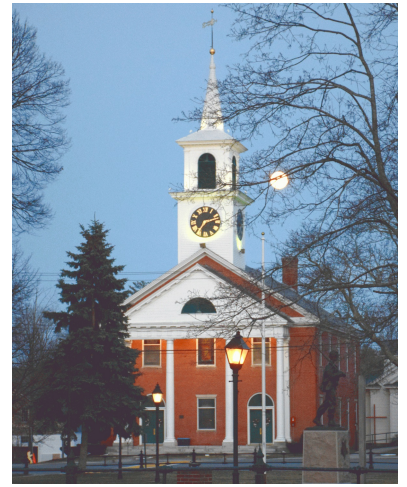


THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

🌱 *At the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts* 🌱



In this edition . . .

- ❁ Pastor's Monthly Column
- ❁ From our Minister for Property: Calling all Painters; Have Saw Will Travel
- ❁ Community Dinner
- ❁ Music Ministry: Handbells and Senior Choir
- ❁ Roast Pork Supper
- ❁ Holiday Fair
- ❁ Birthday Fund
- ❁ Our Birthdays
- ❁ Our Prayers
- ❁ Monthly Lectionary
- ❁ Community News: Truck-A-Palooza at the Library
- ❁ A "Brief" Look at the Beginnings and Beliefs of the UMC and the UCC
- ❁ Digital Edition Only: Gift Basket Ideas Sheet



returns to 10 am on
September 7 - See you there!



Outreach Project for September

We will be collecting personal care items for PACH (Pepperell Aid from Community to Home). They have requested personal hygiene supplies: soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. I will be collecting from Sunday 9/8 through Sunday 9/28.

To learn more about PACH, their website is: www.pachoutreach.org

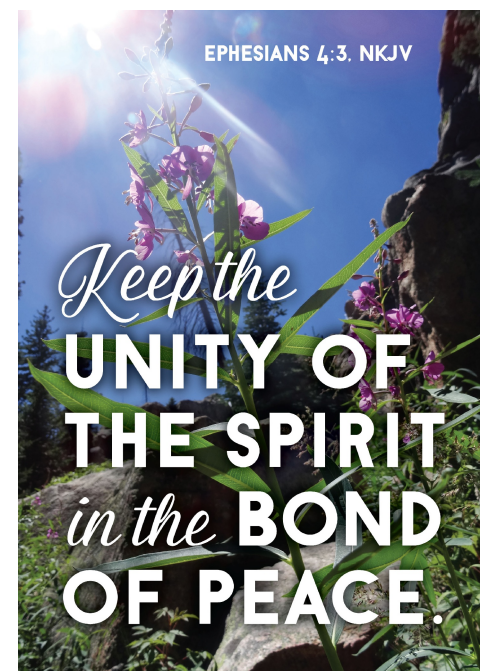
Thanks for your support.

Cynthia Tremblay, Minister for Outreach

September Calendar

- 15 Council Meeting (tentative date)
- 18 Free Community Dinner
- 27 Pork Supper
- 28 October Newsletter Deadline
- Choir Practice every Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Remember to check the members-only portion of the TCC website for updated reports.





September 2025

Volume 48 No. 8

Pastor: Rev. Gregory Schmidt

TCC Administrative Asst.:
Judy Karkane
Office Line: 978-597-8925

Village Common Children's Center Line: 978-597-0834

Editor: Cathy Hill

TOWNSEND
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UCC
PO BOX 487
TOWNSEND MA 01469

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Church Secretary:
secretary@tccucc.org

Newsletter:
newsletter@tccucc.org

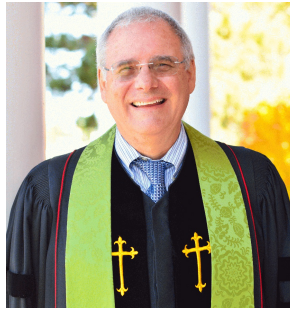
Village Common Children's Center: vccc@tccucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday: 8 am - 1 pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:
Mon-Wed 9-1, or by
appointment.

**Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org and visit
us on Facebook**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are in the middle of August. Our five weeks worshipping at New Beginnings were a great way to begin our summer. The attendance was spilt pretty evenly between the two churches and for that I am glad.

The few weeks we have spent in our sanctuary have more than exceeded my expectations. Yes, it has been warm, but the special music has been awesome (thank you Kathy, Sharon and Natalya). The Sunday school has come back to life (thank you Amanda and Ben) and our attendance has been beyond my wildest dreams. Steve and I were thrilled to need a second tray for communion. Hopefully that energy continues for the rest of the month.

