



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Early Edition

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Healthy Growth & Emerging Priorities

*by Rev. James Parks,
Upper Midwest Conference Superintendent*

We recently had a wonderful Annual Conference as pastors and lay members from across the Upper Midwest Conference gathered in Sioux City, Iowa for fellowship, encouragement, worship, and growth.

During the conference, I shared several conference statistics and how they compare to the previous year:

Membership – 21,337 (+1.5%)

Average Worship Attendance – 10,628 (+11%)

Baptisms in 2025 – 442 (+3%)

Professions of Faith – 531 (+11%)

(Continued on the next page....)

It is encouraging to see growth in each of these areas because these numbers represent people being reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We must continue inviting people, making disciples, and going into the world with the love and grace of Jesus.

At Annual Conference, we also adopted three priorities that will help guide our shared ministry together:

1. Raising the next generation of leaders
2. Developing Wesleyan leaders
3. Cultivating a culture of multiplication in every congregation

These priorities will help shape how the conference aligns its resources and ministry efforts in the years ahead.

We must continue investing in the next generation of leaders. God has placed many young people in our churches, and we need to encourage them to allow the Holy Spirit to shape and equip them for service in the body of Christ.

We also want to reengage our Wesleyan roots. As we lean into the grace, holiness, and transforming power of God, we can lead with the mind of Christ and faithfully carry the gospel into our communities.

As we pursue these priorities and reach more people for Christ, we pray that God will continue forming us into a multiplying movement of disciples who make disciples.

I encourage you to share with your congregation how you saw God working through Annual Conference and invite them to join us next year.

Please also mark your calendars for June 10–12, 2027, as we gather at Aldersgate Church in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Our schedule will conclude on Saturday, which will be a change from previous years. (These plans remain tentative pending the election and assignment of bishops at General Conference.)



God Bless America! America, Bless God!

Rev. Dr. Christina Sung, Conference Prayer Team Leader

As America celebrates 250 years of
Independence, let us pray for our Nation.

Almighty God, we praise and worship You. Thank You for the Cross and the empty Tomb, which reveal Your forgiveness, grace, love, and power.

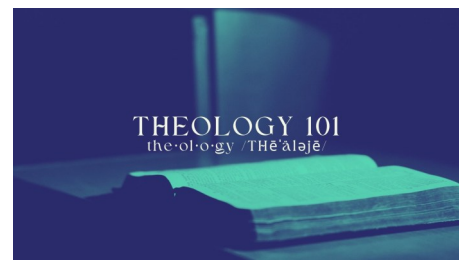
Merciful God, forgive us where we have fallen short; we have committed iniquity and rebelled. Please, Father, heal our divisions and strengthen our Nation so that we may be faithful to You.

As America celebrates 250 years of Independence, we thank You for all You have done; Your guidance, protection, and blessings through triumphs and trials. Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of living in this country where we have freedom to worship You openly. May we never take this privilege for granted, but rather have a deeper love for You.

Lord, protect our Presidents and all leaders, and grant them Your wisdom, courage, and humility in the areas of government, family, religion, education, media, entertainment, security, and business. Help America, Lord, to walk in integrity, compassion, and reverence for You alone as the light to the world as we prepare for Your coming.

Father, You alone are our hope and our future. Wake us up, Lord! Blow, blow, Holy Spirit, blow, from the four corners as we entrust America into Your hands for the next great 250 years. "Show us Your glory, Lord, and America will prevail for Your glory. Amen!"

(Prayer offered at the 2026 Annual Conference by Rev. Dr. Christina Sung, the Conference prayer team leader.)



The Wesleyan Understanding of Salvation, Part 6: Assurance

By Rev. Dr. Travis Stevick • Pastor, Grace Methodist Church, Marcus, IA
[YouTube.com/tstevick1](https://www.youtube.com/tstevick1) • travisstevick.substack.com

At some point during their discipleship journey, nearly everyone will wonder about whether they are really saved, whether they have given their lives to Christ, and how they would know one way or the other. If it is true that we are not saved by anything that we have done but because we believe in Christ and have put our trust in him, how can we know for sure that we have done this? After all, it would be a tragedy if we think we have come to believe in Jesus only to find, after it is too late, that our faith was not genuine and we will not be saved.

