Biblical Focus: Acts 2:42 “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Scripture Lesson: Acts 2:42-47 AC 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Short Video Clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCMkaB1g4O4

Pass out handout of the three pages of notes & scriptures to those who would like to pick them up at the back of the church.

For the morning sermon, I will only have time to talk about 5 points for each area: Please only put the points and scriptures up for these 15 points and not all 30 of them.
Open Hearts: 2, 3, 4, 5, 10
Open Minds: 1, 7, 8, 9, 10
Open Doors: 1, 4, 7, 8, 9
Worship Services January 17 & 18th

Saturday Worship Service:
Hymn of Praise:  # 462 Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus.
Praise Chorus: I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever
Offertory: Sing hallelujah to the Lord
Hymn of Response  # 454 Open My Eyes That I May See.
Communion Music: Piano or through the media team:

Sunday Traditional: 8:30 a.m.
Hymn of Praise:  # 462 Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus.
Prayer Hymn:  # 338 Where he leads me I will follow.
Offertory: Ms. Lynn Lambert & Blake S.
Hymn of Response:  # 454 Open My Eyes That I May See.

Sunday Contemporary: 11:00 a.m.
Praise Song # 1:  Better Is One Day:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VdUikagWjU
Praise Song # 2:  I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KspBbSwWT8
Offertory: Sing hallelujah to the Lord:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFdV4BYO6Q
Praise Song:  # 3 Lord Reign In Me:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGEMlCtYing
Praise Song:  # 4 You are So Good To Me:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIVn4GV1Zds
The United Methodist church is known by the slogan, **Open Hearts, Open Minds & Open Doors**. Many people in our culture think the church is a very old place with only older traditional values and no new ideas. They think it is a place that focuses a lot on the past and not too much on the present or future.

But we don’t believe that is what Christ was about. We believe that Christ was about **opening hearts, opening minds and opening doors** to new ideas about God, humanity, the power of God and how we are to live in the world together for today and our future.

**Open Hearts, Open Minds & Open Doors** is a recognition that we as a church have to be learning something new and not dwell on our past. Because what has been does not always work well for the present and the future. God knows that, Christ knows that and we know that. We have got to be a church with **Open Hearts, Open Minds & Open Doors** to new people and new ideas.

Let’s talk about these three key points of being a United Methodist in the World today.

I. Open Hearts
II. Open Minds
III. Open Doors

Notice that all three of these statements begin with the word “Open.” We are asking ourselves to listen, consider, pray and don’t shut out the ideas, people or ministries of others. We as simply saying, “Be open.”
Let me begin with the thought of Open Hearts:

I. **Open Hearts: 10 ideas about having an open heart.**

1. To have an **open heart** is to have the heart of God. (Psalm 51:10)
2. To have an **open heart** is to have a soft heart rather than a hard heart. (Jeremiah 17:10)
3. To have an **open heart** is to have a heart of love rather than a heart of hate. (Matthew 5:8)
4. To have an **open heart** is to have a generous heart rather than a selfish heart. (Luke 6:38)
5. To have an **open heart** is to have a heart that hands out blessings rather than waiting for a blessing. (Acts 20:35)
6. To have an **open heart** is to have a heart that welcomes the hurting and needy, rather than a closed heart that keeps the least of these away from the church. (Matthew 25:37-40)
7. To have an **open heart** is to have a compassionate heart when another person has loss, strife, or brokenness in their life and to walk with them through life’s journeys. (Romans 12:15-16)
8. To have an **open heart** means to extend open arms to say “Welcome” to everyone who needs God in their lives. (Leviticus 19:34)
9. To have an **open heart** is to look & explore new ideas as opportunities to Make More Disciples for Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20)
10. To have an **open heart** is to love all people, regardless of their past, present or future decisions. (It’s called unconditional love.) (I John 4:7-12)
II. **Open Minds: 10 ideas to have an open mind:** *(The mind is like a parachute, it works best when it is open!)*

