

**Whatcoat Mission Statement:
Welcoming all to passionately pursue Jesus and share God's love with others.**

Whatcoat UMC Vision Statement (Draft)

Christ welcomes us as his disciples who joyfully engage in spiritual growth and Christian action. Christ transforms every member from the inside out, empowering us to identify our spiritual gifts and to fulfill our life mission. We take on the best parts of a healthy family, welcoming others to join and be grafted into a place of physical and emotional safety where we are free to grow in Christ and work out our differences. Like candles on Christmas Eve, we pass on the light of Christ and transform the community of Camden.

In our "life groups," people live life together, studying the Bible, mentoring one another, and serving the community. Our VBS-based children's discipleship formation teachers and volunteers encourage children to understand God's Word and the love of Christ and then "pass it on!" We partner with the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Preschool as ministries of Whatcoat, welcoming them in worship and inviting them to connect with our church and serve the community. Communication plays a vital role at Whatcoat. We publish a free weekly newspaper (hard copy and online), sponsor programs on "The Bridge" radio station, and send postcard mailings, emails, and social media updates.

We creatively innovate with forms of dynamic, technologically sophisticated worship that capture the attention of our youth and are also well grounded on the cornerstones of our faith. We practice an active partnership between our youth and young adults and our older Boomers and elders, sharing wisdom, encouragement, and inspiration. Our active, growing youth group is involved with spiritual and service projects. Our music ministry reaches out into the community, fostering goodwill, supporting the cause of Christ, participating in servanthood ministries, and inviting people to passionately pursue Christ.

We minister and counsel the troubled souls we encounter on our path and turn no one away. We take all who are hurting under the shelter of our outstretched wings. Our Simpson Center flows with energy and love. The Simpson Center has grown to THE recovery resource in Kent County. We partner with recovery groups to make more personal connections and to link the "higher power" with a life-changing relationship with Jesus. We offer before- and after-school programs in the Simpson Center and in the church, as well as classes on finance for the community. Short-term mission teams stay in the Simpson Center while helping with construction projects in the community. Our church and our facilities have become a focal point for town activities.

Every day our doors are flung wide open – then the doors and walls disappear as we reach out to where people are in the community in a grass roots way. We are a family that realizes anyone and everyone is our neighbor, particularly "the least of these" – anyone who is in need of food, clothing, shelter, a sense of belonging/acceptance, and the love of Jesus. We are building a stronger ecumenical church community, improving partnerships and coordination with other local churches so that Christ can leverage each church's strengths for the good of the whole community. We are active in working with other Christians, neighbors, educators, and public servants in addressing community issues. We are a leading Kent County outreach volunteer center. Our purple "T" shirts are well known: Here come the helpers working for Christ!