The first generations of reformers usually taught some form of the idea that, if you really have saving faith, you will know it. The problem is that most people have doubts from time to time that their faith is all that it should be. Does that uncertainty mean that we are not saved in that moment? It can be a real, practical difficulty. How can we have assurance of our salvation?

John Wesley took this question extremely seriously and gave a balanced and robust answer, perhaps most clearly in his sermon "The Witness of the Spirit, Discourse 1." The sermon seeks to unpack what is meant in Romans 8:16, when Paul says, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God." He unpacks the verse further in two other sermons, but the nerve of the whole line of thought is in this one. Essentially, Wesley says that these two witnesses are two ways we can evaluate whether we are the children of God. One of them, the witness of the Holy Spirit, is the kind of thing where we hear God assure us, in our hearts, that we belong to him. How do we know that we love God and our neighbor? Wesley suggests that the answer to that question is more or less similar to the question,

“How do you know that you are alive?” The answer is that there is no one specific thing that we can point to, but that we know it deep in our bones to be true. This, at its core, is what the witness of the Holy Spirit is like. We may not be able to point to specific pieces of evidence that we trust in Jesus but we know, deep in our bones, that we do.

So far, this is much like what other Protestant leaders have taught. Wesley goes further, though, and says that “the witness of our own spirit” is something like the witness of a clear conscience. It might also be seen as being the evidence of the transformation of one’s life. In my own life, I was not raised as a Christian or in the church so I am very much aware of what my life was like before Jesus. Even if nobody else I meet knew me back then, I can point to the change in my heart as evidence that this faith that I have is not merely an illusion. After all, it is a faith and trust that has actually impacted my life.

Someone might respond that Wesley’s teaching on the witness of our own spirit is really nothing more than teaching that we are saved by our works, since that is the tangible evidence we can point to. However, he is clear that neither witness by itself is sufficient for us to rely upon because each, on its own, could be interpreted incorrectly. I imagine that most folks have met someone who claims faith but whose life shows no evidence of transformation. If we think we have the witness of the Holy Spirit, but our lives show no change, it is quite possible that we have *imagined* that witness and that it is not genuine.



In the same way, someone may have all kinds of works to point to that give evidence that they are a disciple. And yet, if that is all they have, they may be caught up in an attempt to be saved because of what they have done. If they have only *this* witness, they will not be able to trust in their salvation, but will always be frantically pursuing *more* evidence that they belong to Jesus.

It is because of this that Wesley teaches the need for *both* witnesses. If you believe the Holy Spirit is telling you that you are saved but your life is not changed, you cannot trust it. If you believe your actions show that you are saved but you do not feel assured by the Holy Spirit, you should not rest without it. However, if you have *both* witnesses in your life, Wesley believes that this should be sufficient to assure you of your salvation.

This is important because Wesley held these two understandings of “salvation” together better than some have. There is no way to lose our salvation in the second sense because we only fully *have* it when there is no longer any opportunity to lose it. However, Wesley would say that if we turn from Jesus devote ourselves to sin, it would be irresponsible to say that we are still saved.

That all being said, there is another question that is closely related to all of this and that is, “Is it possible for someone to lose their salvation?” At a 30,000 foot point of view the simple answer, from a Wesleyan perspective, is “yes.” However, that needs to be unpacked.

There are moments, such as in his sermon, “The Great Privilege of Those That Are Born of God,” where Wesley treats our salvation as very brittle indeed, sending the message that, the moment we give way to outward sin, we are not saved. There are other places, though, where Wesley has a more resilient view. A crucial, but often overlooked, distinction needs to be kept in mind.

In the Bible, especially the New Testament, the word “salvation” is used in two distinct, but related senses. One of them is to describe the idea of receiving justification, “being forgiven” in the here and now. There is a sense in which we can say that we *are* saved. However, there is another sense in which “salvation” only happens at the end, at the final judgment. There are some books in the New Testament that tend to emphasize one or the other. Paul, for example, tends to focus on the former and the book of Hebrews tends to focus on the latter.