1. To have an **open mind** is to have all the facts before forming an opinion or making a judgment about a situation or person. *(Matthew 7:1)*
2. To have an **open mind** is to be a person of prayer for God’s Will to be accomplished in the world rather than our own will to be accomplished. *(Matthew 6:10)*
3. To have an **open mind** is to be a person who is an informed student of both the Bible and other books & resources that teach us about righteousness and the Lord of the Universe. *(II Timothy 3:16)*
4. To have an **open mind** is to consider new ideas towards evangelism, discipleship, worship, fellowship and service to God. *(I Corinthians 9:22)*
5. To have an **open mind** is to have the younger members of the church listen and consider the views of the older within the church and community. *(I Timothy 4:12)*
6. To have an **open mind** is to have the older members of the church listen and consider the views of the younger within the church and community. *(I Timothy 5:1-2)*
7. To have an **open mind** is to find a balance between Grace & Law in ministering to the people of the world. *(Galatians 6:2)*
8. To have an **open mind** is to regard the history and traditions of the church as sacred, but also open to new ways of ministry to make disciples. *(Isaiah 43:19)*
9. To have an **open mind** is to let go of control and allow the Holy Spirit to bring change & growth to the church. *(John 14:26)*
10. To have an **open mind** is to let go of control and allow potential change to bring new light & growth to the church. *(II Corinthians 5:16-18)*
11. To have an **open mind** is admitting that we as humans are not all knowing and being honest with ourselves to realize that others may have wonderful ideas & views to consider. *(Proverbs 4:6-7)*
III. Open Doors: 10 ideas to have an Open door. (*He who opens a door to a stranger; also open a lonely prison door & sets the prisoner free.*)

1. To have an open door...is to allow anyone to enter in the church. (No Conditions or Requirements.) (Matthew 11:28-30)
2. To have an open door is to be willing to physically open the door, clean the door, repair the door, paint the door, and pray over the door that allows people inside the church. (Matthew 20:26-28)
3. To have an open door sometimes means being brave enough to break down doors of prejudice, injustice and hate to bring peace and unity to both individuals and communities. (Galatians 3:28-29)
4. The open doors of God’s Forgiveness don’t have locks. (I John 1:9)
5. To have an open door of Salvation is to have God say, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)
6. To contemplate whether an open door is a good thing to walk through requires, prayer, confirmation from God, and a sense that God is walking through the door with you. (James 1:5)
7. The open doors of discipleship should be well lit & transparent on both sides. (Psalm 119:105)
8. The open door of opportunity needs to be a revolving door, which allows people to come in and out at different chapters of their journey in life. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
9. The open door of worship should be a portal to the throne of God and His presence here on earth. (Psalm 100:1-5)
10. The Love of God is an open door that can never be closed. (Romans 8:37-39)
A New List With Scriptures:

I. **Open Hearts:** 10 ideas about having an open heart.

1. To have an **open heart** is to have the heart of God. (Psalm 51:10) “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

2. To have an **open heart** is to have a soft heart rather than a hard heart. (Jeremiah 17:10) "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

3. To have an **open heart** is to have a heart of love rather than a heart of hate. (Matthew 5:8) “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

4. To have an **open heart** is to have a generous heart rather than a selfish heart. (Luke 6:38) “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

5. To have an **open heart** is to have a heart that hands out blessings rather than waiting for a blessing. (Acts 20:35) “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: `It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

6. To have an **open heart** is to have a heart that welcomes the hurting and needy, rather than a closed heart that keeps the least of these away from the church. (Matthew 25:37-40) "Then the righteous will answer him, `Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'” MT 25:40 “The King will reply, `I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

7. To have an **open heart** is to have a compassionate heart when another person has loss, strife, or brokenness in their life and to walk with them through life’s journeys. (Romans 12:15-16) “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

8. To have an **open heart** means to extend open arms to say “Welcome” to everyone who needs God in their lives. (Leviticus 19:34) “The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”

9. To have an **open heart** is to look & explore new ideas as opportunities to make more disciples for Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20) “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

10. To have an **open heart** is to love all people, regardless of their past, present or future. (It’s called unconditional love.) (I John 4:7-12) “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
II. Open Minds: 10 ideas to have an open mind: (With Scriptures)

1. To have an open mind is to have all the facts before forming an opinion or making a judgment about a situation or person. (Matthew 7:1-2) “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

2. To have an open mind is to be a person of prayer for God’s Will to be accomplished in the world rather than our own will to be accomplished. (Matthew 6:10) “your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

3. To have an open mind is to be a person who is an informed student of both the Bible and other books & resources that teach us about righteousness and the Lord of the Universe. (II Timothy 3:16) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

4. To have an open mind is to consider new ideas towards evangelism, discipleship, worship, fellowship and service to God. (I Corinthians 9:22) “To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”

5. To have an open mind is to have the younger members of the church listen and consider the views of the older within the church and community. (I Timothy 5:1-2) “Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.”

