

We would love to be your church home and we're glad you're interested in **First United Methodist Church of Lockport!** We'll do everything we can to help you be a part of our vision: ***"To share the good news of God's love by making disciples of Jesus Christ."*** Here are some questions you might have about joining:

**I'm not Methodist; can I still join your church?**

**Absolutely!** Believe it or not, many people that join us are from other faiths and other Christian denominations; Roman Catholics, Baptists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Congregationalist, etc. There are more similarities in most mainstream Christian denominations than differences, and we focus on those similarities. If you have been baptized in a Christian church, we recognize your baptism and will warmly welcome you. You'll find our Membership Orientation class helpful in understanding United Methodist beliefs as well as taking a faith step toward growing into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**I have not been baptized**

If you have not been baptized or you do not know if you were baptized, but would like to join our church, we'd love to help you take this important step. If you would like to be baptized but have hesitated because you didn't want to be baptized in front of the church with the babies, we completely understand. If you prefer, we can arrange for your baptism at a different time with a nurturing environment with family, friends & other church leaders and or members to be witnesses and who want to support you. If you believe and trust in Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior, we invite you to be part of a brief celebration of this outward and visible symbol of God's inward love for us. There are no classes necessary but a brief counseling session with the pastor is appropriate, and a brochure about "Baptism of Water and the Spirit," we would love to share with you. So please let us know if you are interested.

**I'd like to learn more about United Methodist beliefs...**

We have New Member Orientation classes for those who are seekers of a home church. We encourage all regular visitors and new members to take this class because it's informative and quite interesting. Please call and we'll be glad to share the upcoming orientation classes with you.

**Do I have to attend a class to join your church?**

The only pre-requisite for joining is your belief and trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior, and your willingness to support the church with your "prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service." But we also want all new members to attend the New Member class orientation, described above. We also encourage you to grow in your faith and in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures by getting involved in at least one of our several Christian education opportunities: Mid-week study group, adult Sunday schools, youth Sunday school, as well as finding a place of opportunity to serve. We are intentional to provide opportunities to help you grow in your relationship with Christ and we will do our best to help you to take the steps.

**What is expected of me when I become a Member?**

Primarily we would like you to commit to support our vision statement which is, "To share the good news of God's love by making disciples of Jesus Christ through nurturing, worshiping, learning, praying, caring, giving and service. This means we encourage you to:

- a) Worship every week (Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings).
- b) Participate regularly in Bible Study, Sunday school or other forms of Christian formation.
- c) Be involved in our church ministries, missions and service.
- d) Support our church ministries, through financial giving and support.

**How do I join your church?**

Please let me know or the church Lay Leader, Mr. Jim Shinn of your intention by calling the church office at (815) 838-1017 or personally approach me right after the worship service on Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings.

On behalf of the staff and the members of the **First United Methodist Church of Lockport**, I wholeheartedly **welcome you to our household of faith!** If you still have more questions, please do not hesitate to call me!

Yours in Fellowship,

*Pastor Joe*