

**JONESBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY**

Mission:

Jonesboro United Methodist Church exists as a community of believers in Jesus Christ whose mission is **to know Jesus Christ and to make him known**. Therefore, being outreaching, we seek intentionally to evangelize and to instruct persons that all may know Christ and understand the Christian faith. We seek to incorporate persons into the Church, that being nurtured in their discipleship, they may serve Christ in making him known to all the world.

Objectives:

Knowing Christ and making Him known, in prayerful dependence upon the Holy Spirit, we desire:

1. To worship with reverence and vitality, witnessing to the saving power of Jesus Christ and rightly praising God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit while hearing and obeying His Word;
2. To seek those who are unchurched and to offer them Christ and Jonesboro United Methodist Church as a nurturing Church family which accurately presents the whole Church of Jesus Christ;
3. To be a nurturing community that educates her members and constituents in the Christian faith, teaching the Bible and doctrine of the Church as a life to be lived and experienced in relationship with the whole body of Christ;
4. To be missionary, communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in words and through acts of compassionate concern for the basic needs of all persons, giving an increasing attention to the unreached and little reached areas of the world;
5. To mobilize each member into witness and service commensurate with his/her spiritual gifts, talents, time, and concerns;
6. To be a supportive community whose members are aware of and caring for one another's needs, who are warmly welcoming of all whom God sends, and who are open to the participation, gifts and service offered to God by all persons regardless of race, gender, age, or condition;
7. To make disciples: persons whose practices of prayer, Bible reading, communion, worship, fasting, etc. bring an increasing experience of grace leading to holiness in all relationships; to a disciplined partnership with God in his work in the world; to a stewardship of time, talents, abilities, money, and possessions that His purposes be fulfilled; and to perfection in love;
8. To maintain a disciplined stewardship of properties, monies, and other resources, that their use and upkeep will serve the mission of the church.

This mission and these objectives are fulfilled within the covenant bonds of the United Methodist Church. As United Methodist Christians:

1. We affirm a belief in the Holy Trinity; in the centrality of Jesus Christ as Son, Savior, and Lord; in the essential unity of all Christians in the one, holy, apostolic, and catholic Church whose mission is to make disciples of all nations; and in the essential dignity of the human person as created by God yet now sinful and in need of divine redemption in Christ;
2. We submit to the spiritual authority of the Holy Bible, the Tradition of the Christian Faith, the Book of Discipline, and the episcopacy; and
3. We accept our responsibilities within the Methodist Connection.
4. Furthermore, while seeking to be firmly established in our theological and local heritage, we are open to new methods of fulfilling our mission and objectives without compromising the church's belief in or reverence for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.