6. To have an open mind is to have the older members of the church listen and consider the views of the younger within the church and community. (I Timothy 4:12) “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

7. To have an open mind is to find a balance between Grace & Law in ministering to the people of the world. (Galatians 6:2) “Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

8. To have an open mind is to regard the history and traditions of the church as sacred, but also open to new ways of ministry to make disciples. (Isaiah 43:19) “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

9. To have an open mind is to let go of control and allow the Holy Spirit to bring change & growth to the church. (John 14:26) “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

10. To have an open mind is admitting that we as humans are not all knowing and being honest with ourselves to realize that others may have wonderful ideas & views to consider. (Proverbs 4:6-7) Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. PR 4:7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”
III. Open Doors: 10 ideas to have an Open door. (With Scriptures)

1. To have an **open door** is to allow anyone to enter in the church. (No Conditions or Requirements.) (Matthew 11:28-30) “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

2. To have an **open door** is to be willing to physically open the door, clean the door, repair the door, paint the door, and pray over the door that allows people inside the church. (Matthew 20:26-28) “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

3. To have an **open door** sometimes means being brave enough to break down doors of prejudice, injustice and hate to bring peace and unity to both individuals and communities. (Galatians 3:28-29) “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

4. The **open doors** of God’s Forgiveness don’t have locks. (I John 1:9) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

5. To have an **open door** of Salvation is to have God say, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)

6. To contemplate whether an **open door** is a good thing to walk through requires, prayer, confirmation from God, and a sense that God is walking through the door with you. (James 1:5) “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

7. The **open doors** of discipleship should be well lit & transparent on both sides. (Psalm 119:105) “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

8. The **open door** of opportunity needs to be a revolving door, which allows people to come in and out at different chapters of their journey in life. (Proverbs 3:5-6) “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

9. The **open door** of worship should be a portal to the throne of God and His presence here on earth. (Psalm 100:1-5) “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

10. The Love of God is an **open door** that can never be closed. (Romans 8:37-39) “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
1. **Open Hearts: 10 ideas about having an open heart.** (With Scripture & Commentary.)

1. **To have an open heart** is to have the heart of God. (Psalm 51:10) “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
   a. King David prayed to God to allow God to have a pure heart. I believe he was asking to be holy as God is holy. Perhaps we can do the same.

2. **To have an open heart** is to have a soft heart rather than a hard heart. (Jeremiah 17:10) "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."
   a. The softness or hardness of our hearts is totally up to us as individuals. If we ask God to mold and shape us as Christian, we can be soft clay in the hands of the master or we can be solid rock, where God needs to use a chisel and hammer. “Some of us fight our own way into hell by our actions, thoughts and deeds.”

3. **To have an open heart** is to have a heart of love rather than a heart of hate. (Matthew 5:8) “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”
   a. So many times I have seen people who are either bitter or better in life. They are happy or sad most of the time. Why is this? President Abraham Lincoln was interviewing for a secretary at the White House, when a lady came in with great qualifications, but her facial expressions spoke volumes of a person who was sad and unhappy in life. Her face did not reflect happiness, joy, or confidence, instead she seemed rather mean spirited and angry. When asked why he did not hire her, he said, her face said it all about the type of person she was, and after age 35, a person is responsible for their own face.
   b. Perhaps there comes a time when we are responsible for our own heart? What is God seeing in our lives when he looks at our
heart? (Joy, anger, happiness, sadness, purity, evil, friendliness or loneliness?) What does your heart look like to God?

4. To have an open heart is to have a generous heart rather than a selfish heart. (Luke 6:38) “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”
   a. To be a generous person is always a matter of the heart and never a matter of the size of your bank account. People can be poor or rich and be generous, because when God touches a heart and they become generous, they will either give a little as the woman who could only give a widow mite in the gospel, or the millionaire who gives 90% of his or her income to the work of the church. (Col. Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pastor Rick Warren who wrote the book the Purpose Driven Life.) Giving is always a matter of the heart and not a matter of the size of our pocket book.

