

First United Methodist Church
of Fort Collins, Colorado



The Carillon

November 2016 Volume 22 Issue 11



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EVERY CHURCH HAS THESE PROBLEMS

WILL EVERY CHRISTIAN BECOME ENGAGED WITH THESE ANSWERS?

By Pastor Charles, Lead Pastor

There are about 100 churches or congregations in Fort Collins—in fact, exactly 90 by my count. Every one of these faith communities faces difficulties. There are some problems all of us tackle. Here is a short list of obstacles each church or parish (including First United Methodist Church) works to overcome.

Absence of Fellowship and Community. It has been observed that American life shifted with the advent of two inventions: air conditioning and television. Prior to entertainment on TV screens and cool rooms inside during summer's scorching temperatures, neighbors were outside. Even in regions where air conditioning was unnecessary, the television alone was enough to create empty chairs on the front porch. (Which is another point. The front porch is not a standard staple for home architecture in today's designs.) A bedrock belief of Christianity lost out too. A Christian ethic values presence. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is about presence. The historic teachings on Christology and incarnation demonstrate presence. Paul the Apostle wrote repeatedly to the churches in his epistles about “long[ing] to be with you.” (Romans 1:11, Philippians 1:8, I Thessalonians 2:18, and II Timothy 1:4).

Lessening Value of Spirituality in our Culture. Core values are formed primarily in the family through conversations between a parent and a child. 80% of kids have had conversations with their parents about finances. 75% of kids have had conversations with their parents about sex. 12% of kids have had conversations with their parents about faith. With fathers, the statistic is dismal. Only 5% of kids have had a conversation about faith with their dads. Christian faith is taught more than it is caught. Most people do not adopt faith by osmosis; rather, it develops from a positive combination of intellectual, psychological, and social forces.

Biblical Illiteracy. Approximately, one out of every five church-goers tells pollsters they never read the Bible. Over 40% of people who are regular church attenders say they read the Bible only occasionally. It is surprising to discover the numbers of individuals (particularly children) who think Superman and Harry Potter are Biblical characters. Further, the statistics of Biblical accuracy and inaccuracy are amazing. Perhaps you remember a night show host taking the television camera and microphone to the street asking questions and receiving outlandish answers.

Questions

- How many Magi visited baby Jesus?
- What gifts did the Magi give baby Jesus?
- Who stood in front of the burning bush?

Answers

- Twelve.
- Bottles of wine.
- [Richard] Nixon.

The list of hurdles for churches is longer than I have identified in this space. I have named only three. More importantly, will we work on answers?

The solutions are like answers to most all basic questions. How does one lose weight? Eat the right foods and exercise. How does one pass a tough college exam? Pay attention in class, read the assigned textbooks, and study. How does one become a headline attraction at Carnegie Hall? Be talented and practice, practice, practice.

How do we conquer the challenge relating to fellowship and community? As an active lay person once told me, “Show up.” And, for those who are isolated because of mobility limitations, age, or illness, we have to show up for them. Christians have to show up to build community. Virtual church is an oxymoron.

How do we solve the declining value of faith? First, perform an analysis of your personal accountability. How much time do you spend at the golf course (or something comparable in your life)? Measure that alongside how much time you spend on faith matters. Secondly, what personal expense is equal to the amount with which you are generous with your church? The numbers in these answers are external indicators of internal devotion. Or, as Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) (cont. on page 3)

EVERY CHURCH HAS THESE PROBLEMS. WILL EVERY CHRISTIAN BECOME ENGAGED WITH THESE ANSWERS?

By Pastor Charles, Lead Pastor (cont. from page 2)

How do we defeat Biblical illiteracy? The Bible is a best-selling book that is low on most reading lists. People collect Bibles more than they read Bibles. Conventional wisdom says we can eradicate Biblical illiteracy with methodical reading. You can begin by reading a chapter or a few verses each day. There is no need to start in Genesis with a goal of reading straight through. It is likely you will not make it past Leviticus. Try starting with Mark (the shortest biography of Jesus) or Luke (an earthy biography of Jesus). Even better, join a reading group to study the Bible. Doing that ups the ante for accountability for becoming Biblically literate.

