

UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Be Renewed

"...but those who hope in the Lord will RENEW their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary." Isaiah 40:31

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

As we come to the close of a challenging 2020, we hope to approach planning for our ministry plans for 2021 in a new way...in a renewed way. Where this pandemic has caused many problems and challenges for us, it has also presented new exciting opportunities for ministry.

In order to live into our ministry plans and aspirations for 2021, we must each examine ourselves to see how God is calling us to deeper levels of faith, commitment, and generosity - even in the midst of uncertainty.

As we focus on 2021 and how we will resource our ministry, we want to introduce to you a generosity emphasis titled, "Be Renewed." Our desire is that 100% of the people who call University UMC their church would respond to Be Renewed.

The incarnational ministry of the people of God at University United Methodist Church is making a difference in our community in ways that are beautiful to behold. I'm excited for us to join together as a church family to Be Renewed and to make the mission of our church a continued reality.

Through this Be Renewed emphasis, you are invited to...

- ask for God's direction in your life
- be open to how God may challenge you during this time
- consider how to fan the flames of faith in your heart
- have open conversation in your household and pray about your generosity
- be present for online worship on November 22 and ready to respond

Over the next four weeks we will contemplate Scriptures that exhort us to trust in God and to honor God with everything God has provided us. I'm excited to see what God will do in each of us individually and collectively as we seek to Be Renewed! Thank you, in advance, for being part of this journey with us.

Blessings,
Pastor Justin

Be Renewed

...AND TAKE HEART

Being renewed is a choice. Sometimes when we're dealing with chaos, fatigue, and frustration, it is easy for those feelings to take root inside of us. But 2 Corinthians 4:16 gives us hope: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. You have a choice to be renewed and take heart!" We have a choice to take heart in our vision as a church and how God is calling each of us to give generously to make that vision a reality.

...IN YOUR THINKING

We cannot allow the challenges that we face right now to corrupt our thinking. Ephesians 4:23 tells us to, "Instead, renew the thinking in your mind by the Spirit." We can throw off the negative thoughts and be renewed in our thinking. As we do this, it renews our thinking about our giving and generosity.

...WITH A STEADFAST SPIRIT

Psalms 51 talks about being "renewed with a steadfast spirit." Being steadfast means to be unwavering. The idea of renewal is to be reinvigorated. These challenging times can put strain on our relationship with God and our resolve to be faithful in many of the spiritual disciplines, especially giving. We need to be renewed with a steadfast spirit in our relationship with God, God's Church, and our giving.

...IN YOUR STRENGTH BY HOPE

Isaiah 40:31 says this: "...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." When we hope in God, our strength is renewed. Be Renewed is about each of us listening to God and allowing our hope in God to give us the strength to be faithful in every aspect of our walk with God - including our giving. That may mean giving for the first time or taking a step of faith and growing in your giving. If we will all respond to Be Renewed, just imagine the vision we can bring to reality through University United Methodist Church.

Will you Be Renewed?

Will You...

Be Renewed and take **HEART**?

Be Renewed in your **THINKING**?

Be Renewed with a **STEADFAST SPIRIT**?

Be Renewed in your **STRENGTH** powered by **HOPE**?

Be Renewed isn't about giving more for the sake of giving more or to just start giving. It is about God changing you, speaking to you, and growing you spiritually to give and be generous in the way God wants for you.

Be Renewed isn't a transactional decision. It is a transformational response. God doesn't need our money, nor does God want us to give out of obligation.

God brings money into our lives so we can give and be a part of the life-changing ministry God wants to do here at University UMC.

We are blessed to be a part
of a life-changing blessing to others.

Join us for worship each week of Be Renewed as we learn at an even deeper level how to be renewed. Start praying now each and every day for how God will ultimately want you to respond to Be Renewed on November 22.

