

GATHE

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THE CALLER

January 2022

GLOBAL MIGRATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 DURING BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES 9 AM IN THE SANCTUARY AND ONLINE, 11 AM IN WESLEY HALL

On Sunday, January 9, we will join with congregations throughout our East Ohio Conference to participate in "Global Migration Sunday," raising our awareness to the experiences of some of our newest neighbors.

Throughout scripture and throughout the tradition of our United Methodist Church, we are called to welcome immigrants, migrants, refugees, and strangers as though we were welcoming Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew, we are reminded that Jesus began his life as a refugee, traveling from Bethlehem to Egypt to escape violence in his homeland (cf. Matthew 2.13-15). Paragraph 162.H of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* advocates for the rights of immigrants in our church and society:



We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families.

In the fall of 2021, our congregation partnered with Refugee Response, the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland, and refugee services of Catholic Charities in Cleveland to help welcome new neighbors to our region by donating essential items including toiletries. Thank you for your generous participation in that ministry!

To help us continue to be in ministry with our newest neighbors and to learn more about ways that we can welcome them, our guest speaker during both morning worship services on Sunday, January 9 will be Liv Randall, Development Specialist for US Together in Cleveland. US Together was founded in 2003 in response to the growing needs of refugees and immigrants in central Ohio and now serves communities statewide through offices in Columbus, Cleveland, and Toledo. As a mutual assistance agency, US Together was started by and still is run by former refugees.

To learn more about US Together, visit their website at <u>www.ustogether.us</u>.

Please join us in worship on January 9, and invite others who might be interested in this important and urgent work of Christian ministry.

BLESSING OF HOMES POST-EPIPHANY (JANUARY 6, 2022)

In some parts of the world, there is a Christian custom of inviting God's blessing on dwelling places, including both homes and workplaces, and upon all who live, work, or visit there. Along with prayers for God's blessing, the front or main entrance is marked with chalk as a sign and reminder that we have invited God's presence into our homes.



This tradition is rooted in the visit of the magi to the place where the Christ-child resided (Matthew 2.1-12), and so it is most appropriately practiced near or during the season after the Epiphany, on January 6.

If you would like to share in this brief and simple ritual of worship for your home, please contact **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101) with a day and time that would be convenient for you, beginning January 6, 2022.

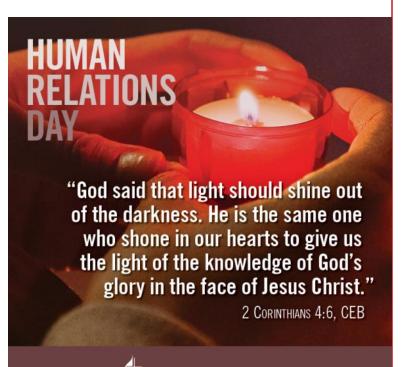
HUMAN RELATIONS DAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

On Human Relations Day, we recognize the connections we have with our neighbors. We partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together for the common good, with life-affirming ministry that shares God's love.

We know how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to resources, as a denomination, our gifts on Human Relations Day work together to empower faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. Thank you for partnering your spiritual and financial gifts to build up what the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called "the beloved community."

Please give generously by writing a check to this church and write "Human Relations Day offering" in the memo line or give online at <u>www.umcb.org/donate</u> using the "other" box and marking it "HR Day".

(adapted from <u>https://www.resourceumc.org/en/</u> <u>churchwide/umcgiving/special-sundays/human-</u> <u>relations-day-pastor-and-leader-kit</u>)



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CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

MEMBERS AT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Ann Benson (Western Reserve-Medina)

Jack Irey (Renaissance)

Janice Kavander

Mary Lou McKissock (Kemper House, Strongsville)

Pat Sarka (Wesleyan Village, Elyria)

Barbara Scoon (Generations)

Von & Marilyn Smith (Southwest Commons)

Ruth Vrana (Generations, Strongsville) Eva Williamson (Western Reserve-Medina)

Shirley Bedford (Independence Village)

Bruce Akins Janet Angus Molly Arthur Betty Atherton Barbara Beihl Heidi Blue Carol Bodle Barb Dawson Wilda Donegan Cleda Fletcher Molly Force Carol & Bruce Forster Carol Heskett Jan Heter Elenore Long Christine McMillin Betty Miller Rev. Cal Myers Donna O'Brien Mary Potts Donald Powers Lou Russell Russ Sanderson Jo Swanson Ron Teutsch Carol Thompson Kathleen Wargelin

