawyer, Ken Graybeal, Jack Fowler, Bruce Daly, Bill Richard, Pat Orr, Linda Springer, John Andersen, J.C. Holland, Sister Marie Geraldine, Saxton Crump, Donna Roth, Margaret Peterson, Bill Stewart, Patty Rennaker, Norma Secor, Carl Spoonheim, Stuart Donaldson, Sandy Goodwin, Sheila Stevens, John and Flora Lawless, Dale Relyea



those living in care facilities: Jessie Faye McEntire, Donna Hosko, Kathleen Reynolds

those serving in the military: Matthew Vetch, Tim Lane, Brian Ellinger, Daniel Morris, Vladamir Gartner

other prayers: our nation, Middle East conflicts, those traveling, Heather Burnham (for guidance)

If you have a prayer or praise you would like to add to the Prayer Chain, please call Lynette Donkle, Jo Ann Whitlock, or Helen Buker

JULY AND AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

7/1	Irene Cook	8/3	Jay Klawon
7/8	Laurie Burnham	8/4	Scott Holland
7/9	Jessie Faye McEntire	8/12	Dove Duus
7/10	Virginia Simmons	8/13	Terry Wagner
	Lucy Bean	8/17	Lee Miller
7/12	Evelyn Savochka	8/20	Elmer Sorenson
7/18	Carl Spoonheim	8/24	Joan Ellinger
7/19	Sarah Beck	8/26	Steve Hinton
7/20	Lynette Donkle	8/27	Forest Hayes
7/23	Carolyn Weisbecker	8/29	Melodie Stewart
7/29	Claudie Jo Lund	8/31	Trysten Ewing
	Nita Jamison		
7/30	Willie Christ		

JULY AND AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

7/6	Chet and Jeanie Angel	8/6	Bob and Gina Opitz
7/9	James and Angela Clark	8/9	Jim and Virginia Simmons
7/19	Jim and Jo Ann Whitlock	8/27	Craig and April Johnson
7/21	Scott and Lexie Holland		
7/30	Larry and Verna Scott		

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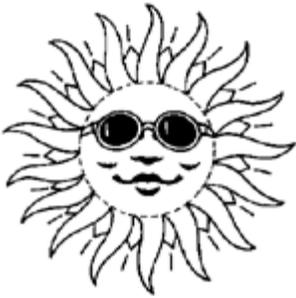
SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Sunday School 9:00AM
Worship Service 10:00AM

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