The bottom line is this. We, the citizens of the United States, value discipline and courage. We have to apply discipline and courage to our faith journey too. Discipline and courage are easy to say and difficult to accomplish. Discipline and courage are virtues forging the path to engage answers to these struggles we, at First United Methodist Church, have in common with every congregation in America.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Charles

UMW CHRISTMAS WREATH PROJECT

All your wreath orders are in and the products being created as you read this notice. The United Methodist Women really appreciates your taking the time to think ahead to Christmas while in the midst of fall festivities. We couldn't be successful at raising funds for worldwide mission if it weren't for your generous orders.

**We hope you have a blessed celebration of Thanksgiving!
Then remember to pick up your order in Fellowship Hall the
Monday through Wednesday immediately after the holiday at
the following times:**

November 28 12 Noon to 6:00 p.m.

November 29 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

November 30 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



If you forgot to place an advance order, there will be some extra greenery items available to purchase at these times. Orders not claimed by 7:00 p.m. the last day will be bagged and placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall for pickup at your convenience. We cannot be responsible for satisfying your order, nor can we guarantee the freshness of your items, after November 30.

Thank you so much for your orders! Enjoy!



On November 6 we will acknowledge and remember all FUMC members who have passed away in the past year. There will also be an opportunity during the service for members of the congregation to light a candle in memory of a family member or friend.



HEY! HEY! ANYBODY LISTENIN?

by Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor

Last November we were in the midst of holding what we called “Listening Circles.” Pastor Charles and I met with 15-20 people in homes and the church and we listened to you. Everyone had an equal chance to tell us what they loved about the church, what they were most concerned about in the church, and what their dreams were for the church. We ourselves didn’t do much talking because we really wanted to hear from you.

Recently someone asked me casually, “What happened with those Listening Circles? Did you ever do anything with what we said? we be holding meetings to take action?” And I realized that many you haven’t connected the positive changes in the church to our Listening Circles. So, here are the highlights of what we heard, and an overview of what we did as a result.

What happened with those Listening Circles?

Will
of

Music: The music programs were what drew many of you to this church in the first place. When we met with Listening Circles, our bell choir was idle, the children’s choir had disbanded, and the Sanctuary Choir had diminished by almost half, even though Stacy Miller was doing an excellent job as interim choir director. As a result of what we heard during the Circles, we took hiring the permanent Sanctuary Choir director seriously, and David Adkins was hired. Under his leadership Karen Stody, who was interested in leading bells, not only revived the bell choir, but has also started a beginning bell choir! SPRC stepped up to fund the Children’s Choir position, and Anthony Weber now has 20-25 children a week at rehearsals. David himself has started a children’s chime choir. And perhaps best of all, our Sanctuary Choir is flourishing, with over 50 people on the roster. We regularly enjoy talented instrumentalists during worship – flute, oboe, brass, cello – and are looking forward to the “Magnificat” by John Rutter this Christmas season – support by the Fort Collins Symphony! Yes, we heard you when you told us of your love for music.

Finances: Many of you expressed grave concerns about the church’s finances. To be honest, we shared your concerns. So we shared them with the Finance Committee, and they responded. First led by Forrest Walters, then by Dave Rubenthaler, the committee began by hiring Scott Schroeder to help straighten out the books. They gradually reviewed every issue, set procedures in place so that good policies would be carried out, and changed policies that weren’t working or wise. Now we have financial reports we can trust, and we receive them on a regular basis. Our restricted funds have been reviewed and are now handled correctly. We set a budget for 2016, and have already begun work on the 2017 budget – on time. And we now have a vital Stewardship Committee, led by Steve Zink, that is already making progress on a campaign that will celebrate our ministries as it funds them.

Our restricted funds have been reviewed and are now handled correctly.

