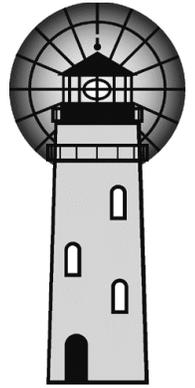


The Beacon

A GUIDING LIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE
BLADEN & BLUE HILL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES



FEBRUARY – MARCH 2019

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Pastor's Page

The first one arrived before Christmas. Others appeared at December's end. The flood began soon after New Year's and continues until today. I imagine they will persist for many weeks, peaking sometime in April offering last minute opportunities to respond to their seasonal enticements. It is not the annual migration of geese or cranes which sail across the winter skies. Nor is it beckoning of Caribbean cruises and warm sunny golf courses in Arizona.

Many of you know of what I speak. You know about those deceptively enticing parcels that mysteriously arrive unbeckoned, but not unwelcomed. They lure you into the annual fantasy and glorious visions of what we all

hope will be a garden of Eden, a floral paradise of brilliant creeping phlox, flaming ornamental grasses, and bushes that will attract butterflies by the hundreds. Or perhaps rich sweet June strawberries, juicy tomatoes, big white, yellow and red onions. Maybe grass seed that will triumph over the creeping charley, conquer the pervasive dandelions, destroy the insidious crabgrass and create a lush carpet of green that people will drive for miles to look upon.

They are "The Garden Catalogs".

Their sole purpose is to once again lure us into spending our money on items that will perish with the next hard frost. We mindlessly send away for plants and seeds whose beauty and value is effervescent and temporal. These catalogs with their beautiful images and rich deep colors convince us that we too can create a tapestry of life; a preponderance of glory which will outshine the greatest gardens of ancient civilizations.

OK, maybe not. Still, it is fun to browse their pages and wonder if the mystical flowers or abundant fruits would thrive in our little patches of ground. Most of my plants and seeds come from local merchants, but

invariably I will place my order for some of the plants featured in these packets of planting propaganda. Though, I scarce know where I will plant them without tearing up another ten square feet of yard space.

What these catalogs represent is hope. The hope that spring will chase away winter's cold and we will soon be digging our hands into the newly tilled earth. Seeds will be dropped into the furrows and small rooted plants will tenderly be planted, watered and fed. We have the hope that these small miracles will grow to provide nourishment for the body and the senses. When the day is new and fresh or the slow evening light begins to fade into night, we can rise from our labor and sense the bounty of God's earth that we have been blessed to be a part of.

I like to think the Bible offers us the same hope that the seed catalogs offer. Perhaps in Genesis we read of the hope God had for His creation. In the lyrical prose of the Psalms we are encourage to put our faith in God. The Gospels reassure us that God's love is genuine and everlasting. The epistles remind us that the labor of faith is rewarded with abundant life, like the fruit of our gardens. And in the final chapter of Revelations, God assures us that the Son will clear away the weeds that infest our soul and cast out the stones so faith may grow.

There are Bibles in every house. The pews of our churches have them. They can even be found in hotel rooms. We don't have to wait for them to fill our mailboxes or computer screens. The Bible is with us each day of the year. And we do not need to wait till the warm days of spring to plant the seeds of faith or a crop of hope.

What would it be like if we responded to the words of the scripture as we do to the pictures in a catalog? Is it possible to be drawn into the Bible the way we are drawn toward those advertisements? Can our Christian faith nourish us like the produce from our garden? Can we feel the presence of joy, peace and grace from God's word in the same way we experience it from the blooms of flowers? I think so. If we can plant the seeds of a flower or the eye of a potato, why can't we plant the seeds of faith? If we can prepare the soil to receive the plant, why can't we prepare our hearts to receive God's grace? If the fruit of our garden can feed us, why can't the fruit of God's blessings feed the those who are hungry for spiritual food.

Plant your gardens and experience the hope that the catalogs bring in the cold of winter. When the Soil is warm and the days grow long, work your garden and thank God for these blessings. Let's not forget to nurture our faith and make room for the presence of God's love in the garden of our hearts. *The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. (Isaiah 58:11 NLT)*

Clean – Up Day!

February 23rd @ Blue Hill UMC



Please come help us do our annual church cleaning from 9 am – Noon.



