

Dear United Church Congregation,

Throughout the month of June, we will be reading from the Book of Acts during worship each Sunday. This 28-chapter book deserves more than one month to be read and reflected upon; so my hope is that these few passages inspire us to do a little more reading on our own from this incredible New Testament book. As I tell each class that I have the opportunity to learn with and teach, the church's library has more than enough reference books and commentaries to offer more information about any chapter of any book of the Bible. Acts is a book that is jam-packed with narratives, speeches, prophecies, travels, legal conflicts, spiritual activity, church drama, and more! It presents an incredible picture of how the earliest church became the earliest churches throughout Israel, the Roman territories in southeastern Europe, and Asia Minor. And it spans at least 3 decades!

Our reading this Sunday will be from a couple of sections in the first chapter. This chapter gets overlooked because of the church calendar's tendency to jump to Pentecost in chapter 2. But a lot takes place in chapter 1. Among other things-- Jesus appears to his disciples and has a conversation with them; he ascends into the clouds before their very eyes; we learn more about Judas' intentions and demise; and the 11 disciples/apostles take official action to once again become the Twelve. All of this takes place during this time when Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem and to wait.

Wow! Don't we wish we could get even one thing done during those times when we have to wait in some doctor's "Waiting Room"? I'm usually happy to make it through one article from some magazine I don't ever read. So, any guesses on what our topic will be this Sunday? Certainly the reality of those times of waiting in life will be acknowledged, along with the reality of waiting in our lives of faith (which Advent reminds us about each year). But beyond that, not everything in our lives needs to come to a standstill during those times when we're waiting for something to happen. In fact, quite often it's during those times that we learn to live more closely to the life-advise Jesus gave about not worrying about tomorrow... letting today be today... and discovering the riches of life even in idle moments, uneventful terrain, or difficult seasons. I know that some of you just can't wait until Sunday to hear more, but may all of us embrace each hour and activity, each free moment and chore throughout this weekend and new week.

Join us for worship this Sunday at 8 and 9:30 a.m.

Communion will be celebrated at both services.

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:6-11, 21-26

Sermon: "In the Meantime..."

This will be the last Sunday the combined Choirs will sing before taking some time off this summer. A special thanks to everyone for leading the congregation and enhancing our worship services over the past 10 months!

Grace and peace, David