MILITARY

J.D. Ferut (grandson of Gerry & Jo Boggs) Ryan Hopkins Bill Lambert (son-in-law of Corky Cline) Josh Lambert (grandson of Corky Cline) Ben Lebrun Zachary New (grandson of Bob & Jackie King)

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Debbie and Augie (parents of Stacey Antczak) Wanda Baulin (sister of Wilda Donegan) **Marc Bittinger** Hayes Daggy & Parents (great grandson of Condit Dibble) Susan Davidson (sister of Robert Haas) David Dawley (8/16/21, Nephew of Ron & Dorene Larkev) Amy Marie Dziak (daughter of Marlynda Dziak) Anthony Echols (grandson of Georgiann Baesel) Spencer Gehring Sylvie Isgro-Schicker Joan Mraz (friend of Nancy Schillace) **Jeremy** Piper Janice Pitzer (sister of Jean Brennieson) Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk)



PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or <u>nhowe@umcb.org</u> if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request.

You can also submit prayer requests on our website at <u>www.umcb.org/worshipresources</u> or by emailing the church office at <u>info@umcb.org</u>.

To receive Prayer Concerns by email, visit our website at <u>www.umcb.org</u> and subscribe on the front page (bottom of the right column).

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The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of giftgiving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We joined them this year, offering our gifts to support our community (specifically three of our mission partners - OhioGuidestone, Grindstone Elementary Emergency Fund, and Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. For each gift given, an ornament was placed on our tree in honor or memory of a loved one.

Ornaments were placed on our tree in memory of:

- * David Beckman by Pat Beckman & Family
- * Those who became saints during 2021 by Karen Caldwell
- * Gloria Wharton by the Choir
- * Ken Williams by the Choir
- * Roger Smith by the Choir
- Carol Hemker, Pat Reese, Linda Donahue, Barb Rochford, Carol Isgro, Lydia Proctor, Nick Wik, Dick Vale, Laurie Garvin, Karen Maslyk, Charlotte Harlamert, Carol & Maclyn Ball, Carol Geopfert, Boyd Warnsman, Mary Pendell, Mary Gay, Ruth Haber, Bruce Hardy, Harriet Adams, Nancy Gehring, Paul Swaddling, Harriet & Dan Lansell, Jim & Carolyn Miser, Dr. John Robinson, Dr. Warren Berryman, Dr. Margaret Scharf, and Dr. Warren Scharf by the Choir.
- ✤ Don Clarico by Margot Clarico
- * Nicole Cline Lambert by Corky Cline & Wayne Appleby
- ✤ Loved Ones by Barbara Evans
- * Al Wheaton, my friend and mentor, by Molly Force
- * Janet W. Harlamert by Paul Harlamert
- * Uncle Dick, Uncle Jim, and Grandma Waid by Megan & Nathan Howe
- * Bill Hunger, Elsie & Erwin Hunger, and Hazel & Millard Blaettnar by Mary Lou Hunger
- Marilyn Jelinek, Helen & Edward Jelinek, Frances & John Kubicek, Mary Vlach by Wendy Jelinek, Keli Jelinek, & Larry Jelinek
- * My Parents, Marge & Marion Wilson by Karen Jones
- * John L. Kappeler, Jr. by Carol Kappeler
- * Robert Leece and Andrew Ballas by Elaine Leece
- * Helen Mallarnee, Harold & Edna Turner, Walter & Georgia Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee
- * Gloria Wharton by Don & Maryann Obert
- * Don & Betsy Pierce by Bill & Bep Pierce
- My loving Husband, Kenny by Susan Pogue
- * Lydia Proctor with love by Margaret Proctor and her family
- * Steve, Beverly, & Alice Holland with love by Margaret Proctor

THE CALLER



Ornaments were placed on our tree in memory of:

- * Carol Hemker and Jan Harlamert by Margaret Proctor
- Dave and Parents & Grandparents by Barbara Robinson
- Donna & Bob Rowland, Virginia & Ray Greenough, and our Grandson, Philip Rowland by Dean & Lin Rowland
- * My Parents, Robert & JoAnne Hahn
- * Wm & Beryl Hamilton, Mary Ann Lundblad, Mike Romano, and Erna Kloos by Nancy Schillace
- * The Reljin Family and The Schuld Family by Joe & Rebecca Schuld
- * Russel Todd Simon, Joseph & Marie Simon, and Vic & Ruth Petras by Russ & Ruthann Simon
- * My Husband, Kenny Smith by Marilyn K. Smith
- * Lydia Proctor, Beloved Mother and Grandmother, by Carol Proctor Stepancik
- Bernard McGaughey, Ken Roads, Karen Friel, Tom Krukemeyer, Virginia Tekushan, John Schuetz, Jan Harlamert, Doris Balchick, Betty Halapy, and Joyce McGee by Judy & Chet Talarczyk

Ornaments were placed on our tree in honor of:

- * Amelia Caldwell, Those who teach to inspire, Karen, BW Choir Members by Karen Caldwell
- Loved Ones by Barbara Evans
- Megan & Nathan Howe by Mary & Jack Howe
- Our families By Megan & Nathan Howe
- Roy Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee
- David Proctor with love by Margaret Proctor and his family.
- Dr. Barbara MacGregor by Margaret Proctor
- Julie, Larry, Owen, & Josie Swartz by Barbara Robinson
- * Family & Friends and The UMCB Church Staff by Dean & Lin Rowland
- David Proctor, Beloved Father and Grandfather; all my Sisters & Brothers, my Daughters, Sons-in-law,
 & Step-Grandson, and all my Nieces & Nephews by Carol Proctor Stepancik
- Susan Pogue, Nancy Schillace, Joanne Mansfield, Joan & Yvonne Michalak, Gary & Nadia Talarczyk, Barb & Jim Szabo, and Joann Draves by Judy & Chet Talarczyk

		For Reflection and Conversation:
Sunday, January 2, 2021 Epiphany Sunday (White or Gold)	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18	In Epiphany, when the magi make their great journey to witness the Christ child, we witness Jesus drawing all creation to the divine life revealed through him, and we realize God's dream of a reconciled creation. What discipleship practices help you to grow a more respectful regard for difference?
		For Reflection and Conversation:
Sunday, January 9, 2021 Baptism of the Lord (White or Gold)	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 (UMH 761) Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	What impact does my baptism have on my daily life? What decisions do I make differently because I have been baptized? How is my life fulfilling my baptismal promises?
		For Reflection and Conversation:
Sunday, January 16, 2021 Second Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 (UMH 771) 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	The Holy Spirit enlivens each of us with gifts that nurture faith and serve the common good. Where do you feel most alive? What do you love to do? What things, tasks, or actions fill you with a sense of purpose? What are you doing when time seems to stand still? Questions like these help us discern the Spirit's movement in our lives.
		For Reflection and Conversation:
Sunday, January 23, 2021 Third Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 (UMH 750) 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	The "year of jubilee," referred to in today's Gospel, was a time set aside every fifty years to forgive all financial debts and to redistribute land among the people. Why do you think God planned a year of jubilee regularly, and what might that look like in our world today?
		For Reflection and Conversation:
Sunday, January 30, 2021 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794) 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	In Jesus' first sermon, he referred to two scriptural stories to illustrate God's love. Why did that so enrage the congregation that they wanted to kill him? Do some of Jesus' teachings still enrage us today? Or, if not rage, do we just ignore them?

