



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Our Mission

To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.

Our Vision

Change lives, ours and others'.

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Through Cokesbury Windows

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Healing Balm of Kindness

We have different backgrounds, different personalities, different experiences, different needs, different tasks, and are in different stages of life. That's why it was so amazing, when we looked at the same pictures and thought of such different things from them, when we did the activity with Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne on Sunday, May 5.

When we were asked to name the values that were most important for us in our continued conversations with Central UMC, a lot of great values were shared: respect, open-mindedness, trust, courage, patience, flexibility, honesty, transparency, acceptance, and love. I agreed on all of them. But one value that stood out to me that afternoon was kindness, which Nancy Cottingham named. Yes, kindness... Even when we are in a conflicted situation, even when we are upset, even when we have all the reasons to be mad at one another, if we can still be kind to one another, it would help us resolve the situation much better and much quicker.

After that, I read a very moving message during my morning devotion. As I have told you before, I use some old devotionals for my morning prayer time. That message was for April 6 of this year in *The Upper Room* with the title, "A Healing Balm". It was written by Pamela Rosales from Oregon. I am quoting it below. Kindness can save somebody from life's pain and give her hope.

In-Yong

A Healing Balm

By Pamela Rosales

My world shattered when I read an anonymous letter exposing my husband's affair. Afterward, we lived apart for a time, and I began attending a church in my new location. The church provided one-on-one counseling, and my counselor encouraged me to join a women's Bible study. The leader invited me to an upcoming retreat and told me about a women's prayer group that prays for individuals in need. Everywhere I turned I found welcoming, loving people. Most did not know of my situation, but their care and acceptance was a balm to my broken heart and decimated self-esteem.

Later, my husband began attending church with me. The sincere welcoming and forgiving behavior of those who knew our situation helped him on his journey to understand what being a forgiven follower of Jesus really means.

Through it all, I realized how important it is for each of us to be warm and friendly to every person

we encounter. We cannot know the pain and sorrow that others are dealing with, but in this broken world almost everyone is hurting in some way. That pain may bring someone to church for the first time. But whether a new or long-time attender, each desperately needs the kindness that represents the grace and healing Christ offers.



– Tammy Gilmore gave a gift to the Honorarium Fund in honor of **Sue Keene**.

Joint Worship Service

Cokesbury and Central will have a joint worship service at Cokesbury on **Sunday, June 2 at 10:45 a.m.** Please bring a covered dish to share with others. As we eat lunch in the Fellowship Hall, Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne will lead the two congregations with a wonderful sharing time together. The program will end by 1:30 p.m. Let us show Cokesbury's best to our precious guests!

GO Team Meeting

We are continuing our conversations about the possible merger with Central. Now with the consultant's help, we will explore all options. In order for us to have transparency, GO Team meetings will be open to any member of the congregation. Please note the following meeting date: **Monday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m.** Please come and join us and take this opportunity to be involved. By the way, this does not take the place of the discussion sessions that will be scheduled in the near future.



Music at Cokesbury
Thursday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Overdue Bluegrass Band
In the Fellowship Hall

By Kay Dumas

Join us and enjoy the music of the Overdue Bluegrass Band. Come early and enjoy a hot dog supper prepared by our United Methodist Men for only \$4. Donations accepted, refreshments served.