Communications: Part of the concerns about our finances revolved around missing and unclear communications. Our communications efforts were split between our Youth Director (Sam) and our Director of Children’s Ministries (Christy). Many of you spoke strongly of the need for clear, timely, consistent communication, and we took action. It took some time, but all our communications are managed by one person – David Adkins, who is our new Director of Communications. He is managing all our print needs, and updating our web site and social media. He is being assisted by MCAT – our new Marketing & Communications Advisory Team. They are helping us be consistent and clear in all our communications, and many of our staff and ministry leaders are finding that the information they want to provide to the congregation is improved when they partner with MCAT. (continued on page 6)

HEY! HEY! ANYBODY LISTENIN?

by Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor (continued from page 5)

And more: There were many other topics that were brought up in the Listening Circles – too many to cover here. But we are working on all the issues that were mentioned by multiple people. Lynette, our Director of Children's Ministries, is able to focus solely on our children. When we hire a new Youth Director, that person will be full time and also able to focus solely on our youth. Staff meetings include time for spiritual study, prayer for one another and the congregation, as well as laughter and good food! And the SPRC just approved hiring a half time person to focus on a new contemporary worship service as well as young adult ministries.

Granted, we still have work to do (yes, we know about the ongoing issues with sound during worship!). But we have been hard at work, and we will continue to address not only the issues you raised a year ago, but ones we hear about now. We believe this church is alive with the Holy Spirit, and on the verge of an exciting new era. It is a joy to serve you as your pastors, and we look forward to continuing to lay the groundwork for what I have come to think of as your New Era Pastor.

PAUSE – a Contemplative Evensong Service

This quiet, prayerful service got off to a good start. Although small, it is growing as more and more people come to soak in the quiet Spirit of God through beautiful music, thoughtful reflections, Scripture, and silence.

It is interesting that nearly every week we are joined by someone new to our church. And even more surprising is that most of them are young adults who found us through the internet. It seems that age does not dictate what kind of worship a person hungers for, and so offering a variety of styles is an excellent way to serve our community.

Pause is held at 5:30 pm on Sundays. It is simple, easy, and includes Holy Communion every week. Please join us and begin your week with a bit of holy serenity.

CHOOSE HOPE – A Community Response to Despair

On October 7 & 8, UC Health partnered with us to offer a conference about suicide prevention. It is distressing to note that not only is suicide on the rise nationally, it is accelerating at a faster pace here in Colorado, and our county is leading the way. At the conference we learned that suicide is the #2 cause of death of children over the age of 14, and that 60% of all gun deaths are due to suicide.

Despite these statistics, the conference was filled with hope. The two keynote speakers, Michelle Snyder and Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley, inspired, informed, and empowered us to take action without taking the blame. The panel of survivors, facilitated by JoAn Hopkins, told moving stories of their experiences and helped us all learn how to respond to those who have suffered such a devastating loss. Although therapists were on hand to support those struggling with strong emotions, it was our Holy Listeners who provided care that was deeply appreciated.

There were workshops for parents, the LGBTQ community, men, and others. Participants not only gave the conference high marks, many expressed their gratitude that our church was so willing to take the risk of addressing such a difficult topic.

The conference was sponsored and supported by the Church and Society Committee, and the United Methodist Women who provided much needed helpful hands as well as refreshments. They were all the face of Christ to those who participated, and the love and grace they offered to all who attended was inspiring indeed.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

by David Reid

Supper in the Spirit returns for the four Wednesdays of Advent beginning Nov. 30. Dinner will be served in the Parlor at 5:30 p.m. for a small charge. Classes and children's activities run from 6 to 7 p.m. Reservations are not required.

Class offerings include a study of The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss. If you enjoyed these stories at any stage in life, come learn how they have parallels to lessons found in Scripture. Woven with the wisdom of Dr. Seuss, this study brings the meaning of many Bible passages to life. The course will include *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, and, because it is Advent, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Discussion leader is Cindi Ross-Bell.

Also available in the same time slot for four Wednesdays is a study of the DVD series *Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas*. Jorge Acevedo, the lead pastor at a multi-site United Methodist Church in Florida, is the host of the series. Jayme Harper will lead the discussion at FUMC.

Child care will be available for children four and younger. Lynette Szabo will lead activities for older children not participating in the Chimes Choir.

