

## **The Storybook Project**

Storytelling is central to human existence and common to every known culture. Our personal story is the most fundamental way in which we tell others who we are.

The Easter narrative is the Christian's story. It defines us. So too does each church have a story that defines it. But rather than one overarching narrative or a mere listing of historical dates, a church's story is made up of countless personal stories. For each of us there are our own threshold moments or experiences that define what United Church is for us.

As we walk through Holy Week and enter the season of Easter, we want to invite every member of the church to reflect and then write a few short paragraphs about one personal moment or experience that defines United Church for you. It might be a sermon that moved you or a Bible study that opened new horizons for you. It might be a musical performance that inspired you or a pastoral visit that comforted you in a difficult time. It could be a mission trip that challenged you or a social justice demonstration you participated in that revealed an authentic life to you. We each will have a different moment to highlight: We each have a story to tell.

We will collect those brief stories and put them together in a United Church *Storybook* and make it available for everyone to read. We will also make it required reading for the members of the Church Council as they participate in the strategic planning process. Those whom we have chosen to lead our congregation must have their fingers on the pulse of the membership. The *Storybook* is one way in which we can do that.

Write your personal story in one or two paragraphs and email it to [Storyproject@unitedchurch.org](mailto:Storyproject@unitedchurch.org) or just drop it by the church office. Please send us your stories by Sunday May 5 so that we can celebrate them before the end of the program year.

Thanks!

*The Strategic Planning Coordinating Team*