Bladen UMW Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 14th @ 2:00 pm
Lesson: Marjorie Lockhart
Hostess: Marjorie Lockhart

March 14th @ 2:00 pm
Lesson: Pledge – Mardelle Grandstaff
Hostess: Deb Albers

Bladen Church Cleaning Schedule

February – Brant & Tracy Karr	July – Bonifas Family
March – TBD	August - TBD
April – Grandstaffs	September – Jennifer H & Verna K
May – David & Sharon Berns	October – Meyers
June – Mary Karr & Family	November – Tim & Melanie E
Yard Maintenance – Jeff & Shirley	December – Karen & Susan

Food Drive Donations

We were able to donate 2,010 pounds of food to the food drives by the Blue Hill Honor Society and Silver Lake Elementary!

Thank You

I would like to thank the Blue Hill Congregation, Bladen Congregation and the United Methodist Mens Group for their very generous Christmas gifts this year. It is truly a joy to work for you all!

~Danie Mohlman

Thank you to the Bladen United Methodist Church for the table decoration, gift and recognition for my long-time membership. It has been an honor to be with this church and all of you for the past 75 years.

*Thank you,
Marjorie Lockhart*



Through the Bible this Year

Weekly Bible Lessons

February 3 Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	4th Sunday after the Epiphany Psalm 71:1-6 Luke 4:21-30	Green
February 10 Isaiah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	5th Sunday after the Epiphany Psalm 138:9-13 Luke 5:1-11	Green
February 17 Jeremiah 17:5-10 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	6th Sunday after the Epiphany Psalm 1 Luke 6:17-26	Green
February 24 Genesis 45:3-11, 15 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	7th Sunday after the Epiphany Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 Luke 6:27-38	Green
March 3 Exodus 34:19-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Transfiguration Psalm 99 Luke 9:28-36(37-43)	White or Gold
March 6 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Ash Wednesday Psalm 51:1-17 Matthew 1:1-6, 16-21	Purple
March 10 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13	1st Sunday in Lent Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Luke 4:1-13	Purple
March 17 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1	2nd Sunday in Lent Psalm 27 Luke 13:31-35	Purple
March 24 Isaiah 55:1-9 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	3rd Sunday in Lent Psalm 63:1-8 Luke 13:1-9	Purple
March 31 Joshua 5:9-12 2 Corinthians 5:16-21	4th Sunday in Lent Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Purple

Danie's Diary



I wanted to start this article calling this time of year the “Dog Days of Winter” as a play off of the actual known phrase, Dog Days of Summer. Turns out, it isn’t about the drudgery of a season or even the desire to be lazy because it is too hot to want to do anything. It apparently comes from Greece astronomy and refers to when the dog star, Sirius, comes into the night sky. Therefore, can I term this part of winter the Warrior Days of Winter? I guess we could make puns about how we’re getting belted by Orion with cold, wind and snow. Only those in the most peak form can survive the brutality winter casts upon us physically, mentally and emotionally.

I LOVE me a good snow storm. The kind where no one can go anywhere. Where you aren’t being lazy by sitting on the couch reading with a hot cup of coffee because that is what you are *supposed* to be doing. I’m so blessed to have that be my snow day experiences. I can’t begin to say how thankful I am for the farmers, first responders, road maintenance crews and everyone else that cannot have a *snow day*. Ever. For them, snow storms means hard work in the hardest conditions.

While, I do love a snowstorm, I am over the cold. I’m over it being so cold that it takes twice as long to bundle Rhett up than he can even stand being outside. I’m over the blistering wind making it miserable to run outdoors. I’m over it looking brown and gray. I’m over it being wet and dirty. I’m even over the “over it” attitude I have seeping into nearly every crevice of my motivation for pretty much everything.

I just want to go on a run while looking at green grass and trees without needing to wear an Eskimo’s amount of outerwear or wanting to jump into a vat of ice water after. I want to send my kid outside to play without worrying that he will end up with frost bite or a heat stroke. Notice we don’t need any curmudgeony terms for Spring or Fall? I live for those moments when Spring Winter is over and before Spring Summer starts and when the final round of Summer finishes but before early Winter sets in. You know, those few weeks of the year that Nebraskans don’t complain about the weather? Those. Those are my favorite.

