October 4, 2026

YCTIWY or UCTIWU?

Either way, this is an anacronym for You Can't Take It With You…but you can prepare ahead! For three Wednesdays in October (it's a scary month after all!), we will be covering end of life issues, funeral planning and communicating your wishes to those you leave behind. As soon after 6 as possible, we will meet in the Parlor to talk about some hard issues and have some honest conversations about death. Come prepared to think about what you really want for your end of life, funeral, etc. and complete some questions that will help you and your loved ones be prepared.

Because there will be a lot of handouts, I really need you to let me or the church office know if you are planning to participate. You don't need to bring anything with you as many of these questions will require some thought, prayer and discussions with loved ones outside the church group.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to have a sealed personal file kept here at the office with some basic information such as your emergency contacts, end of life medical wishes, and funeral plans. We will only access these as needed and you are welcome to change them at any time.

All of this is to give you peace of mind so when the time comes, you won't have to worry about the earthly things. You will also have peace knowing those you leave behind won't be struggling with most decisions after you are gone. Of course, they will be grieving, but the tasks won't seem so overwhelming.

Do we want to talk about these things? No. These are not pleasant conversations. But we know that we will all face death. In past years I have seen the effect on families, patients and friends when end of life issues become burdensome. In other ministry settings I have seen families torn apart when there is a clear lack of communication about funerals, estates, and heirlooms. I have also seen when plain ol' grief makes it nearly impossible to make serious decisions and have observed outside forces cause havoc and financial burdens.

But I have also seen and taken part in beautiful celebrations of life when final plans are made clear and carried out. I remember getting a call from a local funeral home that a person from out of town was having a graves-side service and they had wanted a United Methodist clergywoman to do the service. I was honored and a bit worried. I didn't know this person and they weren't connected to my church. The funeral home had just googled United Methodist Churches in the area. During the service, which was actually well attended, I invited individuals to speak about their relationship and stories about the deceased. It ended up being one of the most powerful funerals I've ever done - all because of the deceased final wishes.

I hope you will make plans to make plans because we all know that UCTIWU!

Blessings,
Amelia