5. To have an open heart is to have a heart that hands out blessings rather than waiting for a blessing. (Acts 20:35) “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’"
   a. **Why is it better to give than to receive?** Spend a little time trying to find an answer to that question:
   b. **To Give**: Fulfills purpose, goals, fulfillment, accomplishment, pride, joy, happiness, sense of helping, sense of blessing, a warm feeling in our hearts that we have helped someone in life.
   c. **To Receive**: is a short term happiness for the gift and leaves out a lot of the giving attributes. In fact, many times our first impulse when receiving a gift is to consider what we can give back in return, or to say, “you should not have done this.”
6. To have an **open heart** is to have a heart that welcomes the hurting and needy, rather than a closed heart that keeps the least of these away from the church. (Matthew 25:37-40) "Then the righteous will answer him, `Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" MT 25:40 "The King will reply, `I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

   a. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a story of judgment day. Both the sheep and the goats are asked to care for “The Least Of These.” In other words, those who are hurting in our culture. The Sheep who help those in need are rewarded with eternity in heaven, while the goats who do not help those who are hurting are sent away to an eternal place like hell.

   It is very clear to me the only difference between the sheep & the goats in Jesus story, is what they did and didn’t do. In other words, faith without works is dead. As Christians we must be helping the hurting.

7. To have an **open heart** is to have a compassionate heart when another person has loss, strife, or brokenness in their life and to walk with them through life’s journeys. (Romans 12:15-16) “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

   a. As Christians, are we not to have both sympathy and empathy for those who have loss, strife or brokenness in their lives? Part of being a Christian is helping to make the world a better place by helping those who hurt. When we don’t do that…the world becomes a sad and lonely place.

8. To have an **open heart** means to extend open arms to say “Welcome” to everyone who needs God in their lives. (Leviticus 19:34) “The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born.
Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”

a. **Body Language**: What is our body saying to another person when our arms are crossed? What is our body saying to another person when are arms are open and extended?

9. To have an open heart is to look & explore new ideas as opportunities to make more disciples for Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20) “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

   a. You have probably heard it said the only constant in the world is change. Looking at new ways to reach out in our culture for the gospel will always be changing.
   
   b. Christian Love and acceptance will always be the foundation of reaching out to others, but how we do that and through what method may change from decade to decade.

10. To have an open heart is to love all people, regardless of their past, present or future. (It’s called unconditional love.) (I John 4:7-12) “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

   a. As we look in our community we need to love in a way that says…come join us…even if you are different than who we are.
   
   b. Jesus reached out to people who were different than him. He reached out to sinners, the broken, sick, lame, Pharisees, women, Samaritans, gentiles, and even Roman soldiers.
   
   c. Can you accept into our church: Those of a different race, creed, education, orientation, and age than yourselves? In the name of Christian outreach; can you and are you willing to be open to those with body tattoos, those with various body piercings, Those with multi colored hair, those with a sordid past, those who cohabitate rather than marry, those who think differently than us politically?
If we cannot love these with the Love of Christ, then the Church is in for a long and slow death.

d. Throughout the history of the church...the greatest movements of the gospel...occur when Christians begin loving those in their culture...despite any differences.
II. Open Minds: 10 ideas to have an open mind: (With Scriptures & Commentary)

1. To have an open mind is to have all the facts before forming an opinion or making a judgment about a situation or person. (Matthew 7:1-2) “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”
   a. Jesus words to the men who wanted to stone the woman caught in adultery rings turn on the issue of judging others. (“Let him without sin cast the first stone.”) John 8:7
   b. I also like the proverb, “Those who live in glass houses, should not throw stones.”
   c. Perhaps it is better to keep our judging words and thoughts to ourselves and not cast aspersions on others.

2. To have an open mind is to be a person of prayer for God’s Will to be accomplished in the world rather than our own will to be accomplished. (Matthew 6:10) “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
   a. Is it not always better to prayerfully seek God’s will in our life rather than our own will? The Lord can see so much farther out than we can and knows what is best for our present and future. (Illustration: Lost airplane in the mountains.)

