



SHINE, GOD'S PEOPLE, WHOLE AND HOLY, LOVING FAITHFULLY

We are an open and affirming church

LIGHT A CANDLE

Holy and loving God,
with a heart of compassion and arms flung wide,
you call us to be a people of extravagant welcome.
Creating us in your image,
you bless us with spiritual, physical, and sexual bodies,
and call us to live with integrity.
Steadfast in your love for us,
you call us to faithfulness in our covenants
with you and one another.
Ever faithful God,
you strengthen us with the power of your love that casts out fear.
Clarify our vision that we may see one another as you see us.
Powerful and tender God,
empower us to live the amazing and inclusive invitation of your Gospel
with evangelical courage. Amen.



DURING A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE, consider ways in which your life has been affected by the open and affirming movement in the United Church of Christ.

- » How has your life of faith been affected by people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT)?
- » When have you experienced the presence of Christ through LGBT people of faith? What has been your anxiety, fear, or questions?
- » What is your hope for the church as it relates to LGBT people of faith?