This is important because Wesley held these two understandings of “salvation” together better than some have. There is no way to lose our salvation in the second sense because we only fully *have it when there is no longer any opportunity to lose it. However, Wesley would say that if we turn from Jesus devote ourselves to sin, it would be irresponsible to say that we are still saved.*

What does this mean for the assurance of our salvation? It all depends on what kind of assurance that we want. If we want assurance that we are saved today, while we are following Christ and having our lives transformed, we can certainly have that, with the two witnesses we have already talked about.

However, if what we want is an assurance that we *will* be saved, no matter what the future brings, even if that future means that we have forsaken Christ and devoted ourselves to sin, then Wesley would almost certainly say that there is no such assurance. The only assurance of salvation we can possibly have is one that flows from, and is dependent on, our remaining in Christ. To say anything else would be to say that we can be assured of our salvation while we pursue life *outside* of Christ, which is clearly false.

The real assurance that we have is that, if we remain in Christ, we will certainly be saved. It is like Jesus says in John 15. We have our life in Christ and, apart from him, we can do nothing.



Upper Midwest Conference... Together, We Did It!!!

by Normal Morrison,

Upper Midwest Conference Mission Team Leader

If you know the 'why', you'll figure out the 'how'.

Thank you, Upper Midwest, for figuring out the 'how!'

To commemorate our third birthday as a conference... our goal - \$37,500... 3 wells... Was this goal too big for our first conference-wide mission project?

Will churches come together to meet the clean water need in Limpopo Province, South Africa, through Blessman International?

God obviously had a bigger call, and we answered!

On June 20, the total brought tears of joy to many as it was announced at Annual Conference... \$168,911.58... enough for more than 13 wells!

More money has already come in, and the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2026. If your church wants to participate, it's not too late!

Well done, good and faithful servants!

Mission Trip

Last November, 15 lay and clergy from our conference were privileged to serve the children and teens in so many ways on a mission trip to Blessman International. You now have the opportunity to do the same November 12-24! Go to www.blessmaninternational.org for information and to sign up. You might even see one of our wells being dug!

Your Church Mission Contact Person Needed

The Missions Team needs your help to connect our local churches for information and support with missions. Please send the name and information (church, email address, phone number, and district) for your church's Missions contact person to missions@uppermidwestgmc.org.

This information will not be published publicly but will only be used to connect, most often through email. The emails will be sent in small groups by district, so those passionate about missions can connect with those closest to them. We want every church to have up-to-date information, especially for special projects like the Blessman Wells Project that your church might want to support.

If you don't yet have a Missions Committee or Team, who in your congregation is passionate about missions? Ask them if they will take on this role to learn more.

MISSIONS RESOURCES

Go to www.blessmaninternational.org for information and to sign up for the upcoming Mission Trip to South Africa.

Find our Facebook Group- [Upper Midwest GMC - Missions](https://www.facebook.com/UpperMidwestGMC-Missions) and ask to join

Share this short video about the need for wells: <https://youtu.be/EgeEq8C-5b0>

Donate as a congregation or individual for the Blessman Wells Project.

To give online: Visit our [Online Giving page](#) and designate it for the South Africa Partnership Fund;

add a memo that says "Well."

Missions Resources:, cont.

For mailed donations, note "South Africa Partnership Fund – Well" on your giving form or check.

Mail checks to Upper Midwest Conference, PO Box 113, Enon, OH 45323.

Contact us at missions@uppermidwestgmc.org for questions.

UPPER MIDWEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Memory: Rev. Dr. Randall Taber

The Upper Midwest Conference shares our prayers and sympathies with the family of Rev. Dr. Randall Tabor, who passed away last year, but was omitted during our time of remembrance at Annual Conference.

