

# HAPPENINGS this week at CPFUMC

09/27/2017

Find the Happenings on our church website: <https://cpfumc.org/find-out-whats-happening/>

If you prefer NOT to receive these Happenings each Wednesday, please reply and let us know that.

**Worship times 8:30 & 10:45**

*Living together well is hard but possible!! Oh, Lord, have mercy on us; have mercy on us.*

## **PRAYERS** *for Help and Healing* :

### **Recent Requests for Prayers:**

Adam Maund's sister, Lindsey Upton, and her family have been completely flooded out in Houston.  
Rod & Stella Hycho, friends of the Thompsons, on the death of her mom.  
Carol Slater's daughter-in-law, Asia, caring for her parents in poor health in Zyrardow, Poland  
Connie Thayden, Alan Thompson's caregiver, with breast cancer  
Ed Golden, friend of Bonnie How, battling Leukemia.  
Sue Raske, friend of Bonnie Hicks, diagnosed with cancer  
Jackie Vaughtner, Glenda Goss' sister, with cancer  
Jim Wyndham family, Spring Tx in Hurricane  
Lora, friend of Vikki Mock, found out she has lung cancer & lupus  
Miranda & Victor Williams, Victor being deployed to Turkey & Miranda while he is gone  
Charlane Zigmond, Vikki Mock friend, moving to Wisconsin to be with family after divorce.  
Keith & Caroline Jensen, cousins of Carol Slater

## **PRAYERS** *of THANKS!!* :

**THANKS** Ethan How will be at home in 20 days!!

Thanks, y'all, for remembering me with your weekly newsletter. I see some study/worship opportunities I'd like to partake in, e.g., Genesis, Wesley, & Caregivers. We all have so much in common, let's try to be better friends. Loneliness, I think, is the human condition barring steps to alleviate it. I know I'm often lonely, just too insecure to reach out. Can you relate?

**THANKS**

On top of her lymphomas, my mother, Geraldine Shaw, was recently diagnosed with a meningioma. Otherwise, she is in vigorous good health; just turned 86 Tuesday. Many Happy Returns! I want her to attain her Biblical 120, at least. But is it wrong for me to want some time away from her? I spend most of my time in bed listening to KUT-90.5/NPR and trying to read (staying out of her way). Anyone up for a walk? A movie? Lunch? Just watching television or listening to the radio & talking about it? If so, please advise. I would welcome the company.  
Well, 'bye for now. Please continue to keep in touch. Susan Armstrong Shaw (512) 358-4109

## **Please RE-MEMBER with prayers and cards ....**

Jean Benson  
c/o Merrilee Dauer  
630 5131156  
1320 Brook St. Apt.D  
St Charles, Ill.60174

Diane Kelly  
Isle at Cedar Ridge #201  
2200 S Lakeline Blvd;  
Cedar Park 78613

Clara Crank  
203 Settlers Dr  
Cedar Park, 78613

Audrey Blount  
Samford University  
P.O. Box 291234  
Birmingham, AL 35229  
512-761-2139

Emily Doty  
Blinn College  
902 College Ave.  
BCPA Box 9883  
Brenham, TX 77833

Phyllis Myers  
310 Chisholm Tr. #206.  
Round Rock, TX 78681

E. Duke Squibb  
12042 Bittern Hollow  
Austin TX - 78758

Sarah How  
1121 Norman St,  
Denton TX 76201

Aaron How  
2242 Flat Creek Dr.  
Richardson, TX 75080

Carol Wyatt  
Cedar Ridge Care Center  
2100 S Lakeline Blvd  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Marsha Venable  
2112 West Riviera Drive  
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Miranda Smith Williams  
RAF Croughton;  
PO Box 71;  
Brackley: NN13 5XP

**Now****REMEMBER TO SIGN UP & PARTICIPATE**

- ❖ **The ALPHA Course:** A Practical Introduction to the Christian Faith  
Begins Tues. Sept 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- ❖ **Christian Book Discussion** Group discussing :”Before We Were Yours”  
On Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm

- ❖ **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** – 6-session  
Begins Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-8:00pm
- ❖ **Short Term Disciple Bible Study:** Genesis :  
10-session study of Genesis  
Begins: Thursday; October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am-noon
- ❖ **Pumpkin Patch Helping:** sign up online at  
<https://cpfumc.org/pumpkin-patchfall-festival/>