As September comes, we will return to some of the other things normally on our calendar. I am guessing there will be a dinner or two during the month. Choir rehearsals will begin at some point (it is not too late to lend your voice to this group). And, of course we return to our normal 10 am worship on September 7th.

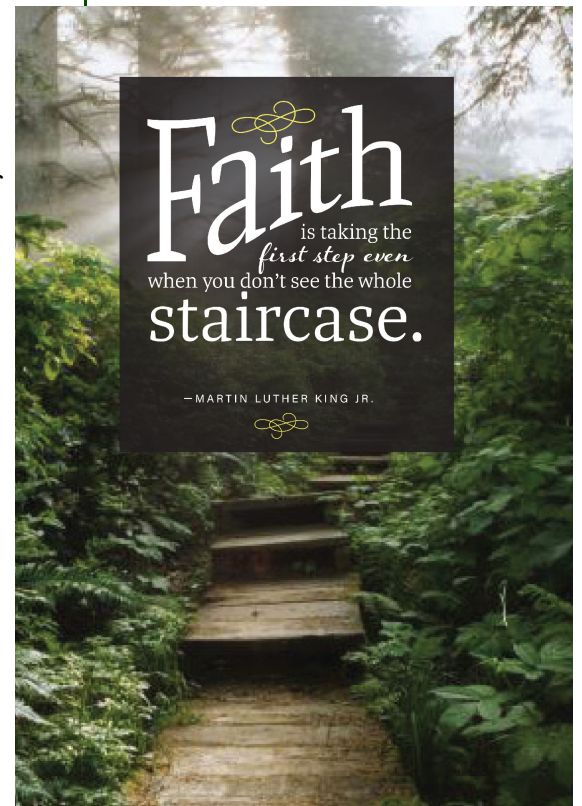
At some point during the month we, as a congregation,

will meet with representatives from the UCC to discuss some of the housekeeping questions regarding a possible merger with New Beginnings. I have no idea how bylaws, membership and finances really work in a merged church. Additionally we will learn whether we will need to apply for a new tax exempt number from the State and/or Federal governments. They will be glad to answer all the questions you have so write them down as you think of them.

I hope you are finding our time worshipping together to be both rewarding and fun. I am truly enjoying this time together. Maybe this will need to something big, and maybe it will just be a fun moment in time. I pray about it every day and hope you are doing the same.

See you in church.

Greg



**From our
Minister
for
Property**



Calling all Painters!



I have two painting jobs that I could use some help with. The ceiling in the left side of the narthex is stained from a leak from a few years ago. I also have two spots on ceilings where we had ice dams last winter. One is in the fellowship hall and the other is in the hallway just coming from the sanctuary to fellowship hall. Please contact the church office or me if you could help out.

- and -

Have Saw Will Travel!

If you have a saw and would like to help out, I have just the job for you! There is a branch hanging above the roof to the back shed. Please let me know if you could help out with this.

Thank you for your time,

Wanda Wilson



Correction: In the summer edition, we misnamed the company that Michelle used for our landscaping, it was actually *CBF Landworks*.

**COMMUNITY
DINNERS**

The first free community dinner of the fall will take place on Thursday, September 18th from 5-6 pm. The menu will include meatloaf, baked potatoes, green beans, garlic bread and cookies for dessert! It will be a take away or eat in dinner. It is open to anyone who is hungry, lonely, or in need of fellowship. Pre orders are strongly suggested by calling the church office before noon on the 18th.

Sign up sheets for donating food or your time will be available soon during coffee hour. Working on dinners gives everyone time to get to know new friends and visit with old friends while providing others a free dinner!

Please consider helping out that night, donating to the dinner, or coming out to enjoy a yummy meatloaf meal!

Wanda and June



The handbell choir will begin rehearsing for the fall season at the beginning of October. If you can read music and are in grade eight through 101 years old you are

cordially invited to join the Agapé Handbell Choir! We rehearse on Wednesdays in the sanctuary 6:30-7:30 pm. There is a place waiting for you... the more easy parts at the high and low ends to the more busy parts in the middle of the music. Please contact the church office or myself if interested or if you have any questions.

Wanda Wilson



Consider joining the senior choir in September. We meet for an hour and a half on Wednesday nights and for a little while before worship on Sunday mornings. It's a whole lot of fun and very rewarding.

Give it a try!



Roast Pork Supper

Please join us for our first dinner of the church year on September 27th from 5-6:30 pm. We will be serving a roast pork dinner with baked potatoes, vegetables, sauerkraut, applesauce and rolls. There will be homemade desserts to end the meal that will be served from a buffet or take away. The cost of the meal is \$14 each and \$8 for children under seven.