Obituary



Randall Keith Taber, age 72, was born in December 1952 the eldest son of Delbert and Marlene Taber, and grew up on the family farm with younger brothers Tim and Terry. He spent his first 17 years in Eagle Bend, MN participating in track and football and high school activities. He loved his friends from his youth and many of those friendships stayed with him for the entirety of his life. He enjoyed organizing yearly reunions with his schoolmates from Eagle Bend, and occasionally attended reunions at the University of MN Morris where he continued after graduation. It was during his college years that he felt called to the ministry. He was very proud of the completion of his degree in 3 years to save money and more quickly begin his studies at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN. It was there that he met his love and partner in life Kristine Hassel. They had an instant connection and were married in August 1975. In 1980 they welcomed their first daughter Joy, 1982 their second daughter Hope, and in 1989 their first son Christian. Randy completed his doctorate in psychology in 1984 and he was very proud of that accomplishment. He was a young pastor for Bertha/Hewitt/Wrightstown 2 years, Asbury youth pastor 1 year, Deer River/Big Falls 10 years, Staples 10 years, Robbinsdale 28 years until his reunion with the Lord. Throughout the years he would drive back to Eagle Bend almost weekly to continue farming while preaching God's Word as well as spend time with family that he treasured. In 1987 he began serving as a chaplain for the 148th Fighter Wing Squadron in Duluth, MN and did so for 20 years which he loved, retiring as Lt Col. After retirement from the military, he enjoyed activities with the Osseo/Maple Grove Legion Riders and did yearly Blessing of the Bikes at Olivet Church Robbinsdale.

Randy was a unique man with lifelong interests such as tractors, cars, motorcycles, and the military. Loved America themed hats and shirts, finding a good deal, and spending time with family and friends reminiscing. Most of all he treasured his Lord, family, and country.

We all celebrate his new heavenly body though he will be greatly missed. He was an amazing and loving husband, dad, grandpa, and friend. Few grandpas could ever compete with the example and quality of grandpa that he was. He was a loyal and passionate follower of Christ and Biblical truths. He loved conversing with all he came into contact with and enjoyed spreading God's love.

Randy passed peacefully surrounded by his wife and 3 children Friday, September 19th. He is now with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we mourn for ourselves but rejoice for him. He now joins the loving company of his father Delbert, mother Marlene, son Laine, grandparents, cousins, and friends.

He leaves behind his loving wife Kris; children Joy, Hope, Christian; sons-in-laws Ryan and Dan; grandchildren Gabe, Mike, Delainey, Elsie, Teddy; pets Buddy, Gracie, & Bane.

"Well done thou good and faithful servant"

Private Interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery

Memorial Service Friday 10/3 at 11:00am with visitation 1 hour prior and luncheon to follow at Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Chapel 5125 West Broadway Crystal, MN 55429

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Reverend Doctor Randall Keith Taber please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

In Memory: Rev. Dr. Randall Taber, cont.

Presiding Elder, Rev. Bruce Kronen shared this: "Got Ya"

This past September a dearly loved brother in Christ Randy Taber passed into Glory going home to be with the Lord. As the newly formed Global Methodist Church celebrates all that the Lord is doing in our midst. I am mindful of all God has done through beloved servants like Randy Taber who contributed so much, that most will never know. Thanks be to God that all is remembered by the Lord. Leading one of the first churches to disaffiliate from the UMC in the Minnesota conference, Randy lovingly held to truth and the Lord's will for himself, his church and his family. A long time leader in the conference Randy was an important part of my own ministry, helping other clergy like me, navigate a progressive conference that could often be trying even threatening.

I am always appreciative of Randy as a colleague and friend and will always continue to be so. For years meeting monthly was always a delight in our clergy group because Randy made it delightful. I always loved his dry wit that would sneak up on you with a sentence that made you stop and think, and then see that slim grin grow across Randy's face to say, got ya.

His concern and comfort he extended when my wife of 33 years passed so un-expectantly was deeply appreciated. And when remarrying again not long ago I knew who to ask to do the wedding. Randy, Who was willing without hesitation.

He will be missed so very much. I am thankful for the care and encouragement Randy, now fully in Christ, will be giving from above as a witness. While we continue to run our own race. Barring the same slim grin on his face saying "got ya."

Blessings as you serve from above Randy! We got ya

2026 Annual Conference Recap



Offering Update – \$168,911.58

We are thrilled to share that as a conference, we raised over \$160,000 to help dig wells in South Africa. This will not only complete our goal of 3 wells...it will allow us to dig 13 wells to help people have access to clean water. Thank you to all who gave to this important mission.