But, let’s be honest. In Nebraska, if it isn’t the heat or cold making us complain, there’s always the wind. ☺

The Cooking Corner

I have decided to rename this section of the newsletter. We have been receiving amazing recipes from members of the congregation, and I want to encourage more! This one comes from Margaret Zimmerman. She often makes this for fellowship and has had multiple requests.

Butterscotch Coffee Cake

Ingredients

Batter:

- 1 pkg yellow cake mix
- 1 pkg instant vanilla pudding
- 1 pkg instant butterscotch pudding
- 4 eggs
- 1 c oil
- 1 c water
- 1 t vanilla

Filling:

- 1 c chopped nuts
- 1 c brown sugar
- 1 t vanilla

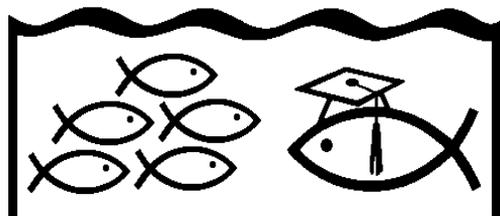
Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together all of the batter ingredients and all of the filling ingredients in separate bowls. Layer 1/3 of the batter in a 9x13 baking dish, followed by 1/3 of the filling and do this two more times. Bake for 45 minutes.

Bible Studies and Sunday Schools

Blue Hill

YOUTH AND ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Every Sunday at 10:00 am.



THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

This interdenominational Bible Study meets in the church conference room at 1:30 p.m. each Thursday. We will be starting a video series, *Death & Resurrection of the Messiah*. All are welcome.

FOURTH DAY COVENANT SHARING

Each week, we welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ to share a time of prayer, devotion, sharing and accountability with each other. Through this weekly covenant, we gather to share our commitment to Christ and witness to our work of faith in our lives and community. **We meet every Saturday at 8 a.m at the Blue Hill UMC.** This covenant sharing is open to all people of faith.

CHRISTIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST

The third Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings alternate between the Bladen and Blue Hill churches.

Bladen

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Meets Sunday mornings @ 9:15. We will be studying *The God You May Not Know* by David Jeremiah.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We meet every Sunday morning at 9:15 am.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays @ 9 a.m at the Bladen UMC. Everyone welcome! We will be studying the Holy Spirit.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