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, January 2): Glorious God, each day provides opportunity to awaken to the radiance of your presence, and to welcome your blessing into my life. Help me to draw more closely to you, that I may manifest your love more deeply in the world. Amen.	Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, January 2): Holy Christ, thank you for sharing your life with me today. As darkness blankets the earth, be with all who suffer from sickness, hunger, or lack of shelter. Kindle in them the warmth of your presence, and surround them with your love. Amen.
Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, January 9): Loving God, we begin this new day in the sure knowledge that you have claimed us. In all that we do, keep us mindful of actions that are pleasing in your sight. In all that we say, make us attentive to the witness we give to the world. Amen.	Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, January 9): As evening comes and we end our labors, we thank you, Jesus, that you have been with us. If we have disregarded your fellowship, forgive us. Where we have strayed from your path, correct us. Let us rest in you. Amen.
Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, January 16): Enlivening God, each morning I am awakened by your goodness nudging the earth to life. I am filled with wonder. Your steadfast love surrounds me. How precious is your love! Manifest today through me the gifts of your Spirit, that I may rejoice in you. Amen.	Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, January 16): As evening falls and darkness closes in, do not forsake us, O God. Crown the sky with jewels of light that your salvation may illumine the earth. May we all find refuge in the shadow of your wings. Amen.
Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, January 23): Holy One, thank you for the gift of this new day. Help me to stay attentive to your creation and mindful of your teachings throughout it. Empower me to notice and to share the good news of your grace for all people. Amen.	Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, January 23): Holy One, thank you for the gift of this new night. Thank you for all the ways I noticed your glory and learned your teachings, beyond speech or words, in the course of the day. As I drift to sleep this night, draw me closer to you, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.
Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, January 30): God, you have given me the gift of another day; my I receive and live it in gratitude. Help me to be loving to others, to your beloved earth, and to myself. In Jesus' name, Amen. Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press	Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, January 30): Holy One, this day is drawing to a close. Be with me as I pause and ponder all the love I received today. Help me notice you in each moment. Give me peace, O God, as I give this day back to you. Amen.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP AS DISCIPLESHIP

Through the waters of our baptism, God calls each of us to be faithful disciples, to grow to maturity in faith, and to engage actively in the ministry of making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As we participate in this ministry together, servant leaders among us are called, equipped, and entrusted with the vital task of managing and deploying God's gifts through our congregation in the ongoing work of transforming our community and world.

The Church Council is one of those teams we entrust with this ministry of servant leadership among us. Specifically, the church council is responsible for setting goals and implementing and evaluating the overall ministry of the local congregation in fulfilling its mission and vision. The council functions as the administrative body of the charge conference, meets every other month, and consists of chairpersons from other committees as well as at-large members. The following are those servant leaders entrusted with this ministry in 2022:

Chairperson:	Margaret Proctor
Lay Leaders:	Terry Kurtz, Greg Rentsch
SPRC Chairperson:	Barbara Peterson
Finance Chairperson:	Carol Anne McCleery
Trustees Representative:	to be named by the Board of Trustees
Treasurer:	Cindy McCowen
Finance Secretary:	Maryann Herron
Lay Member of the	
Annual Conference:	Don Moody
UMW President:	Betsy Meikle
Discipleship Collaborative:	Rebecca Zeiter
Missions Committee:	Laura Rushton
Church and Society:	Wendy Jelinek
Stephen Ministry:	Orley Aten
Members at-large:	Chuck Dixon Bill Pierce Judy Warnsman



Thank you, congregation, for your generosity in supporting the Giving Tree again this year!

So many needy children and families throughout this area will have a better Christmas because of your thoughtfulness!



BAPTISM WORKSHOP SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 10 AM, YOUTH ROOM

Our upper elementary and youth students will explore the sacrament of Baptism on January 9 at 10 AM. Please keep our students in your prayers. We are asking parents of students to send pictures of their baptism with them to this workshop.



ECUMENICAL YOUTH GROUP JANUARY 23, 5-6:30 pm, Wesley Hall

Youth 4th-12th grade are invited to dribble on over to Ecumenical Youth Group on January 23 at 5PM. We'll explore what the Bible says about competition after we have a great time shooting hoops and playing games. Pizza for dinner!

> Questions? Contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



EYG will be doing a Lego Challenge in February and legos are great tools to have around for children's and youth ministry.

If you have any legos you'd like to donate, please bring them to Pastor Carrie's office.

(Images by TheresaMuth from <u>Pixabay.com</u>.)

Animate Bible Study Sunday Mornings Beginning January 16 10 am, Location TBD

If Pastor Carrie's sermon on the Bible got you wondering even more questions about Bible study and the life of faith, this class may interest you! Join us for this 7-week short-term study of the Bible: how it came to be, what's really in there, and how the Bible speaks to our souls. Pastor Carrie and Rev. Linda McCowen will lead the class Sundays at 10 AM (location TBD). Participant books are \$15.

To register, contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Beginning Tuesday, January 4, 2022 6:30 pm, via Zoom

We will be starting up a new session in January. It is a 13-week session filled with some reading, some questions, some laughter, and a few tears all in the comfort of your home. Come meet some new friends who share the same concerns and thoughts as you might have. We will talk about feelings, about doubts, and about problems getting back to a new normal way of life.

For more information and Zoom details, contact Mary Lynn Swartz at <u>marylynn482@gmail.com</u> or 440-409-5931.