2026 Annual Conference Recap, cont.



Annual Conference Survey

We value your feedback and want your help to enhance future gatherings. Please take a minute to help us grow and to be able to serve you better by filling out the 2026 Annual Conference Survey. Go to: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecx47hVZhBLqQtBF6j73RIGLgn1uGDSQvTVsYQw2KIMEKBxQ/viewform>



Annual Conference Worship Services

Did you miss one of our Annual Conference worship moments? Did you want to share a meaningful moment from the conference with someone in your local church? Did you want to relive, review, and be re-energized by a particular song or preaching? Visit our YouTube page to watch & worship with these services again.

[June 2026 | The Path Before Us: A Spirit-Filled Life - YouTube](#)



Front Row (L-R): Luann Benge (Board of Ministry Chair), Erin Wetzels, Stephenie Henson, Tracy Winters, Christy Ehrle
Back Row (L-R): James Parks (Conference Superintendent), Ross Reinholder (Vice Conference Superintendent), Sedar Shako, David Wittman Jacob Yochum, Jen Zoller, Mike Jones, Bishop Mark Webb

2026 Ordination

A highlight of every time we gather for conference is the opportunity to affirm & celebrate those being ordained to pastoral ministry. This year we celebrate the ordination of three Elders and six Deacons. As you see these friends & fellow pastors, continue to express your excitement for how God's working in their lives and help support them in this new time of ministry.



Leadership Encounter – A Blessed Success

Eighty-one pastors and lay delegates participated in the Leadership Encounter preceding our Annual Conference in Sioux City.

The originating purpose of the event was for pastors and laity in our large geographic area to begin to know each other

at deeper levels so that we might truly become a Conference of Methodists. From that important intention, two other purposes emerged: to worship and experience the presence of God together and begin building a ministry expertise collective (aka find out in our Conference who is good at what).

It was a wonderful time together, and you are encouraged to participate if there is a later iteration of similar purpose.

Profound thanks and kudos to Pastor Scott Squires and the Wesley Global Methodist Church, who hosted us and provided one of the richest blessings of the Conference in the "Clergy/Spouse Appreciation Banquet."

Certified Lay Ministry



Certified Lay Ministry Information

The Upper Midwest Conference's Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) program has open enrollment to join at any time during the year. This program is for professing members (for at least 2 years) who are in lay leadership within their church, leading a church as a lay person, or are called to further their calling to join in leadership. You will learn more about your calling, understanding the church, Bible study, mission, evangelism, and more! Each class is 1 day and may include pre-work before or homework after the conclusion of the class. Upon completion of the coursework and other requirements, you would be commissioned as a CLM at the next Upper Midwest Annual Conference.

You'll find more information about the program and the registration form here: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/certified-lay-ministry>

If you have any further questions, please reach out to the CLM Committee here: certifiedlayministry@uppermidwestgmc.org

Disaster Response Information: Venezuela & Louisiana

On June 24, 2026, two major earthquakes occurring less than a minute apart struck Morón, located on Venezuela's Caribbean coast west of Caracas, with magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5. Widespread damage has occurred, and the death toll is over 1500.

Disaster Response UPDATE

Venezuela

Rev. Warren Lathem, Conference Superintendent of the Venezuela Conference, has asked those wishing to support the earthquake response effort to send donations to Venezuela Now (www.venezuelanow.org) or via [Zelle](#) to CameronVNI@gmail.com.

We appreciate your support, prayers, and commitment to helping those affected by disasters. Our passion is sharing the love of God during times of crisis. God opens a door for volunteers and churches to share the light of Christ, hope, and healing with many who are lost, forgotten, isolated, or separated from the church – offering a future in the midst of chaos and uncertainty. We look forward to serving with you in the field!!

Disaster Response Information, cont.:

Louisiana

Faith Responders has partnered with the Trinity Conference of the GMC to provide relief, support, and long-term recovery to the survivors of Avoyelles Parish in Louisiana. Volunteers are needed to help with muck-outs and removal of debris. Housing is provided at David Haas Methodist Church in Bunkie, LA, and work orders are ready for teams.

Supplies of box fans, dehumidifiers, mops, and other items are needed. For more information, email Faith Responders at info@thefaithresponders.org or call 850-363-6799. Thank you!

Faith Responders has prepared the way and are asking for traveling teams of volunteers to respond to the floods in Louisiana. Just click this link to their website: www.thefaithresponders.org to check dates and make arrangements for your team and sign up to make a difference in the lives of those affected.

