

(Then the Lord answered me and said, "Write the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay. - Habakkuk 2:2, 3)

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Where we are passionate about being a hub of H.O.P.E. as an accurate representation of what Christianity is meant to be when it is lived out among the community. Our desire is to become more Christ-like and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in our ministry opportunities. In keeping with the following scripture, we have written the vision God has given us at Washington Heights United Methodist Church.

This is an introductory packet of information provided to you to share **the Mission-Vision-Beliefs-and Values** we hold as a church.

OUR MISSION: To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ for positive change impacting our community, city, and the world.

OUR VISION: We envision Washington Heights United Methodist Church to be a life skills equipping center for the community and beyond following the command Jesus gave the apostles in Acts 1:8 "... You will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **uttermost parts of the earth.**"

Vision Explained:

The God-Sized Vision for Washington Heights United Methodist Church over the next five years is that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are passionately committed to share God's love, God's word, and God's resources, in practical and tangible ways throughout:

- **Jerusalem:** It starts with us at Washington Heights United Methodist Church.
- **Judea:** Our Community (3-5 mile radius around Washington Heights UMC)
- **Samaria:** Partners in the Battle Creek, MI area
- **Uttermost Parts:** As we equip, we then send out to impact the world

We have **5 areas of focus in ministry** (These bring about a change for life):

(Exponential Math= 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 5 (Matthew 28:19-20))

1. Inspiring and Creative Worship- our coming together (Psalm 122:1)
2. Relate- Relationship (John 13:34-35)
3. Learn-Discipleship (2 Peter 3:18)
4. Serving -because we love one another (Galatians 5:13)
5. Evangelism (Matthew 28: 19-20)

We believe that as we work together to become more like Christ, we can do more than trying to do it by ourselves. We believe that there are two types of people:

1. Those who follow Christ.
2. Those who do not.

So, we want to reach:

1. Un-churched- Never been to church/Do not know Christ.
2. De-churched- Has had some experience with the Church.
3. Under-churched- Those who are going to church but have lost passion.

We are intentional about representing Christ where we:

Work	Live	Play
Shop	EAT	School

These are our Expectations:

Everyone:

1. **Loves** (In Matthew 22:37-39 NKJV Jesus said, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment.³⁹ And *the* second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’)
 1. We love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
 2. We love and respect one another.
 3. We love this community, city, and the world.
2. **Prays-**
 1. Them- People in the World.
 2. You.
 3. Us- You want us to behave well (play nicely).
3. **Gives**
 1. \$\$ Money.
 2. Time-it takes time to notice.
 3. Talents.
4. **Goes**
 1. Out of their normal attention span.
 2. Wondering what spiritual opportunities are right here.
 3. How is God answering “my/our” prayers?

“OUR GOALS” are to create:

- **Spiritually Healthy and Mature Disciples** - To become a community of spiritually disciplined believers, actively pursuing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Evangelism** – To increase the level of commitment and action for reaching others for Jesus Christ.
- **Relationships** – To build a community of authentic relationships for fellowship, support, service, and accountability.
- **Marriage and Family** – To nurture healthy families by strengthening marriages, equipping parents, and disciplining future generations.

- **Ministry** – To develop solutions for greater involvement and effectiveness in ministry.
- **Facilities and Multi-Sites** – To continually assess and expand our facilities at multiple sites as needed.

OUR CORE VALUES: We believe that the Bible is The Word of God.

We are accepting but uncompromising. We believe what the word of God says, and we follow the examples of Jesus Christ! We love people the way they are, and like Christ we love them enough not to leave them there!

- We believe in the power of Prayer.
- We believe the Bible is the Word of God.
- We love God and our neighbors.
- We believe in building relationships (with God and one another).
- We are a place of H.O.P.E.:
 - Hospitality
 - Opportunity (to offer Christ)
 - Purpose: represent Christ everywhere
 - Engagement: serve our church, community, city, and the world.
- **Becoming Christ-Like** - Spiritual growth is a life-long process of following Christ. As we cultivate a balanced lifestyle of purity, holiness, and Christian character, we honor God and influence others.
(Ephesians 5:1-5, Philippians 2:1-11, Galatians 5:22, 23)
- **Intimacy With God** - We share God's desire for an intimate relationship which is cultivated by the consistency of prayer, dynamic worship, and a need for an understanding of the Word of God.
(Psalm 139, Acts 2:42, Matthew 6:5-15)
- **Authenticity** - We believe how we represent ourselves reflects who we really are. This is accomplished collectively as we individually pursue accountability to each other based on integrity, sound character, high moral values, and biblical principles.
(1 Peter 2:12, Proverbs 27:17, Proverbs 12:15)
- **Maximizing Our Potential** - We believe God equips each of us with talents, abilities, and resources, expecting us to fully develop and use these gifts, thereby maximizing our potential to serve Him and our community. *(Matthew 25:14-30, Ephesians 3:20-21)*
- **Excellence In Ministry** - We believe that when one experiences the excellence of God, they will be compelled to serve Him with a passion and give Him their absolute best!
(Colossians 3:17, 2 Samuel 24:24, Mark 12:30)
- **Reconciliation** - We believe a right relationship with God is essential for achieving reconciliation to God, one another, among family members, races, and denominations.
(2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Galatians 3:26-29)
- **Community** - We believe God designed us to serve (to value others above ourselves), and to be served (to allow others to fulfill needs in our own lives). As we are obedient to this calling, God brings together our talents and abilities to form a powerful Christian community. *(John 13:34-35, Galatians 6:2, 1 Corinthians 12:7, 12-27)*

- **Faith** - We believe our faith in God compels us to take well-planned, aggressive, visionary steps to present the message of Jesus Christ – regardless of the risk involved. (*I Samuel 17:45-47, Hebrews 11, James 2:14-26*)
- **Relevance** - We believe God's Word contains the solution to every challenge in life. Therefore, we present God's Word in creative, artistic, and culturally relevant ways. (*Psalm 119:105, I Corinthians 9:19-23, Acts 17:16-19*)
- **Commissioned!** - As fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, we are urgently driven to share our faith with nonbelievers, to educate believers for practical victorious living, and to equip believers for abundant service to God. (*Matthew 28:18-20*)