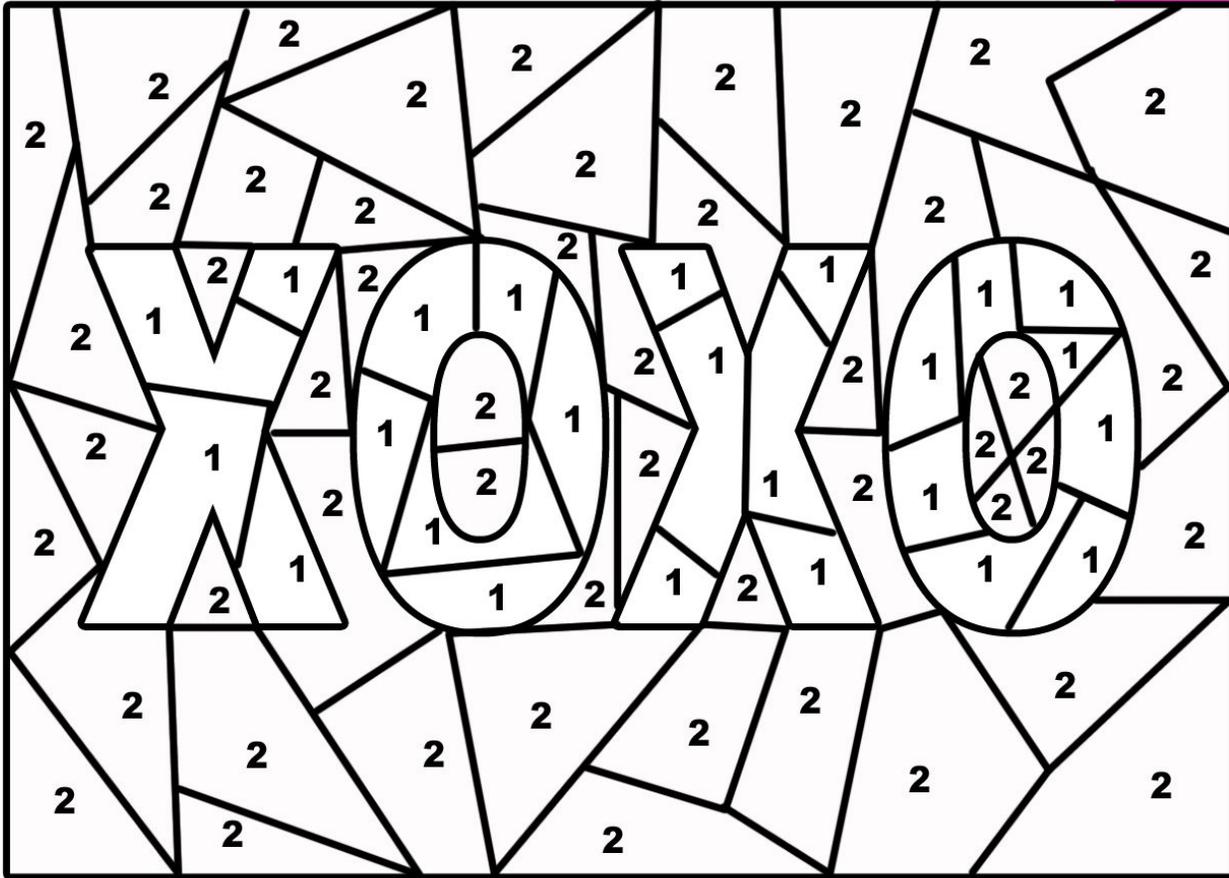
Meets every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. We be doing a study on *Simon Peter* by Adam Hamilton. We will follow this with a five week study by Max Lucado entitled *Anxious for Nothing*. We would like to welcome anyone that wants great fellowship, food, and STUDY. Contact Shirley Ewing for more details.

UMC WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

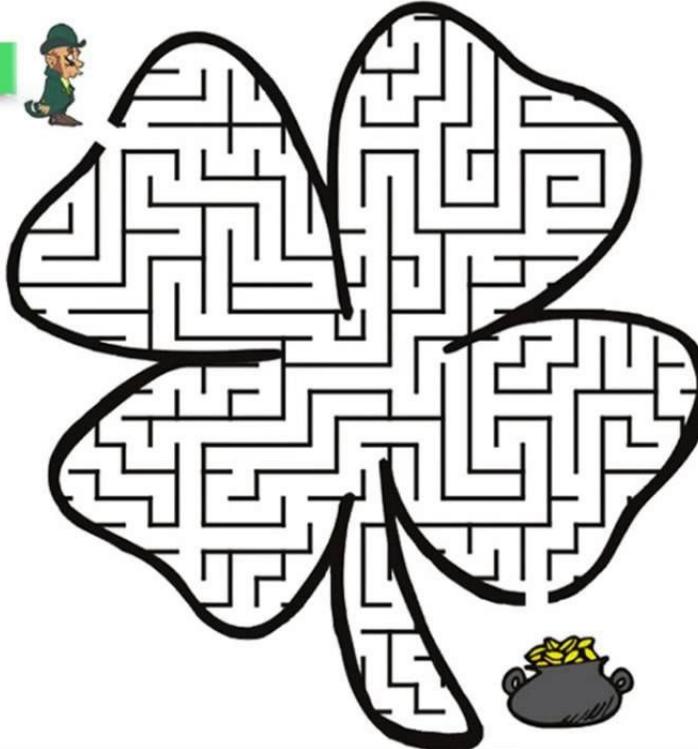
A Bible Study on the Book of Genesis at the Bladen UMC. Bible studies will be every Wednesday night at 6:30 PM.

YOU MAKE THE WORLD A MORE COLORFUL PLACE.