Sign up sheets will be available soon to sign up for donations of food or time to work that day. Please consider joining everyone as we make new friends and catch up on news from the summer while giving the public a fun, fellowship event and delicious dinner.

Thank you for your time.

Wanda Wilson



HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025

Our annual fair will be here before you even know it and we always like to make this a welcoming and attractive community event. This can ONLY happen if we all work together as a church community, first. Please reach out to June Cloutier if you can help in any of these areas.

- ★ Coordinator needed for Apple Pie making
- ★ Bistro
- ★ Santa's Helper
- ★ Children's Crafts/Play area
- ★ Raffle Baskets (see the list of basket ideas at the end of the digital edition of this newsletter!)
- ★ Regifting Table
- ★ Greens Table (Wanda is in charge - thanks, Wanda - but she can always use help!)
- ★ TCC Craft Table

If you have any questions or suggestions about the fair, reach out to June Cloutier or Cathy Hill.

*Thank you to all,
The 2025 Holiday Fair Committee*



The Birthday Fund

This is a fun way to contribute above and beyond your regular giving to the church to something above and beyond our normal operating budget. We appreciate those who have participated so far. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! Participate and watch our gifts grow!



Christopher Guba; Phil Andexler; Antonella Basso; Sarah Pacheco; Louella Stoner; Melissa Genoter; Emily Bruns; Cynthia Curley; Christopher Bennett; Asa Nixon; Jonathan Vincent; Eric Gruber; Skip Bataitis; Amanda Caprigno;

Gini King; Vera Bennett; Pamela Kelsea; Meghan Woodward; Grace Palange; Sharlene Rourke; Julie Zielenkiewicz; Rebecca Hersey; Michele Merenda.



OUR BLESSINGS:

Moe T has a joy that his friend Jack has his new heart, has returned home, rehab, and then back to life!

Carole G celebrated her sister Cheri and her husband Phil's 50th wedding anniversary.

Carole G is joyful that her grandson, Brody, has started preschool at VCCC.

Carol S is joyful that she has a new great granddaughter born on August 2. She is thankful for a happy and healthy baby.

We give thanks that Lee M has fully recovered from her bike accident.

Judy R gives thanks that Ali has recovered from her surgery.

Cathy H is very thankful for being able to spend another session on the Cape for Music Camp. Also thankful that they are able to do it again for 2026.

Wedding Anniversaries:

Bill and Debra Reeves,
42 years on September 10

OUR CONCERNS:

Karen B is requesting prayers for her brother-in-law, who is recovering after being injured in a fall.

Melissa M requests prayers for a close friend, Cheryl B, who is in the hospital.

Karen B is asking for prayers for Tom, who is recovering from surgery.

We pray for the McNabb family as they mourn the death of Betty McNabb.

Carole G is asking for prayers for Bob, Laura G's fiancé, as he recovers from surgery.

Louise C is asking for prayers for her sister, Lorraine, and her children, as they mourn the passing of her husband, Bob.

Cynthia T is asking for prayers for her sister's family as they mourn the loss of Gerald Edward McCormack.

Carole G is asking for prayers for Holly and her husband Rob's son, Brody, as he is undergoing evaluations for a medical condition.

We pray for Jen Climo's family in the passing of her mother, Rev. Diana Kirk.

We keep in our prayers all those who are oppressed, who are in pain, or suffering from addictions. We pray for all the caregivers. We pray for all those who are caught in violent situations. We continue to pray for peace, in all its forms.



We offer prayers of healing and hope for all those in our immediate and extended families who are in the midst of battling cancer, and for all those who care for and support them.



LECTIONARY, SEPTEMBER 2025

September 7, 2025 -

13th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Alternate First reading and Psalm: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1

Second reading: Philemon 1:1-21
Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

September 14, 2025 -

14th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14

Alternate First reading and Psalm: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10

Second reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

September 21, 2025 -

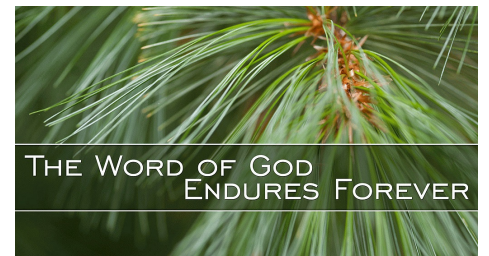
15th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113
Second reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7
Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

September 28, 2025 -

16th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146
Second reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31



COMMUNITY NEWS

Truck-A-Palooza at the Townsend Public Library!