Celebrate Joachim Viens: Join friends of the Theologian in Residence Program at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 10 to celebrate the life and teachings of Joachim Viens, who founded TIR more than 40 years ago. This is a program that over the years has served Catholics, United Methodists, Lutherans, Jews, Buddhists and members of many other faiths and denominations.

LIBRARY NEWS

by David Reid

Library Help Needed: The Library Board is seeking additional board members to help guide the direction of the Northern Colorado Faith Library, and a volunteer to process overdue notices – a key position that requires very basic computer skills. Contact Susan King at stephen_king@comast.net or David Reid at davidreid24@gmail.com.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

More Focus on Children at 11:00 a.m. Classic Sanctuary Service

By Mike Kohler

In his October 9 “Children of Promise” sermon as part of Children’s Sabbath, Pastor Charles reminded us of our special calling to do all that we can for children, in our church and throughout our community.

That day was special, with FUMC children taking responsibility for everything from Greeters to Liturgists.

And now attendees at the 11:00 a.m. service will continue to enjoy more of that youthful enthusiasm as the Children’s Ministry expands its services. Director of Children’s Ministry Lynette Szanzho and her team are making enhancements that are sure to be popular.

The 11:00 a.m. service will include a children’s time so families can share their worship experience. In addition, Children’s Ministry will now include Sunday School that the children may attend after their time in the service.

Lynette welcomes your involvement and support of these and other enhancements of the children’s program.



“Let the little children come to me...”

Matthew 19:14, NIV

FUMC TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY GROWS!



THE MAKINEN MINI



EASY RIDER

The FUMC Senior Council and our Community & World Outreach Committee have recently combined their resources to purchase a used minivan, *the Makinen Mini pictured above left*, so that an additional Sunday morning van route can be provided for the 11:00 worship service. The funds in large part were made possible thanks to Ken Makinen's generous bequest to our church. The new minivan will also be used for our summer Bookmobile ministry as well as to provide transportation for other church events throughout the year. Our fifteen passenger van, *Easy Rider*, pictured above right, will continue to provide transportation for seniors to our 9:30 worship service.

Many thanks to Sean and Ann Tynan for their help to us in finding our newest van through their dealership, Tynan's Nissan in Fort Collins, to Joe Winsett who headed the search for a used minivan, and to Bill Whitaker, Chair of our Trustees who assisted with the purchase process.

Drivers and assistants are currently needed for both van routes! Driving the Makinen Mini is just like driving a car, and Easy Rider is equipped with technology to help whoever is at the wheel. If you would like to learn more about either van and its route and would consider volunteering on one of these routes monthly or twice quarterly, contact Linn Zink (lczink@gmail.com) or Randie Bell (scoutscool@gmail.com). *Your help is needed! And be sure to check in with the church office, if you need a ride to church!*

SENIOR MINISTRY NOVEMBER CALENDAR

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Thursdays, 3 & 17 | <i>Okay Chorale</i> open singing group from 3 to 4 in the Village Commons – newcomers of all ages welcome – especially those with memory issues! |
| Friday, 11 | Double Nickel Senior Lunch – From the Military to Ministry – Rev. Sue Harmon will talk about her journey to our own PVH and FUMC – from noon to 1:30 in Fellowship Hall, \$4 lunch, no reservations required |
| Thursday, 17 | Seniors volunteer at Larimer Food Bank, 9:00 to 11:00 3 rd Thursday Lunch at area restaurant begins at 11:30 (watch the bulletin for details) |
| Monday, 21 | Movie from 1 to 3, <i>Theory of Everything</i> , Cinema Room – free and all ages welcome! |
| November | Throughout the month we are planning small group walks, hikes, outings |

For more information or to sign up for any of these activities, or the senior ministry email list, contact Linn Zink, Senior Council member, lczink@gmail.com or 970-689-3047.