3. To have an open mind is to be a person who is an informed student of both the Bible and other books & resources that teach us about righteousness and the Lord of the Universe. (II Timothy 3:16) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
   a. Scripture is the key to guiding our lives. I find it interesting how people are looking for other influences to guide their lives. (Secular self help and motivational books. This is an 11 billion dollar a year industry.) I believe your best self help book is the
Holy Bible. God has given it to you….please read it yourself and apply its principles to your life, and I believe you will improve in many areas.

4. To have an open mind is to consider new ideas towards evangelism, discipleship, worship, fellowship and service to God. (I Corinthians 9:22) “To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”
   a. We cannot expect strategies from the past to always work people in the present or the future. Our culture is always changing and what has touched their hearts towards spiritual change in years past may need to be a different approach today. Some things that never change are God and His character and the fact that loving others should always be the foundation to any evangelism process.

5. To have an open mind is to have the younger members of the church listen and consider the views of the older within the church and community. (I Timothy 5:1-2) “Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.”
   a. As an older individual, we should not close our minds to the thought that the younger generation can give us good ideas. (Clay Kight and the ad counsel ball teaching illustration.)

6. To have an open mind is to have the older members of the church listen and consider the views of the younger within the church and community. (I Timothy 4:12) “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”
   a. As a younger individual, we should not close our minds to the thought that the older generation can give us wisdom, insights and good ideas. (I’ve seen too many young people not seek or adhere
to the wisdom of the older generation to their peril. Some folks just learn things the hard way, by not taking the advice and wise counsel of others.)

7. To have an **open mind** is to find a balance between Grace & Law in ministering to the people of the world. (Galatians 6:2) “Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
   a. **Illustration:** Infant baptism in the hospital of a dead baby.
      “Sometimes when striving to decide between grace and law…it is better to land on the side of grace.” (Pastor Sam Brookshire)

8. To have an **open mind** is to regard the history and traditions of the church as sacred, but also open to new ways of ministry to make disciples. (Isaiah 43:19) “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”
   a. The change of the church organ in the church. (1800’s issue.)
   b. The change of guitars in the church over the years. (1960’s issue.)
   c. The change of coffee in the church or sanctuary. (2000’s issue.)

9. To have an **open mind** is to **let go of control** and allow the Holy Spirit to bring change & growth to the church. (John 14:26) “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
   a. There is a sign above my office door that was given to me early in my ministry. It says, **“Bob, Trust me, I have everything under control. Signed Jesus.”** For some reason that is so very hard for me to follow. You see, I want to be in control and ask God's blessing for what I am doing. It is a fine line to allow God to lead and be a strong Christian leader myself.

10. To have an **open mind** is admitting that we as humans are not all knowing and being honest with ourselves to realize that others may have wonderful ideas & views to consider. (Proverbs 4:6-7) **Do not forsake**
wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. **PR 4:7** Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”

a. **I am a pretty good fisherman.** If I see someone fishing beside me and catching a bunch of fish, while I am not catching anything, I am certainly not too proud to ask the simple question, “Why are you catching so many fish and I am not catching any?” I will want to know what kind of bait they are using, how deep are they setting their hook, what kind of pole and test line they are using, and what kind of bobber are they using?

b. **Why do I ask that question?** Because I also want to catch fish. As much as I know about fishing, I realize there are others out there who know more than I do about specific fishing tips and tricks.

c. I cannot be so proud to say I have the only good way to catch fish, especially when someone sitting beside me is catching many more fish than I do.

d. So it is with the Church in striving to catch fishers of men. I will want to know what programs are they running that is working so well to capture people’s hearts. What methods are they using. I will want to know as much as possible how they are getting folks to come to their church.

e. **Why?** Because I have been called of God to be a fisher of men.
IV. Open Doors: 10 ideas to have an Open door. (With Scriptures & Commentary)

1. To have an open door…is to allow anyone to enter in the church. (No Conditions or Requirements.) (Matthew 11:28-30) “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
   a. When I say anyone…I truly mean anyone who wants to come and worship the Lord with our church family.
   b. Let me help you know what I am talking about. (Rich or poor, gay or straight, white or black or any other skin color a person may have, Democrat, Republican or independent, young or old, or any other qualifying labels we wish to place on people: all are welcome to come worship the Lord with us.)

