

2 Corinthians 5:17

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

Greetings, members and friends of Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church,

It is with great joy and excitement that Kimberly and I prepare to join your church family in ministry.

The United Methodist Church has stated our common mission is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Over the last four years in my work for the church’s mission agency, I have witnessed churches in the U.S., Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia at work in ways that have truly transformed lives. It has been amazing to work with staff, missionaries, pastors, and laity who are dedicated to transformation that happens through the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

One thing I am certain of... Transformation happens in community -- where people see God in the lives of others and find challenges, encouragement, and support through the people around them. In community trust is built, love is shared, hope is nurtured and relationships are formed that allow God to work in powerful ways. This Christian transformation happens through worship, fellowship, visitation, music, dinners, Bible studies, mission trips, weddings, funerals and many other occasions that are central to the life of church community.

We are thrilled to be called to minister with you in Maplewood, where God calls us each to claim our blessedness and to bless others.

I believe that the season ahead of each of us is one that transforms lives... despair into hope, mourning into dancing, and death into resurrection.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Chris Heckert