CHURCH FOUNDATION HONORS EVA BELLE WALSH

by Stephen Zink and John Allum- FUMC Foundation

The First United Methodist Church of Fort Collins Foundation wishes to honor Eva Belle Walsh, a long time active member of our church for over 85 years, who died in 2015 in Fort Collins at the age of 104. Eva Belle remembered the church in her will and made a very generous bequest to the Church Foundation. The money will be used to support the unrestricted General Fund and the following existing restricted funds: the Carillon Fund, the Organ Maintenance Fund, and the Trustee Reserve Fund. In addition, some of the money will be used to create two new restricted funds, a Congregational Care Fund and a Finance Reserve Fund.

Eva Belle moved from Hugo, Colorado to Fort Collins with her mother, Grace Fortune, right after high school in 1929 and joined First Methodist Church. She married Kenny Walsh in 1934 and they were both very active members of our church for over 50 years. They both taught Sunday School, and Eva Belle played piano for the children and was very active in the United Methodist Women. Kenny was an usher for many years and was also a member of the building committee when the church was moved from the Oak Street location downtown to our present location at the corner of Elizabeth and Stover. Kenny Walsh died in 1991.

Eva Belle and Kenny lived at 900 Garfield Street, just east of the church, and always enjoyed the Carillon chimes during the week and especially on Sunday mornings. When the Carillon began to malfunction, Eva Belle donated the money to have it repaired. When the repairs failed, she helped establish the Carillon Restricted Fund in 2004, held in perpetuity and managed by the Church Foundation, to help replace the equipment and make sure it is always well maintained. We have been truly blessed to have had Eva Belle and Kenny Walsh serving in our church with dignity and grace for so many years.

If you are also interested in helping to grow the capabilities of the Church Foundation by including the church in your will or by making a tax deductible contribution of some kind, please contact Stephen Zink, Foundation President, at (970) 980-3037 or svzink42@gmail.com.

When the Carillon began to malfunction, Eva Belle donated the money to have it repaired.

UMW UPDATES

By JoAn Hopkins

THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLY CLOSET is full and running over. If you are in need of something that could make life easier for a person with a disability or a short term problem, checkout the closet. Many things are like new and other things looks lightly used. Please feel free to look in there as it will probably save you money. Stop by the office for the key.

THE DAYS FOR GIRLS PROJECT IS GOING FULL SPEED AHEAD. Many have donated, material time and sewing machines. What we do need is \$\$\$\$\$'s for special equipment to complete the packet. The donations are appreciated and so are the volunteers. The hours the group meets are posted on the bulletin board by the office and in the south Hall on the UMW bulletin board. Come join as we have fun while we work.

DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO GO TO FEEL UNDERSTOOD and supported after the death of a loved one? The Grief group meets every Tuesday at 4:00PM In the conference room. Lots of feelings from laughter to sadness are shared and the support from others is very helpful.



SHARING THE JOY OF CHRIST THROUGH MUSIC



SAVE THE DATES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 - The Joyful Noise Choir accompanied by a live instrumental ensemble will present “The Inn Crowd”. This Christmas musical portrays the traditional Christmas story in song and drama. The kids have been working on this every week and are thrilled to present it to you complete with costumes, lighting, and scenery. Please plan to attend and support these wonderful young singers under the direction of Anthony Weber.



Joyful Noise Choir



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th—The Sanctuary Choir accompanied by the Fort Collins Symphony will present John Rutter’s *Magnificat*. This 40 minute work is the song of Mary (*My soul magnifies the lord and my spirit rejoices greatly in God my savior*). It is fast paced and highly rhythmic incorporating mixed compound meters to create a highly syncopated feel, which enhances the celebratory nature of the work.

The Sanctuary Choir has been preparing this piece since early September and is excited to present it as part of our Advent celebration at FUMC. We hope that you will plan to attend and invite a friend or neighbor to attend with you. We will present this major work twice, once at 9:30 am and again at the 11:00 am service.

Between services and after the 11:00 am service the **Stover Street Stompers** will be playing holiday music in the fellowship hall and Christmas cookies along with hot cider will be available for everyone, adding even more to the celebration.

DANCERS FOR LITURGICAL DANCE GROUP NEEDED!