2. To have an open door is to be willing to physically open the door, clean the door, repair the door, paint the door, and pray over the door that allows people inside the church. (Matthew 20:26-28) “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
   a. If we wish to invite anyone through our door, we need to be willing to not only open the door for them, but as they walk through the door into our church we need to be ready to serve them and their needs if at all possible.
   b. (Pray for people, care for their children, feed the hungry, offer children’s and youth programming, offer Bible study classes for them to learn about the scriptures.)

3. To have an open door sometimes means being brave enough to break down doors of prejudice, injustice and hate to bring peace and unity to both individuals and communities. (Galatians 3:28-29) “There
is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

a. We need to be a people who care about social justice in our culture, even if it has a cost.

b. The United Methodist Church has been a church very concerned about social & cultural issues. Much time and effort has gone into caring for the poor, the sick, the hurting around the world. (Nothing But Nets to stop Malaria, Aids ministries, hospitals started and under the care of the UMC.)

4. The open doors of God’s Forgiveness don’t have locks. (I John 1:9) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

a. The truly repentant sinner will always find solace in the arms of a forgiving God. The Lord will go lower than your worst mistake to offer you grace and forgiveness.

5. To have an open door of Salvation is to have God say, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)

a. The door can only be opened from the inside. The Lord will never beat the door down. He patiently waits for us to open the door.

6. To contemplate whether an open door is a good thing to walk through requires, prayer, confirmation from God, and a sense that God is walking through the door with you. (James 1:5) “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

a. As we walk through the long journey of life, there are a lot of doors we have an opportunity to enter. Some of those doors may be good for us and some may not be so good. The difficult part is realizing which are good and which are not.
b. God can give us the wisdom, insight and discernment to know which doors to enter and which doors to stay away from.

7. The **open doors** of discipleship should be well lit & transparent on both sides. (Psalm 119:105) “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”
   a. When we walk down the path of Christian discipleship, we are striving to be more like Christ in our lives. In striving to become like Christ, we immerse ourselves with five basic steps towards discipleship.
      1. **Study**: Scripture reading and study.
      2. **Prayer**: Develop a prayer life.
      3. **Worship**: Engage yourself in worship with a church family.
      4. **Service**: become a person who serves others in Jesus name.
      5. **Outreach**: begin to share your faith in a friendly way to family and friends.

8. The **open door** of opportunity needs to be a revolving door, which allows people to come in and out at different chapters of their journey in life. (Proverbs 3:5-6) “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
   a. Within the journey of life there are many different chapters and many miles along the road. What is good for you at age 25 may not be good for you at 35 or 45 years of age. As we go through life we grow and the door of opportunity through the church needs to be wide open. This door needs to be a revolving door that we step in and out of at different times of our lives to receive new callings from the Lord. (**Always Be Listening For God’s Voice!**)
   b. We have been blessed to have 6 people step into pastoral ministry over the past 7 years at the Osceola United Methodist Church. All seven of these new pastors are now preaching and have moved into ministry in the middle of an ongoing career. In other words, they had a successful career in one area, but God called them to another
area of ministry. (Don’t be afraid to walk through a new door if God has closed another door behind you.)
c. The key is three t’s: (Talking, Timing & Trusting)
   1. **Talking** to God & other Christians as you seek God’s direction.
   2. **Timing**: God’s rather than your own.
   3. **Trusting** God as you move forward in a new direction.

9. The **open door** of worship should be a portal to the throne of God and His presence here on earth. (Psalm 100:1-5) “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. **PS 100:2** Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. **PS 100:3** Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. **PS 100:4** Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. **PS 100:5** For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.
   a. **Definition**: To express the worthiness of God in our lives through our five senses; also including our sixth spiritual sense of our personal spirit connecting with God’s spirit.
   b. **Purpose**: To lift the name of God in praise and adoration.
   c. **Goal**: That God would speak to us as we worship.

10. The Love of God is an **open door** that can never be closed. (Romans 8:37-39) “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
   a. This verse expresses the open door of God’s love better than any explanation I can give. God will always love us and nothing on earth or in heaven can stop God from loving us.
   b. God may not be pleased with some of our sinful actions or thoughts in our lives, but He still always loves us and that is a door we can always go through at any times of our life.
c. If you are a parent you may know what I am talking about. I raised three children and there were times when they would disobey and I would need to correct and even perhaps punish my children, but all through the process I loved them dearly…it never went away.

