



# The Fold

Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

January 2018

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## Missional Church: More than a Catchphrase

By [Doug Powe](#) on August 23, 2017 [Leading Ideas](#)

The word missional is tossed around a lot in leadership circles. Typically, the goal is to develop stronger, more vital congregations. Certainly, this is a worthwhile goal, but is being missional more than a catchphrase for congregational renewal?

For example, a congregation may be supporting organizations financially and encouraging individuals to come to their building for the weekly potluck, but this falls short of being missional. To go a step further, a congregation may even be involved in ministry outside of the church, but does it in a manner where relationships are built only with those they already know. This also falls short of being missional. In both instances congregations have picked up aspects of what it means to be missional, but are still treating it like a catchphrase.

*Missional congregations trust that if they are following God's lead, then God will inspire some to join with them in making a difference. The goal is sharing why a relationship with God is central and not making one's congregation the centerpiece.*

Being missional requires participation in God's work of transformation in a manner that alters the typical DNA of a congregation. The typical DNA of a congregation is doing ministry from a place of comfort and in ways that are comfortable. For some congregations, this means inviting others to their church or doing ministry in a controlled environment. Missional congregations are attempting to be genetically different in the following ways.

### 1. Disrupting the tendency to focus inwardly

Missional congregations truly seek to be outwardly focused and to disrupt the tendency to focus on themselves. This is a challenge, because often when congregations talk about being outwardly focused, it is with the intent of making a difference inside the congregation. I am not saying that those inside the church do not matter and that the only concern a congregation should have is for outsiders. But there is a difference between a ministry that is outwardly focused and one that only appears outwardly focused. To disrupt the tendency to do the latter, a congregation must be intentional about the purpose of the ministry.

Is the purpose to make a difference in the lives of others, under God's leading? Or is the purpose to help others as a means of promoting the work of the congregation? These two questions seem very similar and appear to have the same end goal. The difference is that seeking to make a difference in the lives of others under God's leading avoids pre-determined outcomes that focus on congregational membership. Helping others to promote one's congregation usually has the end goal of focusing on the life of the congregation. This is not a bad thing, but it does create a situation in which an individual who does not join or actively participate in the congregation will be perceived negatively. Missional congregations trust that if they are following God's lead, then God will inspire some to join with them in making a difference. The goal is to share why a relationship with God is central, not to make one's congregation the centerpiece.

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## Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

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MI 48124

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**gshepherdumc@att.net**  
**www.dearbornsumc.org**

### Pastor

Rev. Seok Nam Lim

### Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday,  
10:00am – 3:00 pm

### Sunday Schedule

**9:30 am:** Adult Sunday  
Study

**10:30 am:** Worship  
Service

Coffee & Conversation  
in Fellowship Hall  
following worship.



## The Cross of Christ as a Way of Living a New Life

By Rev. Seok Nam Lim

God's new creation is founded upon the cross of Christ, in which God's innermost wisdom is revealed (1 Cor. 2:10-11). It makes upside down the existing value system of the world; "We preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" (1 Cor. 1:23). Bonhoeffer criticizes his contemporary Christians of being accommodated to the existing value system of the secular world rather than the cross of Christ; likewise, in his terms, many of the churches today seem to "give up the struggle" to adjust themselves to the image of Christ the crucified Lord and to be "surrendered to success" in the world (Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*). They are accommodated to the worldly value system, giving up following in the footsteps of Christ and forgetting their identity as the body of Christ, that is, the living presence of Christ in the world. This phenomenon is called bad secularization.

John Wesley argues that Scriptural Christianity is Christ-centric and tended to turn the world and its system upside down through the imitation of Christ the suffering Servant. For him, this kind of Christianity is the religion built upon the rock, Christ the Lord, and progressively applied to all the areas of human life. Even "the increasing corruption of the succeeding generations" will not be able to prevail the Christianity in the footstep of Christ; our awareness of Christ, his propitiation and advocacy for us in the presence of God, provokes us to live a life of holiness, which is productive of love and good works, standing against the value system of the world and the people of reputation (John Wesley, *Scriptural Christianity*).

For Methodist Christians, the ultimate purpose of offering the gospel of Christ is to build up a new society transformed into the image of Christ (Richard P. Heitzenrater, *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, pp. 144-145). The gospel of Christ is active and influential to the whole society. In this regard, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer argues, God calls us to "responsible actions" for the Crucifixion in the midst of human society. Paul the apostle concludes the letter to the Colossian Christians by saying, "Remember my chains" (Col. 4:18). He lives in faithfulness to Christ the crucified Lord, so that his life becomes the transforming power to the world.

Therefore, it is a new way of living to live in faithfulness to the cross of Christ, through which not only our own life but also the whole creation are changed in accordance with the image of Christ. The cross of Christ is "the cosmic drama of the renewing of creation," beginning with "the renewal of the *imago Dei* in humankind (Theodore Runyon, *The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*). In the Gospel John a new vision of life is always opened through Christ, who is lifted up to the cross; "The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).