Saturday, September 20: Truck-A-Palooza, Craft Fair, and Toy Sale from 10 am to 2 pm.

Fun for everyone. Stop by the library, or go to the events calendar at www.townsendlibrary.org for more details.



A "Brief" Look at the Beginnings and Beliefs of the UMC and the UCC

by Cathy Hill

While there is a wealth of information regarding the history of both the UMC and the UCC, I have gone to the web sites of both these organizations to gather just enough to give us (I hope) a sense of where these two organizations came from and their core beliefs. Although this article is much longer than I originally intended, it really is just an overview, and I encourage you to visit both sites to explore these histories in greater detail.

United Methodist Church / umc.org

Overview:

[In] 1730 John and Charles Wesley, two students at Oxford University in England, gathered a small group of students who sought to spread the Methodist movement. At about the same time, people like Philip William Otterbein, a German-American clergyman, and Martin Boehm, a Mennonite preacher, were leading similar movements in America that helped people grow their faith through the United Brethren in Christ Church.

In 1968, both strands of Christianity came together to form The United Methodist Church.

Today, The United Methodist Church is a global denomination that opens hearts, opens minds and opens doors through active engagement with our world. The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of

Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A United Methodist is someone who joins in that mission by putting faith and love into action. We believe that God loves all people, and that we share in expressing that love. So the United Methodist tradition emphasizes God's grace and in serving others. We believe that Jesus Christ is the fullest expression of God's love--showing us the fullness of God's care through Jesus' teachings, death and resurrection.

John Wesley's teachings on practical divinity (living out our faith) and appeals to reason and experience form important aspects of United Methodist practice today.

Who are the people of the United Methodist Church?

The United Methodist Church is a worldwide connection of more than 12 million members in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States. We are the person next door, the church on the other side of the country, and the worshipping community across the globe. Together, we share a legacy of living as disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love both in what we say and how we serve our neighbors.

What do United Methodists believe?

The United Methodist Church shares a great deal with other Christian denominations. We believe God's grace is open to all, and therefore practice "open Communion"--meaning that anyone may participate in receiving Communion. We believe salvation is an open gift from God, accepted by individuals according to their

own free will. The United Methodist denomination is a "big tent" theologically, providing space for theological discourse and, at times, disagreement.

Like many other Christian groups, we affirm the beliefs expressed in the Apostles Creed. These include:

- ★ The belief in one God, who is the Creator and sustainer of the universe.
- ★ The belief in the Trinity, that there is one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- ★ The belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is fully human and fully divine.

What do United Methodists do?

John Wesley taught that we pursue our faith in community and action with others. We practice a social holiness. We insist that personal salvation always involves Christian mission and service to the world. The United Methodist Church has a long history of action and advocacy for social justice.

United Methodists are active in their communities and in the world through a variety of ways, including:

- ★ Participating in local mission projects and service initiatives
- ★ Supporting global mission efforts through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and other mission organizations
- ★ Advocating for social justice and working to address issues such as poverty, hunger, and inequality

- ★ Providing educational and vocational training opportunities
- ★ Offering counseling, support groups, and other forms of pastoral care
- ★ Creating and supporting community development programs.



Statue of John Wesley by Paul Raphael Montford, in Melbourne, Australia. Photo by Adam Carr, Wikimedia Commons.

United Church of Christ / ucc.org

The United Church of Christ came into being in 1957 with the union of two Protestant denominations: the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Each of these was, in turn, the result of a union of two earlier traditions.

The Congregational Churches were organized when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Plantation (1620) and the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1629) acknowledged their essential unity in the Cambridge Platform of 1648.

The Reformed Church in the United States traced its beginnings to congregations of German settlers in Pennsylvania founded from 1725 on. Later, its ranks were swelled by Reformed immigrants from

Switzerland, Hungary and other countries.

The Christian Churches sprang up in the late 1700s and early 1800s in reaction to the theological and organizational rigidity of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches of the time.

The Evangelical Synod of North America traced its beginnings to an association of German Evangelical pastors in Missouri. This association, founded in 1841, reflected the 1817 union of Lutheran and Reformed churches in Germany.

What we believe

We can tell you more about the United Church of Christ with the help of seven phrases from Scripture and Tradition which express our commitments.

That they may all be one. [John 17:21] This motto of the United Church of Christ reflects the spirit of unity on which it is based and points toward future efforts to heal the divisions in the body of Christ. We are a uniting church as well as a united church.