Closing Prayer: Lord, help us to be a people with open hearts, open minds and open doors. May we love others because you first loved us. May we reach out to others because you first reached out to us. May we serve others because you came to earth to serve us.

Words of Wisdom: “Faith can move mountains, but don’t be surprised if God hands you a shovel.”

Benediction: Rom. 8:38-39 – For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Better Is One Day  (Matt Redman)

Verse 1: How lovely is Your dwelling place, oh Lord Almighty

For my soul longs and even faints for You.

For here my heart is satisfied, within Your presence

I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

(Chorus)

Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house

Better is one day in Your courts. Than thousands elsewhere. (Repeat)

Verse 2: One thing I ask and I would seek, to see Your beauty

To find You in the place Your glory dwells. (Repeat)

Bridge:

My heart and flesh cry out, for You the living God

Your spirit's water to my soul. I've tasted and I've seen,

come once again to me. I will draw near to You

I will draw near to You; To You.
I could sing of your love forever

D/E        Em / F#m
Over the mountains and the sea, Your river runs with love for me
G /A         A / B
and i will open up my heart and let the healer set me free
D /E       Em / F#m
I'm happy to be in the truth and i will daily lift my hands
G /A        A / B
for i will always sing of when Your love came down.

CHORUS:
D / E       Em / F#m
I could sing of Your love forever
G /A        A / B
I could sing of Your love forever
D /E       Em / F#m
I could sing of Your love forever
G /A        A / B
I could sing of Your love forever

BRIDGE:

Em /F#m     D/E     G / A       A / B
Oh, i feel like dancing, it's foolishness i know
Em / F#m     D / E
but when the world has seen the light
G / A          A / B
they will dance with joy like we're dancing now. (CHORUS)
Sing hallelujah to the Lord

(Offertory Song)

Am    Em    Am    Em
Sing hallelujah to the Lord  (Repeat echo)
Am    Em    E    E7
Sing hallelujah to the Lord  (Repeat echo)
Am    G    F    C
Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah
Am    Em    Am    Em
Sing hallelujah to the Lord

Additional Verses:
He paid the debt on Calvary
God is the father of us all.
Lord, Reign in me / (Brenton Brown)

Verse:
C          G             F
G                 C
Over all the earth, You reign on high.
G                     F                               G               C
Every mountain stream, every sunset sky.
G                F
G          Am
In my one request, Lord my only aim.
F                 G          C
Is that you reign in me again!

CHORUS:
G                F                      G                  C
Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power.
G                F                                G                C
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.
G                F                 G      Am
You are the Lord of all I am.
F                 G         C
So, won’t you reign in me again!

Verse: # 2
G             F                               G            C
Over every thought, over every word,
G             F                                  G
may my life reflect the beauty of my Lord.
G                  F                           G              Am
You mean more to me than any earthly thing.
F                 G      C
So, won’t you reign in me again!

Vs. # 1, chorus, vs. # 2, chorus, chorus
“You are So Good To Me” Key of E

E                                   A2
Verse 1: You are so good to me, You heal my broken heart;
E               A2
You are my father in heaven.   **Times x2**  **Go To Chorus**

E                                   A2
Chorus: You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song
E                                   A2
You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song
E                                   A2
You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song
E
And I will sing again-------- **Go To Verses**

E                                   A2
Verse 2 You ride upon the clouds, You lead me to the truth
E               A2
You are the Spirit inside me.   **Times x2**  **Go To Chorus**

B                  A2       E             B                   A2       E
Bridge: You are my strong melody,   You are my dancing rhythm
B                  A2       E                         C#m                  B
You are my perfect rhyme, and I will sing of You forever. **Go To Chorus**

E                                   A2
Verse 3 (Softly) You poured out all your blood, You died upon the cross
E               A2
You are my Jesus who loves me.   **Times x2**  **Go To Chorus**

E                                   A2          E                                   A2
**Ending** You are my father in heaven, You are the Spirit inside me
E                                   A2          E              E
You are my Jesus who loves me yeah------