We would very much like to include a small liturgical dance group in our Advent celebration this year. To do so, we need Junior and Senior high students that are interested in preparing at least one 10 minute interpretative style dance routine to volunteer to practice and perform on December 11th at the 9:30 and 11:00 am services. Both girls and boys are invited to participate.

We will have a professional leader to choreograph and lead the group. Rehearsal times and dates will be set once the group is formed. We need a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 individuals to for this new group. Our hope would be to continue meeting after the new year to prepare special presentations for Lent, Easter and Pentecost.



Previous dance experience would be extremely helpful, especially in ballet or modern interpretive dance. If you are interested in participating, please email David Adkins at choirdir@fcfumc.net.

PLEASE JOIN US THIS ADVENT SEASON!

NOVEMBER

Monday 21 5:30 pm Pizza Dinner and Deck the Halls of FUMC. Join us for our annual "Hanging of the Green" when we deck our halls of Christmas!

Sunday 27 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

DECEMBER

Saturday 03 10:00 - 11:00 am Joyful Noise Dress Rehearsal

Sunday 04 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

12:30—3:00 pm **Advent Workshop** by Children and Family Council. Holiday crafts, food, music and more!

Wednesday 07 6:00 pm **Joyful Noise Choir Christmas Musical "The Inn Crowd"** in the Sanctuary

Saturday 10 10:00—12:00 am Sanctuary Choir Dress Rehearsal for Magnificat

Sunday 11 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:30 and 11:00 am **John Rutter's Magnificat** presented by the Sanctuary Choir and the Fort Collins Symphony

Sunday 18

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30—11:15 am Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal Followed by lunch and a (free) party at "Build a Bear" (Centerra location)

Saturday 24

2:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary. *The holy Christmas Story told in an unforgettable way!*

5:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary. *A celebration with Carols, Candles and Scripture*

7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary. *A Celebration with Carols, Candles and Scripture*

11:00 pm A Classic Christmas Eve Service with Contemplative Elements.

Sunday 25

9:30 am Classic Worship with Carol Sing in the Sanctuary

HANGING OF THE GREEN—NOVEMBER 21

By Cindi Ross-Bell for the Worship Planning Team

Advent is a time of anticipation . . . a time to prepare for the coming of Christ as we joyfully wait for the birth of our Savior. To begin Advent each year we have the "Hanging of the Green" . . . a time to prepare by placing evergreen trees and wreaths in the Sanctuary and around the Church, transforming our place of worship with the beauty of these symbols.

Our "Hanging of the Green" gathering will be on Monday, November 21st at 5:30 in the evening. We will begin the evening with a pizza dinner followed by activities for all ages. This is a time of joy when all ages and abilities can help. When we all work together the transformation is not only beautiful but happens very quickly!

You don't want to miss this! Join us for this time of food, fellowship and preparation as we begin our Advent journey.



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**WE REMEMBER WITH
SYMPATHY THE FAMILIES OF ...**

September 5 – Betty Cornell

September 10 - Kathleen Grooters

September 24 - Coerene Jansen

**WE CELEBRATE WITH JOY
THE BAPTISMS OF ...**

October 2 – Evelyn Kjerstin Gulick

COMMUNITY AND WORLD OUTREACH

by Joan Carter

Mission -- UMCOR -- Haiti -- Kenya -- Guatemala -- Advance. These are likely familiar catchwords you've heard of or seen in print in Sunday morning announcements. And yet here's one you may *not* have heard of: **UMC #Giving Tuesday**. This is a special day on the calendar of the United Methodist Church worldwide, which is **Nov. 29th**. We ask that you contribute to or pray about specific mission enterprises or missionaries you are aware of on that day -- all day long. Or, you can donate anytime in November. Donating to any of the **800** Advance projects or **300** missionaries around the world guarantees that **100%** of your donation goes *directly* to the program of your choice. There are many missions to choose from. The following have special connections to FC FUMC:

Delivering Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) to Kenyan Schools
Advance #3021424.

Pura Vida Guatemala - Providing educational opportunities for children in rural areas **Advance #3021094.**

UMCOR in Haiti - Disaster Response, International **Advance #982450**