**30 SEPT, 9AM-12N****FALL WORK DAY TASKS****TO BE ADDED TO**

#	Description	Tools Required
1	Pull weeds on the north bed (along the north side of the main parking lot)	Bucket, wheelbarrow, lawn and refuse bags, gloves
2	Pull weeds in the east bed (along the east easement)	Bucket, wheelbarrow, lawn and refuse bags, gloves
3	Sweep and Power wash all sidewalks	Blower, power washer
4	Sweep and power wash the porch of the Sanctuary	Blower, power washer
5	Clean out and organize the closet at the end of the hall in the Sanctuary building. Give extra stuff away to Child's Haven Garage Sale.	
6	Clean out and organize the Shed. Give extra stuff away to Child's Haven Garage Sale.	Sound mind, bug spray, gloves
7	Clean the Sanctuary Building carpets	Shampoo machine
9	Fix screen on Sanctuary NW window (outside)	Screwdriver, longer screw (1"-1.25")
10	Trim bushes along Sanctuary front access ramp railing (south side railing).	Clippers, hedge trimmer, lawn and refuse bags, gloves
11	Anything in the MMB attic that we should get rid of?	
12	Anything in the Sanctuary building attic that we should get rid of?	
15	Power wash stonework on E side of Sanctuary Building	Powerwasher
17	Fix any signs that are leaning	
19	Take down tents	Truck
20	Paint curb stops and parking space lines in MMB parking lot.	
21	For Pumpkin Patch Put up tents; Put out Pallets	
	ETC. etc. ETC.	

**Continued PRAYERS for Help and Healing :**

Please Remember Miranda Smith Williams @ RAF Croughton; PO Box 71; Brackley: NN13 5XP  
 Christy Ibarra, Karen Jones' friend, to find a job soon.  
 David Lewis, Pam Hardin's partner, chronic pain from digestive disorders  
 Deb Pauly, Jill Lundstom's aunt, breast cancer surgery followed by chemo and radiation  
 Denise Mabry, the Hartman's friend for healing,  
 Frances Cannon, Beth Spaulding's big sister & Vickie Thompson's Aunt, cancer  
 Holly Laughlin and family  
 Jake Rainwater, Aaron How's housemate's 25 year old son in law, critical condition with Valley Fever;  
 John Payne, Sheryl McNichol's father, having heart issues.  
 Jose Gonzalez, co-worker of Shawn Dubler, battling leukemia  
 Kimberly, daughter of Par's friend, had a double lung transplant & heart surgery  
 Kris Uglum, Carol Slater's niece, on feeding tube as a result of cancer doing much better.  
 Pam Moots, Sue Sidney's sister, Lymphoma  
 Poppie Swart, sister of Corrie Van Rensburg, with breast cancer; lives in South Africa  
 Ronald Sage; brother of Janice Burris; her sister in law, Cheryl Sage; & sister, Fern Hardy, each with health issues

Prayer requests from Sterling Hartman: Francis Smith, daughter-in-law; Denise Mabry, friend; Shelly Aucsin, & Patti Hartman, sister-in-law ; Taylor Smith, granddaughter of Marilyn & Sterling Hartman, having a difficult pregnancy

**Continued prayers:**

Bob Packard	Carmelo Perez	Danny Long	Vicki Cowan	Geraldine Shaw
Julie Hughes	Martha Vinson's brother, Steve		Thompson Family	Steven Wehlmann
Rev. Tina Carter	Clara Crank	Sterling Hartman	Marilyn Hartman	Diane Kelly
Martha Orr	Bob & Carol Slater	Beth Spaulding	Duke Squibb	Alan Thompson
Marsha Venable	Adalid Verastegui	Mary Linda Verastegui		Ruth West
Carol Wyatt	Mary (Grover) Williams	JoAnne Wilshusen		