In essentials unity, in non-essentials diversity, in all things charity. The unity that we seek requires neither an uncritical acceptance of any point of view, nor rigid formulation of doctrine. It does require mutual understanding and agreement as to which aspects of the Christian faith and life are essential.

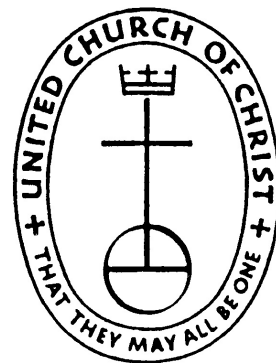
The unity of the church is not of its own making. It is a gift of God. But expressions of that unity are as diverse as there are individuals. The common thread that runs through all is love.

Testimonies of faith rather than tests of faith. Because faith can be expressed in many different ways, the United Church of Christ has no formula that is a test of faith.

There is yet more light and truth to break forth from God's holy word. This affirmation by one of the founders of the Congregational tradition assumes the primacy of the Bible as a source for understanding the Good News and as a foundation for all statements of faith. It recognizes that the Bible, though written in specific historical times and places, still speaks to us in our present condition. It declares that the study of the scriptures is not limited by past interpretations, but it is pursued with the expectation of new insights and God's help for living today.

The Priesthood of All Believers. All members of the United Church of Christ are called to minister to others and to participate as equals in the common worship of God, each with direct access to the mercies of God through personal prayer and devotion.

Responsible Freedom. As individual members of the Body of Christ, we are free to believe and act in accordance with our perception of God's will for our lives. But we are called to live in a loving, covenantal relationship with one another – gathering in communities of faith, congregations of believers, local churches.



RAFFLE BASKETS FOR THE TCC-UCC HOLIDAY CRAFT & GREENS FAIR

Once again, the fair will be having the popular raffle baskets. This has been a very successful part of the fair, thanks to all the wonderful baskets donated by the congregation. I am asking you to participate by picking a theme and filling a basket with items related to that theme. These baskets will be raffled off in a traditional "Chinese Auction" way. Tickets will be purchased and placed in a container that goes with the basket you want to win and a winner will be picked at random.

If you would like to participate, look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall after church and add your name or you may email me at christineclish@yahoo.com.

To help you get started, here is a list of suggested themes.



SUGGESTED THEMES FOR THE RAFFLE BASKETS

Feel free to come up with your own creative theme!!!

BABY
 BIRTHDAY
 BEACH
 BEANIE BABIES
 BREAD
 BASKET OF BASKETS
 BIRDS
 BLUEBERRY DELIGHT

CAMPING
 CRAFTING
 CHILDREN'S
 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS
 CHOCOLATE
 CANDLE
 CAR WASHING
 CHRISTMAS
 COOKING
 COFFEE
 CHINESE FOOD
 COOKIE
 COOKIE JAR
 COMFORT AFGHAN

DAY OF BEAUTY



EUROPEAN
 VACATION (Plane
 Ticket Not Included)

EMBROIDERY
 EVERYTHING BUT
 ICE CREAM

FOOD
 FINGERNAILS
 FEED THE BIRDS

FABRIC
 FLOWERS
 FAMILY FUN NIGHT

GINGERBREAD
 GIFT WRAPPING
 GAMES
 GARDENING

HANDYMAN
 HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

ITALIAN

JEWELRY

KNITTING
 KITCHEN
 KIDS
 KIDS COOKING

LAVENDER SCENTS
 LOTTERY
 LOBSTER
 LEGOS

MOVIE
 MASSAGE
 MUSIC
 M & Ms
 MARY KAY

NUTCRACKER

OVER THE HILL

PICNIC
 PARTY
 PAMPERING
 POKER
 PET
 POPCORN
 PIE
 PHOTO
 PHONE
 PUZZLES

QUILTING

ROMANTIC EVENING

SPORTS
 SCRAPBOOKING
 STATIONERY
 SEWING
 STAMPING
 SOCKS
 SNOWMAN
 STUFFED ANIMALS
 SILK FLOWERS

TEA
 TRAVEL
 THANKSGIVING
 TOOLS
 TASTE OF ITALY

UGLY
 VERA – BABY

WREATHS

Townsend Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487
Townsend MA 01469-0487

Worship/Sunday School at 10 am

Worship With Us



SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings



We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is

looking for a location for an event, contact our church secretary at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.



OUR COMMON PURPOSE STATEMENT

Being in an intimate relationship with God in the present, we are an ever-learning, action-oriented, justice-seeking, community-caring church. Our purpose is to use our gifts to make God's love real and alive for everyone.

We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:

- ❖ *To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)*
- ❖ *To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)*
- ❖ *To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)*

