

## Our Mission

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to...

***Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ*** Matthew 28:19

We at First United Methodist Church of Lakeland will fulfill this mission by...

***Living and sharing the love of Christ with joy***

## Our Vision

is to be a church that...

- **Welcomes** all people
- **Leads** people into a relationship with Jesus Christ
- **Equips** believers to become disciples
- **Sends** disciples to meet human needs

While we move in the direction of our vision, our hearts and minds are rooted in a core set of beliefs and values that fuel the fire for our mission and vision.

## Our Core Beliefs

**God** is the Creator of heaven and earth who gave his only son, **Jesus**, to save us all; and is present with us today in the **Holy Spirit**.

The **Word** of God, contained in the Old and New Testaments, is our guide for faith and life.

The **Church** is God's people living as the body of Christ in the world.

Therefore, we believe all people need God.

## Our Values

- God-centered **Worship**
- Christ-centered **Relationships**
- Personal **Spiritual Growth**
- Others-centered **Service**

## Living our Values

### God-centered **Worship** that...

- ... Celebrates God's goodness.
- ... Expresses itself in a variety of styles and settings.
- ... Proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and music.
- ... Connects us with God through prayer.
- ... Moves us to put our faith into action.

### Christ-centered **Relationships** that...

- ... Help children show and experience God's love.
- ... Help young people deepen their relationship with God.
- ... Help adults live as God's men and women.
- ... Bring harmony, unity and wholeness to the home.
- ... Forgive and reconcile.
- ... Foster trust and accountability between individuals and within small groups.
- ... Connect all people in and beyond our church.

### Personal **Spiritual Growth** that...

- ... Draws us closer to God as we pray individually and collectively, for ourselves and for others.
- ... Makes us hungry to learn the wonders and knowledge of the faith.
- ... Grounds us in the Wesleyan principles of Scripture, tradition, reason and experience.
- ... Helps us identify, understand and apply our spiritual gifts.
- ... Helps us, through God's grace, grow toward perfection in love.

### Others-centered **Service** that...

- ... Calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- ... Places us in our community to recognize and meet needs.
- ... Offers strength and help for those going through hard times.
- ... Advocates justice and is a voice for the voiceless.
- ... Commits a dollar of our church's resources to others for every dollar the church spends on itself.
- ... Requires us to be good stewards of God's creation.