



Be Renewed

"...but those who hope in the Lord will RENEW their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

You and I have closed a most difficult year 2020. Now is the time to approach planning for our ministry plans for 2021 in a new way...in a renewed way. Where this pandemic has caused many problems and challenges for us, it has also presented new exciting opportunities to Grow and Go. That is, our mission is to GROW as disciples as we GO make new Disciples of Jesus Christ.

In order to achieve this renewed vision for Acworth UMC in 2021, it will require each of us to examine how God is calling us to greater levels of faith, commitment, and generosity even in midst of uncertainty.

To better focus on our ministry plans for 2021 and how we will resource those plans, I want to introduce to you a generosity emphasis entitled, "Be Renewed". My desire is that 100% of the people who call Acworth UMC their church would respond to Be Renewed.

The vision and ministry of Acworth UMC is needed more than ever and we need to come together as a church and Be Renewed to make that vision a continued reality.

Through this Be Renewed emphasis, you are invited to...

- ask and yield to God's will in your life
- be open to how God will challenge you during this time
- consider honestly the condition of your heart
- have open conversation in your household and pray about your generosity
- be present in worship on February 7, 2021 ready to respond

Over the next four weeks let's contemplate the powerful Bible verses included, exhorting us to trust in the Lord and to honor the Lord with the resources He has provided us. I'm excited to see what God will do in each of us individually and as a body collectively if we will all be open to Be Renewed! Thank you, in advance, for being part of this united movement for Him.

Yours in Christ,
James

Be Renewed

...AND TAKE HEART

Being renewed is a choice. Sometimes when we're dealing with the chaos, fatigue, and frustration it is easy for those feelings to take root inside of us. But 2 Corinthians 4:16 gives us hope: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. You have a choice to be renewed and take heart!" We have a choice to take heart in our vision as a church and how God is calling each of us to give generously to that make that vision a reality.

...IN YOUR THINKING

We cannot allow the challenges that we face right now to corrupt our thinking. Ephesians 4:23 tells us to, "allow the Holy Spirit to renew our thoughts and our attitudes." We can throw off the negative thoughts and be renewed in our thinking. As we each do this together it renews our thinking about our giving and generosity.

...WITH A STEADFAST SPIRIT

Psalms 51 talks about being, "renewed with a steadfast spirit". Being steadfast means to be unwavering. The idea of renewal is to be reinvigorated. These challenging times can put strain on our relationship with God and our resolve to be faithful in many of the spiritual disciplines, especially giving. We need to be renewed with a steadfast spirit in our relationship with God, His Church, and our giving.

...IN YOUR STRENGTH BY HOPE

Isaiah 40:31 says this: "...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." When we hope in the Lord our strength is renewed. Be Renewed is about each of us listening to the Lord and allowing our hope in Him to give us the strength to be faithful in every aspect of our walk with Him...including our giving. That may mean giving for the first time or taking a step of faith and grow in your giving. But if we will all respond to Be Renewed, just imagine the vision we can bring to reality through Acworth United Methodist Church.

Will you Be Renewed?

Will You...

Be Renewed and take **HEART**?

Be Renewed in your **THINKING**?

Be Renewed with a **STEADFAST SPIRIT**?

Be Renewed in your **STRENGTH** powered by **HOPE**?

Be Renewed isn't about giving more for the sake of giving more or to just start giving. It is about God changing you... speaking to you...and growing you spiritually to give and be generous in the way He wants for you.

Be Renewed isn't a transactional decision...it is a transformational response. God doesn't need our money, nor does He want us to give out of obligation.

God brings money into our lives so we can give and be a part of the life changing ministry He wants to do here at Acworth UMC.

We are blessed to be a part
of a life-changing blessing to others.

Join us for worship each week of Be Renewed as we learn at an even deeper level how to be renewed. Start praying now each and every day of how God will ultimately want you to respond to Be Renewed on February 7, 2021.