GRO



READ & GROW BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Monday, January 10, 6:30-8 pm, Fellowship Hall

We will meet January 10 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall to discuss **Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker** by Jennifer Chiaverini.

If anyone has questions, please contact either **Betsy Meikle** at **440-243-5767** or **Janet Mallarnee** at **440-235-7331**.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

Thursday Night Bible Study will begin a new study. Ladies, come learn more about the Women of the New Testament. Books will be available Sunday morning in Pastor Carrie's study table. Elizabeth's life challenges us to care for others. Women like Herodias and Sapphira warn us against turning away from God toward bitterness and dishonesty. Visit with us to learn about these delightful women.

For more information and Zoom details, contact Mary Lynn Swartz at <u>marylynn482@gmail.com</u> or 440-409-5931.



(Image by Elle Stallings from <u>Pixabay.com</u>)

JANUARY LOOSE OFFERING BENEFITS UMCOR SAGER BROWN

Loose change put in the offering plates this month will benefit the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) mission station in Sager Brown. We've become keenly aware of the need to continue to support relief efforts over the past month. Sager Brown typically hosts thousands of volunteers each year that put together needed supplies for communities experiencing disasters. Sager Brown has been a vital part of our own congregation's mission activity. While they have not been able to host in the past year, they've continued their work with virtual mission trips. and are preparing now for the eventual arrival of in-person service again. Your loose change is appreciated!

You can also support this mission by either mailing in an offering, or donating electronically at <u>www.umcb.org/donate</u> using the "*other*" box and marking it "*loose change offering*".



ADOPT-A-Grindstone Staff Member

This month's "Love Your Neighbor" focus is appreciation of the staff at our partner school, Grindstone Elementary. You're invited to "adopt" a staff member by plucking a heart with a name off of the outreach board starting in January. Simply write a Valentine or Thank you note and place it in the box.

You are also welcome to include a small gift card if you choose. Ideas include: Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, 5 Below, local restaurants, bookstores, and more. (If you choose to do this, place in the finance office mail slot.)

There are 72 staff members, so we need your help in making sure each staff member is adopted! You are free to take more than one!

Cards are due back by **February 6**.

EQUAL EXCHANGE Sunday, January 2, 10-11 AM, by the Parlor

Need some coffee, hot cocoa, or tea for these cold winter days? How about some chocolate to make life a little sweeter? Stop by the Equal Exchange table on January 2 to see our yummy offerings.

Learn more about Equal Exchange at equalexchange.coop.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS..... OUR CREATION JUSTICE FAIR IS COMING SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022.

What is a Creation Justice Fair, you ask? It encompasses Climate, Social and Environmental Justice. We will have activities, speakers and table hosts to help us better understand some of the many facets of creation care and work towards reducing some of the injustices.

If you are interested in participating and would like to help us with some of the table top displays or the interactive mural, please contact **Barb Dawson** at **440- 885-1672** or **Wendy Jelinek** at **440- 826-9027**.



CHANGE THE WORLD FAIR SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 3:30-5:30 pm, Wesley Hall

AND MESSY CHURCH SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 4-6 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

We are happy to share that we will again be hosting a "Change the World Fair", in conjunction with B.W.'s MLK week events. Organizations, ministries, and other project leaders are invited to share how they are changing the world, and invite others to join them.

Messy Church will happen from 4-6 PM, as usual, but purposely overlapping to allow all ages to find ways that they came make a difference. Messy guests will explore all kinds of ways they can change the world as well.

The wonderful overlap means that all are invited to take a dinner to go as they head out to transform the world!

Questions or want to volunteer? Contact **Pastor Carrie** at <u>cantczak@umcb.org</u> or 440-234-3525 x105.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

LEAVE DONATIONS IN THE CUPBOARD BETWEEN THE NARTHEX AND THE LIBRARY

Please place donations of non-perishable food in the cupboard between the Sanctuary and the library anytime you are in the building. If you prefer, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office or online at <u>www.umcb.org/donate</u>. Please note *"food pantry"* on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.

The Caller The United Methodist Church of Berea 170 Seminary Street Berea, OH 44017 www.umcb.org NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 157 BEREA, OHIO



DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

NOTE: If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office (440-234-3525 or <u>info@umcb.org</u>) to remove your name from the mailing list.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