1 - RED
2 - PINK



Shamrock Maze



February Birthdays

Bladen		Blue Hill	
Jeff Ewing	2/5	Dakota Lovett	2/7
Matt Church	2/6	Montana Lovett	2/7
Shaun Fisher	2/6	Craig Strasburg	2/7
Richard Fassler	2/8	Duane Lienemann	2/10
Kim Bonifas	2/9	Allie Gilbert	2/12
Tanner Vance	2/9	Sarah Weddingfeld	2/15
Doug Church	2/14	Evart Barton	2/16
Reagan Rust	2/16	Teagan Rathjen	2/19
Brooklyn Himmelberg	2/26	Alfred Anderson, Jr.	2/25
Delores Krichau	2/28		

March Birthdays

Bladen		Blue Hill	
Shirley Ewing	3/3	Hailey James	3/6
Jerry Skrdlant	3/3	Margaret Armstrong	3/8
Gary Figgens	3/4	Darlene Buschow	3/14
Connie Karr	3/4	Mackenzie Barton	3/29
MaKenna Karr	3/4	Nathan Stokes	3/29
Vern Timm	3/7	Cheryl Thallman	3/29
Kenneth Berns	3/15		
Robin Berns	3/15		
Tara Vance	3/15		
Brian Karr	3/19		
Graham Karr	3/22		
Arlen Kumke	3/22		
Trevor Karr	3/29		
Kenneth Souder	3/31		
Larry Vance	3/31		

*Happy
Birthday!*

Anniversaries

Bladen

Brian & Tori Karr 2/16
Richard & Mona Fassler 2/27
Arlen & Nancy Kumke 3/16

Blue Hill

Mark & Dee Strasburg 2/14
Clifford & Iva Beach 3/19

What Are You Really Fighting About?

By Doug Fields with Jim Burns featured in *Focus on the Family*

I'm guessing you've experienced your own share of instant arguments. Since you're human, you'll say and do things that wound, frustrate, hurt and damage your spouse. And your spouse will say and do things that hurt you. Certain words, looks and actions will provoke strong feelings, and it's fight time, *again*. But many couples don't realize that hurt feelings are really fears that have been awakened. Those fears are what fuel fights and reactive behavior. Understanding the way relational fear feeds recurring conflict is the key to breaking the cycle of hurtful arguments.

The fear lurking behind conflict

Try thinking about the relationship between fear and hurt feelings this way:

Normally your fear is taking a nap on the couch. When your spouse pushes your hot button — think of it as pushing a doorbell — the ringing awakens your fear, which jumps up to respond to the threat (the one that pushed your hot button).

That's the origin of conflict: Fear is awakened. The kind of fear we're referring to isn't associated with being scared because you walk into a dark room or see a spider or because you encounter a creepy clown. We're talking about relational fear, such as the fear of rejection, disconnection, failure, unhappiness or loss.

Here's the short version of how I developed that fear: Even though my parents loved me, I felt as if I was never good enough. If I played in a baseball game and went three for four with two doubles, I might have heard, "Great game, Doug. Just think, if you'd been a little faster, you could have beat out that ground ball and been four for four. Wouldn't that have been amazing?" Here's the truth: Going three for four is amazing, but it wasn't perfection. Today the fear that I'm not good enough shows up in my marriage, my parenting, my work and my friendships.

Everyone has relational fears to some degree. Once you recognize how they operate, you can begin to avoid frustrating, hurtful arguments.

This article will continue in the next newsletter.

Greeters & Servers

Blue Hill

February 3	Duane Lienemann
February 10	Dustin & Krista Karr
February 17	Sam & Lana James
February 24	Pat & Ray Cook
March 3	Darrel & Kathy Buschkoetter
March 10	Will & Jan Wells
March 17	Margaret Zimmerman
March 24	Mark & Dee Strasburg
March 31	Mike & Angela Menke

Bladen

February 3	Gerald & Mardelle
February 10	Troy & Melissa
February 17	Rob & Diana
February 24	Dennis & Cindy
March 3	Trevor & Jennifer
March 10	Karen & Verna
March 17	David & Sharon
March 24	Keith & Susan
March 31	Bonna & Kevin B

Our Offerings to God



Bladen UMC Income & Expenses

November – December

Month	Income	Expenses
November	\$12,188.00	\$3,966.02
December	\$8,573.35	\$4,176.11
Totals for Year	\$55,490.35	\$52,203.97