**SEPTEMBER 2017 INFORMATION ON CHURCH VITALITY!**

Month to Date Finances	This Week's Attendance																
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Anticipated expenses</td> <td>\$ 18,500.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contributions (4/4 Sundays)</td> <td>\$ 18,744.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Needed (Surplus):</td> <td>\$ (244).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional Giving</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Campaign (Parking Lot)</td> <td>\$ 40.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$2 For 20</td> <td>\$ 142.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>True Vineyards (Rwandan Widow)</td> <td>\$ 41.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communion(Disaster Relief)</td> <td>\$ 1,711.</td> </tr> </table>	Anticipated expenses	\$ 18,500.	Contributions (4/4 Sundays)	\$ 18,744.	Needed (Surplus):	\$ (244).	Additional Giving		Capital Campaign (Parking Lot)	\$ 40.	\$2 For 20	\$ 142.	True Vineyards (Rwandan Widow)	\$ 41.	Communion(Disaster Relief)	\$ 1,711.	<p align="center"><b><u>September 24<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <p><b><u>8:30 am</u></b> 28 (Visitors:0)</p> <p><b><u>10:45am</u></b> 71 (Visitors:6)</p> <p><b><u>Sunday School</u></b> Children: 22 Adults: 44</p>
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Capital Campaign (Parking Lot)	\$ 40.																
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True Vineyards (Rwandan Widow)	\$ 41.																
Communion(Disaster Relief)	\$ 1,711.																

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, September 27<sup>th</sup>**  
1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class

**THURSDAY, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**FRIDAY, September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am Men coffee at Randall's Cypress Creek  
10:00a Weekly Women's Coffee

**SATURDAY, September 30<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am Work Day



**SUNDAY, October 1<sup>st</sup> WORLD WIDE COMMUNION**  
8:30am WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate, Communion,-  
9:45am Sunday School for all ages; Beginning: Wesley Challenge & "How to Raise Children for Christ"  
10:45am WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate,-Communion  
Noon Choir Practice including Youth!  
1:00-3:00 **NO** Youth Bonnie away

**MONDAY, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
6:30p Trustees  
7:30p Contemplative Prayer

**TUESDAY, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
9:30-9:50am Morning Prayer Service  
10:00am Lectionary Discussion in the Sanctuary  
6:30p Book Discussion: "Before We Were Yours"  
6:30pm The Alpha Course

**WEDNESDAY, October 4<sup>th</sup>**  
1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class  
6:30-8pm Powerful Tools for Caregivers

**LOOKING FORWARD !!**

Thursday; Oct 5th at 10:15am-noon Short Term Disciple Bible Study: Genesis

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> PUMPKINS Arrive!!!

Oct 9 6:30p Finance

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 9am UMW

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 2-5p MFCC Anniversary Party

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 6-9:30p Empower for Children

Oct 16 6:30p Church Council

Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 9a-2p Fall Fun Fest with Garage Sale

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> Church Charge Conf @ NW Hills 3pm

Nov 1st 6:30-8pm Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Nov 8th 6:30-8pm Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Please check the Calendar at our website: [www.cpfumc.org](http://www.cpfumc.org)

## ON-GOING HAPPENINGS !!

### SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

### YOUTH MEETINGS

*Youth will be practicing with the choir after second service and meet afterwards .....!!  
Meals needed for Sunday meetings .. talk to Rev. Bonnie!!*

### WEEKLEY

### BACKPACK MINISTRY

### WHITESTONE ELEMENTARY

Each week we pack and deliver 6 backpacks to Whitestone Elementary  
Each backpack contains 2 Breakfasts; 2 Lunches & 2 Dinners plus 4 Snacks.  
The backpacks are sent home with children that might not have food over weekends.  
Still in need of Dry Cereal for the Breakfasts....

### OCT 4TH

### POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

10/4, 11, 18 & 11/1, 8, 15

This series of six classes is designed to empower family caregivers of older adults to take better care of themselves. The tools learned from Powerful Tools for Caregivers benefit caregivers by developing a wealth of self-care strategies to better handle the unique challenges faced by family caregivers. The evidence based curriculum was developed by Dr. Kate Lorig and her colleagues at Stanford University. Who should attend: Anyone caring for a loved one; Anyone looking for caregiving resources & needing caregiving guidance; Anyone wanting to master caregiving decisions & learn from emotions  
CaregiverU is a A Program of AGE of Central Texas [ [www.caregiverucentx.org](http://www.caregiverucentx.org) ]

### OCT 11<sup>TH</sup>, 21<sup>ST</sup>, 24<sup>TH</sup>

### LITERACY CONNECTION

### TRAINING

By volunteering 30 minutes a week in 2-15 minute sessions reading 1 to 1, you can help solve the school drop-out problem. For more information: [www.education-connection.org](http://www.education-connection.org) /512.813.5918 or ask Karen Packard about it. **Training** Sessions will be on:

**October 11th** (Wednesday), 9:00 – 11:00 AM,

Hill Country Bible Church Leander, 11880 Old FM 2243 #600, Leander (*behind Smokey Moes*)

**October 21st** (Saturday), 8:30 – 10:30 AM,

Cedar Park Middle School, 2100 Sun Chase Blvd, Cedar Park

**October 24th** (Tuesday), 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM,

Hill Country Bible Church Lakeline, 12124 Ranch Rd 620 N, Austin (*Building A - Northwest Lobby Entrance*)

Returning literacy partners are required to attend the first hour only.

### SAT, OCT. 14<sup>TH</sup>

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### ALL WOMEN WELCOMED

Faithful UMW , Mission Mamas, Thank you for your commitment to the UMW of CPFUMC.

Some events that will participate in:

**Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** Worldwide Communion Sunday

**Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>** Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. **Christian Book Discussion** Novel: "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate. A really great read... should have great "Mission to Women, Children & Youth"

**Oct 7<sup>th</sup>** 9-2/ Friday at 7pm: Annual Mary Martha UMW Bazaar at Leander UMC

**Oct 14<sup>th</sup>** 9am - CP UMW **monthly meeting** ... agenda includes Garage Sale & Advent Brunch planning

**Oct 14<sup>th</sup>** **MFCC 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Party; 2-5pm at MFCC

**Oct 20-21** Rio TX UMW **Annual Meeting** in Corpus (I will be leading a workshop that Friday afternoon)

**Oct 28<sup>th</sup>** Fall Fest **Garage Sale** and fun time!!

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>** **Advent Brunch** We will be sponsoring this for women on Sat. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>...

### SAT, OCT. 14<sup>TH</sup>

### CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### OUTDOOR CHAPEL

**CHILDREN ALERT --- EMPOWER** is Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 9:30pm in the Outdoor Chapel, weather permitting (inside if needed). This is a time when elementary age children are invited to dance, singing, demonstration, exhibition, or whatever they choose. It is a time when they are to boast about their God given talent.

After the talent time we will enjoy group games and a movie. The outdoor chapel does not have lighting so we ask the children to bring a flashlight, blanket, pillow, etc.

Participation forms will be available on the church website or at the front desk.

Someone mentioned something about S'mores. A snack will be provided. Invite all your friends.

**COME, DANCE LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING.**

Any questions, please contact Carolyn Smith ([512 970-9087](tel:5129709087), [carolynsmith2215@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsmith2215@gmail.com)).

**Oct. 19-21 UNDOING RACISM® WORKSHOP #2 Capital District UMC**

If you are interested in attending this event or for more information regarding future events, please submit the form below. If you have questions regarding the form, please contact Bill Carter at [bbillcarter@netscape.net](mailto:bbillcarter@netscape.net).

The Capital District UMC will convene its second **Undoing Racism** workshop, at St. Peter's United Methodist Church, 4509 Springdale Rd, Austin, Texas. The goal of this event is to help build a strong community of UM leaders across the district who are familiar with the evil of racism and are equipped to resist it in whatever form it presents itself in our personal lives, our churches, and our world. If you sense a call to a deeper understanding of racism and how to undo it, please [read on](#) or [register your support](#).

**Thursday, Oct. 19th, 6- 9 pm; Friday, Oct. 20th, 8 am-6 pm - Saturday, Oct. 21st, 8 am-4 pm**  
For more information.. <http://www.capitaldistrictumc.org/amos-commission/>

**WED, OCT 25TH CHILI COOK OFF**



Only 35 more days until our  
Chili Cook Off  
Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>  
Starting at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary  
Contact Carolyn Smith

What is your **secret ingredient**? Will it be cinnamon? Will it be chocolate? These are all things I have seen in recipes. Whatever is your secret ingredient please plan to participate in the Chili Cook Off.

**Entry forms** are not required. If you plan to participate please advise Carolyn Smith. She will designate a place on the serving table just for you.

There will be judging, tasting, and most important a time to get to know your fellow church members.

Do you **remember** the game show "Win, Lose or Draw" from the late 1980s? This is a game of teams who compete by drawing out phrases. One team member draws while the other members of the team guess the phrase. Stay and play with us.

