

The United Methodist Church (UMC)

Video Presented by Charles Maynard

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” **John 13:34-35**

Mission Statement of the United Methodist Church -

Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

(A disciple is one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines.)

The founders of the United Methodist movement were brothers, John and Charles Wesley. The movement was called “Methodists” due to the method of their Christianity.

Three Simple Rules given to us by John Wesley:

1. Do No Harm
2. Do Good
3. Stay in Love with God

Marks of being United Methodist:

Love God - Personal Piety

Love Neighbor - Social Holiness

The United Methodist Church is part of the Holy World-Wide Church — the Body of Christ. The Apostles’ Creed is the statement of belief for the United Methodist Church.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy World-Wide Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Cokesbury Church

The name of our congregation, Cokesbury, comes from the beginnings of the Methodist movement in the United States. The first bishops elected to lead the new church were Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury. Thomas Coke was an English clergy who spent his life in missions. Part of his time was in the U.S. and part of his time was taking the message of Jesus to other parts of the world. Coke died on a voyage to India. Francis Asbury came to America in the late 1700s before the Revolutionary War. He was a circuit rider who took the Gospel to the frontier areas. In his ministry he traveled over 276,000 miles on foot, horseback, or carriage. He came through the Knoxville area a number of times. He lived to be an old man in a day when harsh conditions killed many. He died while traveling and preaching. Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury = Cokesbury, a congregation committed to taking the message of Jesus to all.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. John Wesley famously wrote his *Three Simple Rules*. Do you think these rules are enough for faithful Christian living? Why or why not?
2. Read **John 13:34-35** again. What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage? What ways do you think the church is following what Jesus commands?
3. Loving God and loving our neighbor are marks of being a member of the United Methodist Church. How do you think those two acts of love are separate from one another or are they working together?
4. Go back to The Apostles' Creed. Are there words/phrases that raise questions? Are there words/phrases you agree with? Share your questions and agreements as a group.
5. By loving God, we are called to love our neighbors. Who do you consider your neighbor? How do you show love to a neighbor? What is something you can do this week as an act of love?