The annual charge conference was conducted on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and well-attended given

the Sunday evening time. Key this year was voting on the recommendations resulting from the Paragraph 213 local church assessment undertaken last summer.

They were endorsed by Spark, and we are thankful to report that they were unanimously approved as follows:

Dearborn Good Shepherd United Methodist Church will actively pursue the fresh, new vision of intentional exploration for "shared or cooperative" ministries with other United Methodist churches within our area. Beginning in 2018 - a time of new vision - Dearborn Good Shepherd United Methodist Church requests District and Conference resources be provided to assist in the following ways:

Provide a "coach" to work with the current pastor to help with "first pastorate" challenges. Work with the Good Shepherd leadership and congregation to actively assist in "intentional exploration for shared or cooperative ministries" between Good Shepherd and other United Methodist Churches as outlined in *The Discipline* Paragraph 213, 3a.

With the successful joint confirmation class between Good Shepherd and Dearborn First UMC this fall, we had a meaningful illustration of what collaborative or cooperative ministry could look like when Josh Costantino was confirmed during the worship service on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. In attendance to witness the ceremony were the Dearborn First confirmands, their leader and parents, plus Josh's grandparents and uncle. It was wonderful seeing so many people in the pews. Likewise, Josh, his parents, and others from Good Shepherd, attended the confirmation ceremony at Dearborn First two Sundays later to share in their celebration. We look to 2018 with renewed hope as we explore opportunities to share ministries with other United Methodist Churches nearby, and as our mission reminds us "to live out our faith by serving the spiritual and physical needs of our community and the world."

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**Leading Ideas**

## 2. A glimpse of heaven

In Matthew's version of the Lord's prayer we say, "your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Missional congregations give others a glimpse of heaven. The way in which a missional congregation lives out what it means to be disciples of Jesus helps individuals to better understand what it truly means to exist in God's presence.

Let's be honest. This is no easy task. It means being able to point others to God in the midst of conflict, pastoral transitions, financial challenges, and congregational decline. Missional congregations focus on helping others to experience and abide in God's love. This may be done by making a commitment to spend time with those in nursing homes, singing hymns and letting them know they still matter. It may be taking the time to teach songs to elementary school children who have no music program. The key is sharing a glimpse of heaven with others so that they can truly experience God. It is a sharing that demonstrates and articulates God's love for another.

The truth is, we do need more missional congregations. These congregations have to be more than a catchphrase. They have to disrupt tendencies toward being inwardly focused and give others a glimpse of heaven. When we truly live out what it means to be a missional congregation, we make a difference in the lives of others and follow Jesus' call to be disciples.

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## Discipleship and Mission



Pastor Lim will lead the book study, "Making Disciples of All Nations for the Transformation of the World," beginning in January. He will be using Francis Chan's *Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples*, and other materials.

### A. *First Period-*

Thursday, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

1. Jan. 18 – What is a Disciple?
2. Jan. 25 – The Command to Make Disciples
3. Feb. 1 – The Heart of a Disciples Maker

### B. *Second Period-*

Thursday, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

1. Apr. 12 – Life in the Church
2. Apr. 19 – The Local and the Global Church
3. Apr. 26 – The Great Commission

## KIDS ROCK at Good Shepherd Church

### Invite your friends!

- For ages 3 through grade 5
- During the Sunday worship hour immediately after Children's Time @ 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- Bible Stories + Crafts



We haven't forgotten those of you who were baptized and confirmed at the end of 2017. We plan to feature these celebrations in the next Fold. If you took photos, please send them to the church office so we can include them. Thank you!



Please note that there WILL NOT be a spaghetti dinner in January. Historically due to it falling at the end of the holiday season it results in difficulty getting enough helpers as well as low attendance for this dinner.

The dinners will return on Friday, February 2nd with all proceeds as well as donations to be given to the Blessings in a Backpack program in Dearborn. There will be more information about this in the February FOLD.



## Prayer Concerns



The family of Dave  
Allerdyce  
Lisa Andrews  
Gary & Diane Atkins  
Judy Barker  
Bondy Family  
The family of Colleen Bushnell  
Jack Charlefour  
Devine Family  
Donna Draper  
Denise Fitzpatrick  
Mike Foster  
Brenna Gillespie  
David Gray  
Griffin Family  
Rev. James Herbolsheimer  
Chris Hillier  
Helen Hosker  
Robert & Kathy James  
Shirley Lantz  
Lamp Family  
The family of Delores Lebeck  
Doug & Lynn Lebeck  
Ho Lim  
Elmer Lugh

Jack & Marilyn MacTavish  
Terrie McCullough  
Drew & Elizabeth McDonald  
Mesick & Hood Family  
Mihalik Family  
Samantha Myers & family  
Bill Noble  
Pigeon Family  
Amber Przygocki & Family  
Sally Rausch  
Mercedes Ruiz Family  
Ann Schaub  
Michael Schlorff  
Megan Schroeder  
Tim Shaw Family  
Marie Shearer  
Ruth Smith  
George & Karen Stoops  
Jeremy Travis  
Andrew Urban  
Nate Wilson  
Paul Wilson and family  
Mary Zatina and family  
Fran Zimmerman