Bringing a pot of chili is not mandatory for your attendance. All are welcome and we hope you will attend.

**JANUARY 27, 2018 RETHINK LEADERSHIP SAVE THE DATE**

**TIDBITS**

**LIVING TOGETHER WELL IS HARD, BUT POSSIBLE By Polly House**

In 2016, The General Conference of The United Methodist Church amended and readopted its affirmation of the United Nations principles relating to global racism, tribalism and xenophobia.

The resolution "**Global Racism and Xenophobia — Impact on Women, Children, and Youth**" affirms the principles of equality and nondiscrimination, saying: "We, the General Conference, affirm that all peoples and individuals constitute one human family, rich in diversity. 'So now, you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household.' (Ephesians 2:19)."

*Interpreter* asked five people who work daily toward racial and ethnic understanding how people can live together well, whether because of or despite the various divides.

**Erin Hawkins: Listen, learn, lead**

**Erin Hawkins** is general secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race. GCORR seeks to eliminate racism while enabling the church to become contextually relevant and equitable in ever changing global communities and focuses on engaging more people, more young people and more diverse people.

Hawkins believes three things will assist individuals and churches in moving toward living well together: listening, learning and leading.

**Listening:** "In a day and age where world leaders, Internet trolls and regular 'church folk' hurl opinions, accusations and judgements at each other with increasingly fewer supporting facts and increasingly more vitriol, listening feels like a lost art in need of revival. Actively listening and seeking to understand another's values, choices and life experiences – even when they are different or when we disagree with them – is the first step in demonstrating a respect for diversity," Hawkins said. When she sees churches listening to the needs of their community or leaders listening to others "as a way to build trusting relationships," they almost always find that even "with the significant differences they encounter, there are significant similarities on which to build."

**Learning:** "Listening leads to learning about others and ourselves. Learning leads to growth, especially when we put into action the things that we have learned. A willingness to learn is a sign of humility. No one person, group or church has all of the answers, and sometimes we don't even have the right ones. We discover truth in community, in the dynamic exchange that is authentic relationships."

The biggest barrier Hawkins sees to living well together "is a lack of authentic relationship across lines of difference. We are increasingly seeking the comfort of our ideological and cultural communities: ones that confirm and reinforce our ideas, beliefs and biases rather than challenge and reshape them." Finding ways to live together well is difficult "if we rarely meet or have meaningful, heartfelt interaction that teaches and inspires us to think and live differently?" she said.

**Leading:** "It is not enough to engage in the tasks of listening and learning in culturally diverse settings personally if what you've learned and how you have been shaped by the experience is not shared with others whether that be your family, Bible study group, book club or Saturday morning soft ball team," Hawkins continued. "The church and world need leaders who are bridge builders, peacemakers and advocates that stand for love and justice in congregations and communities."

### **Bishop Linda Lee: Read and learn**



For retired **Bishop Linda Lee**, reading and learning are central to living well in a diverse society. She suggests people read a history of a culture written by a member of that culture. "Some people never read books written by people who have lived the culture and not just studied it."

Lee served as editor of *A New Dawn in Beloved Community* (Abingdon Press, 2013). Through personal essays, writers tell stories from their own cultures and experiences.

"It was my idea to see if we could do a book that would be useful to the church to learn more across (divides of) race and culture," Lee said. "We wanted the book to almost be like talking to someone. Each person told a personal story of his or her own culture. Sometimes people of color don't know about their own culture, much less that of other cultures, even within their own race."

She said she believes the most important work is to understand how embedded the idea of white supremacy is in Western culture and to take steps to unlearn it, adding, this is true not only for whites, but also for people of color.

Lee reiterated the importance of people knowing their own cultural history, the accomplishments and contributions.

"We tend to internalize racism," Lee said. "We might learn to think we are inferior and not capable. We must know the truth: We are all made in the image of God. No one is more or less valuable because of how we look on the outside. We are all capable of so much."

### **Tink Tinker: Repent continuously**



The Rev. **Tink Tinker**, a member of the Osage Nation and the Clifford Baldrige Professor of American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions at Liff School of Theology, said if United Methodists want to live well with their Native American brothers and sisters, it will begin with ongoing repentance for horrific past wrongs.