Blue Hill UMC Income & Expenses

November – December

Month	Income	Expenses
November	\$3,754.50	\$5,018.01
December	\$6,701.46	\$3,498.87
Totals for Year	\$71,461.75	\$69,341.44



Missions

2018 Mission Shares Paid

Church	Our Mission Shares	Mission Shares Paid	Percentage
Bladen	\$7,715	\$7,715	100%
Blue Hill	\$5,872	\$5,872	100%

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

-- Hebrews 13:16

Your Church Leadership

2019 Blue Hill Administrative Board

Darrel Buschkoetter , Chairperson	756-7070
Duane Lienemann , Vice-Chairperson	756-2451
Kathy Murphy Buschkoetter , Lay Leader	756-7070
Marlene Albin , Treasurer	756-4105
Lana James , Finance Chair	756-3370
Shari Olson , Financial Secretary	756-2584
Dee Strasburg , Recording Secretary	756-6433
Dee Strasburg , Trustees Chair	756-6433
Mary VanBoening , Membership Secretary	756-3842
Margaret Zimmerman , Supt. of Church School	756-3562
Darrel Buschkoetter , Missions & Social Concerns	756-7070
Margaret Zimmerman , Missions & Social Concerns	756-2727
Jenny Andersen , Camping Coordinator	(402) 461-6104
Duane Lienemann , Ushers	756-2451
Kathy Murphy Buschkoetter , District Cluster/Network Member	756-7070

2019 Bladen Administrative Board

Keith Crowe , Chairperson	756-1172
Bonna Vance Vice-Chairperson	756-3631
Gerald Grandstaff , Lay Leader	756-5588
Shirley Ewing , Treasurer	756-1285
Mardelle Grandstaff , Finance Chair	756-5588
Karen Koelder Financial Secretary	756-1352
Delores Meyer , Secretary, Worship Chair	756-6452
Karen Koelder , Trustee Chair	756-1352
Melanie Engelhardt , Membership Secretary	756-1620
Cindy Timm , Education Chair	756-1662

Contact Information

Melanie Engelhardt , Youth Council	756-1620
Mardelle Grandstaff , Missions & Social Concerns	756-5588
Sharon Berns , Memorial Chair	756-1018
Toni Turner , Prayer Chain	756-1642
Meredith Engelhardt , Ushers	756-1282
Jeff Ewing , President Christian Men	756-1285
Delores Meyer , President, UM Women	756-6452
Pastor Dan Albers	756-2091

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Marjorie Lockhart , Chair	756-1167
Shari Olson	756-2584
Rod Olson	756-2584

Church Office

Phone: 756-2091 Email: bhbladenumc@gtmc.net
Address: 302 S Webster / Blue Hill, NE 68930
Website: bluehillbladenumc.org
Secretary, Danie Mohlman: (308) 380-7108

Please feel free to contact Pastor Dan at any time.

Parsonage	(402) 756-2092	Pastordan122553@yahoo.com
Cell	(402) 746-0185	Church bhbladenumc@gtmc.net
Church	(402) 756-2091	

Mission Statement for the Bladen United Methodist Church

Our mission is to take the church to the people and to establish new Christian believers. As aspiring Christians, we need to share the joy that our faith brings and to share the good news in our daily lives and in our community.

Mission Statement for the Blue Hill United Methodist Church

We are called by God to be His disciples, to live according to His teachings and to share His love with others so they might come to know Him as their Lord and Savior.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Confirmation Classes will be every Sunday @ 11:45 am in Bladen
- Confirmation Classes will be every Wednesday @ 6 pm in Bladen
- 2/7 – UMW Meeting @ 2 pm in Bladen
- 2/16 – Christian Men’s Breakfast @ 8 am in Bladen
- 2/17 – BHCC Worship @ 2:30 pm
- 2/23 – Church Clean-Up Day @ 9 am in Blue Hill
- 2/23 – Meal & Movie Night @ 6 pm in Blue Hill
- 3/6 – Combined Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 pm in Bladen
- 3/7 – UMW Meeting @ 2 pm in Bladen
- 3/16 – Christian Men’s Breakfast @ 8 am in Blue Hill
- 3/17 – BHCC Worship @ 2:30 pm
- 3/20 – Newsletter Info Due to Danie