### **Military Families**

Zachary Danke, Us Army

### **Home Bound**

Judy Barker, Anne Creek, Helen Hickey,  
Mary Catherine Luoma, Robert Signoretti

# Looking Forward in Worship

## Worship Leaders

January 7	Dean Lewis
January 14	Carla Schneider
January 21	Neicy Lines
January 28	Georgia Grovsteen

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## Ushers

January 7	Al Constantino & Donna Eberhart
January 14	Annie Smith & Anita Polzin
January 21	Anita Polzin & Donna Eberhart
January 28	Al Constantino & Annie Smith

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## Acolytes

Josh Costantino  
Lilly Lawson  
Sabrina Perry, Substitute

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## Counters

1st	Scott Williams & Carla Schneider
2nd	Scott Williams & Jim Woods
3rd	Jim Woods & Carla Schneider
4th	Carla Schneider & Scott Williams
5th	Scott Williams & Jim Woods

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## Greeters

1st	Fred Michaelson & Pam Post
2nd	Donna Eberhart & Anita Polzin
3rd	Annie Smith & Paula Turbett
4th	Donna Eberhart & Anita Polzin
5th	Fred Michaelson & Pam Post

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## Nursery

1st	Carolyn Costantino & Lori Lawson
2nd	Lori Lawson & Kathy Lewis
3rd	Carolyn Costantino & Lori Lawson
4th	Kathy Lewis & Paula Turbett
5th	Lori Lawson

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## Openers

1st	Thomas Garrant
2nd	Al Costantino
3rd	Scott Williams
4th	Marti Boynton Tamaroglio
5th	Georgia Grovsteen

## Message and Text

January 7	Guest Speaker, Jean Mackey
January 14	The Life in Union with Christ 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
January 21	The Beginning of Discipleship Mark 1:14-20
January 28	The Power of Christ, Jesus of Nazareth Mark 1:21-28

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### *Happy Anniversary!*

Jan 25 Nancy & Doug Murdoch

### *Happy Birthday!*

Jan 3	Andrew Barna
Jan 10	Shelly Taft
Jan 11	Bruce Coburn
Jan 12	Jeremy Price
Jan 17	Danielle Lewis Bea Woehlke
Jan 21	Kendra Durkee
Jan 24	Nathan Gottron
Jan 26	Mary Catherine Luoma
Jan 28	Dominic Lewis
Jan 29	Julie Connick

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**February Fold** articles are due Monday,  
January 15th. to the church office email at  
[gshepherdumc@yahoo.com](mailto:gshepherdumc@yahoo.com)



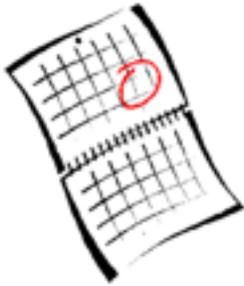
# January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<sup>31</sup> <i>New Year's Eve</i> Willing Disciples 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am	1	2 <b>NO</b> Mindful Meditation	3 <b>NO</b> Prayer Meeting  <b>NO</b> Choir	4 Tai Chi 10 am	5	6
7 Willing Disciples 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am	8	9 Mindful Meditation 6:15 pm	10 Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm  Choir 7 pm	11 Tai Chi 10 am	12	13 Second Saturday Bible Study @ Parsonage 8 am
14 Willing Disciples 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am	15 SPARK 6:30 PM  <b>February FOLD Articles Due Today</b>	16 Mindful Meditation 6:15 pm	17 Food Pantry Prep 1:00 pm Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm  Choir 7 pm	18 Tai Chi 10am  Discipleship & Mission 5:30 pm	19	20 Prayer Shawls 9 am  Food Pantry 9-11 am
21 Willing Disciples 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am	22	23 Mindful Meditation 6:15 pm	24 Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm  Choir 7 pm	25 Tai Chi 10 am  Discipleship & Mission 5:30 pm	26	27
28 Willing Disciples 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am	29	30 Mindful Meditation 6:15 pm	31 Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm  Choir 7 pm	1 Tai Chi 10am  Discipleship & Mission 5:30 pm	2 Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 pm	3

*Worship for Oakwood Common residents is on Sundays at 1PM and for Hubbard West residents on 2nd Sundays at 4:30 PM*

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events to start the New Year loving God and loving others:



- ★ February 2nd **Spaghetti Dinner** with all proceeds as well as donations to be given to the Blessings in a Backpack program in Dearborn
- ★ Join Us for **Mindful Meditation** on Tuesdays at 6:15 PM or for **Prayer** on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM.
- ★ Join us to serve our community through the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** or at the **Food Pantry** on the third Saturday of the month.
- ★ Grow closer in your walk with God at the **Second Saturday Bible Study** at 8:00 AM at the Parsonage.

## The Fold

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