"It is going to take more than an apology," said Tinker. "An apology isn't going to cut it. How would that work? Y'all would come to our people and say, 'Hey, we really are sorry that our great grandparents killed your great grandparents and stole their land. Can we keep your land now that we have apologized?'"

Repentance, he said, must be ongoing and requires action.

**"Repent and keep on repenting,"** he said. "No one can repent once and be done with it. Repentance must be an ongoing process. The actual Greek text in Mark says, 'Be repenting!' It's a way of living out our lives. It means turning around and going to where you came, going back to the Creator instead of making yourself the power of creation. Just go back and understand that you are no more than anyone else in the world."

Tinker said, "Go back and own the violence committed against the Indian people. If you want to make right what was made horribly wrong, give the land back. Give the resources back.

"The United Methodist Church owns a tremendous amount of Indian land. The property of every church and every school and seminary land sits on land that was stolen from Indian people. Find a way to give some of it back!"

He added, "If all you do is feel really, really bad about the history of violence against the Indian people, it won't help the Indian people today. Six of the 10 poorest counties in the U.S. are Indian reservations. There is a reason for that. (After their land was stolen) the Indian people were left with land that is not economically viable.

"It's not as easy as kiss and make up."

### **Samuel Royappa: See differences as strengths**



The Rev. **Sam Royappa**, director of connectional ministries for the Wisconsin Conference, was born in India and began his ministry career there in 1979. He has been in the United States as a pastor in local churches and with the Wisconsin Conference since 2000.

In each setting, Royappa has worked with diverse populations – age, gender, ethnicity, lay and clergy, rural and urban.

He sees these differences as great strengths for The United Methodist Church.

"I believe God has gifted the world with families, communities, cultures and races as a blessing and also to be a blessing. God is glorified and magnified when diverse people come together, work together, worship together and serve together," he said.

Royappa cited a portion of the denomination's **baptismal covenant** as proof The United Methodist Church requires much of itself in the area of embracing diversity.

"The fourth question is: 'Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races?' It's time to put this covenant into reality and practice."

Referencing John 3:16, he said, "The most powerful word is 'world.' Developing multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-racial ministries across the denomination is the key for planting the seed called 'living together well.'" Suggesting some specific actions, he named, "invoking the power of prayer, having a constant vision for a global church, empowering passionate leaders, having an attitude of service and embracing value-based contextualized ministries." He also suggested valuable building blocks for living well together including "grace, forgiveness, healing, gifts of all people, love and hope."

### **Elaine Robinson: Embrace intentionality**



The Rev. **Elaine Robinson** is professor of Methodist Studies and Christian Theology at Saint Paul School of Theology in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She offered a few practical ideas and practices she has learned to help work toward living well together within The United Methodist Church.

"Take intercultural formation seriously as individuals and congregations," she said. "We tend to believe we are loving toward all, but a tool like the Intercultural Development Inventory (<https://idiinventory.com>) will help us see our blind spots. Recognizing cultural differences means we will all have to let go of or add to some of the ways we 'do church' so as to provide room for others to glorify, worship and serve God."

"Don't focus on 'including' others," Robinson continued. "To include means, by definition, to bring others into our way of doing things. When we try to include, our unnamed norms often get in the way. Instead, we should focus on hospitality and mutuality. A kind host always makes the other person feel comfortable."

"If we hope to become more racially and ethnically diverse, then the church's leadership must be diverse and encouraged to express cultural styles and differences," she said. "The leadership should look like the beautiful diverse world God has created."

Robinson also advised learning "to live outside the walls of the church, finding where Christ is already at work in the diverse communities that surround our buildings. The building is a hub where we refuel and resupply to go out into the world! We need to be connected in our communities, at work where people are in need. Meeting people where they are is what Jesus did. He's outside the walls already, as he always goes before us and calls us to follow."

"Finally, we need a healthy dose of humility to remember that we remain people in need of God's grace and always prone to hold human standards as God's will. If we are insisting too vehemently on our own way, it might just be we are blinded by our human constructs and need to open ourselves to allow God to do a new thing (Isaiah 43:19). God is always doing new things, leading us forward by grace, when we let Christ lead us."

"If we are on the journey of sanctification, being formed and filled for Christ-like living in this world and the world to come, then embracing and expressing our radically related existence is central to growing in love," she said.