New Appointments, Assignments, and Moving to Senior Status



CONGRATULATIONS!

New Appointments, Assignments,
and Moving to Senior Status

Bruce Smith

*Appointed to Alburnett, IA and
Prairie Chapel in Marion, IA*

Arlyn Coalter

Moving to Senior Status



CONGRATULATIONS!

New Appointments, Assignments,
and Moving to Senior Status

Brad Perry

Assigned to Holdrege, NE

Joel Rathbun

Appointed to Ogallala & Oshkosh, NE



General Conference Website

As we look ahead to the 2026 Global Methodist Church General Conference, you won't want to miss the latest updates and resources being shared!

The **Beauty of Holiness 2026** website is your go-to destination for news, event details, registration information, and insights to help you prepare for this historic gathering of Methodists from around the world.

Visit www.beautyofholiness2026.org to stay informed, get inspired, and join the movement of spreading scriptural holiness across the globe.

Prayer for General Conference 2026

Prayer has always been at the center of how God moves among His people. Scripture reminds us, "If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face... then I will hear from heaven" (2 Chronicles 7:14). We believe that as we humble ourselves together in prayer, God will guide, renew, and strengthen His Church. We also see in the early church that before important decisions were made, believers gathered in prayer. "They all were continually united in prayer" (Acts 1:14). This is our hope as well — that long before General Conference begins, we will already be united in spirit, seeking God's heart together.

During this season of prayer, you will join with a multitude of brothers and sisters across the Global Methodist Church, praying each day together. Though we may be separated by distance, we are united in purpose. And we hold onto this promise: "The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect" (James 5:16). We have collected 40 prayers from people all across the world who sense God calling them to be part of this movement of the Holy Spirit through the Global Methodist Church. It is our hope that you will not only use this **40 Days of Prayer Guide** personally, but also share it with friends, family, and fellow believers. As we prepare to gather for General Conference 2026, we pray that our hearts will already be united — covered in prayer before we ever arrive.

May these 40 days draw you closer to the Lord. May they unite us as one body. And may the Holy Spirit move in powerful ways as we prepare for what God has ahead.

40 Days of Prayer Begins Wednesday, July 15th!

Go to the following to access the 40 day Prayer guide:

[GenCon2026-40Day+Prayer+Guide-EN-FORMATTED.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/4829cd2f/files/uploaded/GenCon2026-40Day+Prayer+Guide+EN-FORMATTED.pdf) go to:

<https://irp.cdn-website.com/4829cd2f/files/uploaded/GenCon2026-40Day+Prayer+Guide+EN-FORMATTED.pdf>



Sign up for our Upper Midwest Newsletter
<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/newsletter>

****Note:** The Deadline for Newsletter Articles/Info is the 20th of the Month.



Global Methodist Church Across the Globe Newsletter
<https://www.globalmethodist.org/connect>

Don't miss out on the latest updates, inspiration, and more—delivered straight to your inbox. Sign up now!



August 30–September 5, 2026
 General Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa
November 12–24, 2026

Conference Mission Trip to South Africa
 View the full Upper Midwest Conference Calendar.

<https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/calendar?view=list>

We want to celebrate the great things happening throughout our conference. Whether it's happening in Districts, Conference-Wide, or in Local Churches - share how the Holy Spirit is moving in ministry around you. Fill out this simple form, and we'll highlight these stories on social media for our Upper Midwest Conference. Go to the following for the form to fill out: <https://form.jotform.com/242467999461171>



Upper Midwest Prayer Opportunities



The Upper Midwest Conference Daily Noon Prayer

Can you imagine what would happen in
the spiritual realm if we prayed the same
prayer together at noon daily?

Join Us and Let's Find Out!

<https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/prayer>

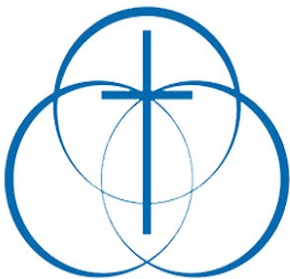


Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

Please click the button below and let us
know that you would like to join and we
will send you the link.

**Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday
at 7:00 PM (CST)**

prayer@uppermidwestgmc.org



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ
who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.

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