



# Varieties of Gifts

*This week, we consider giftedness, but from the perspective of creating unity.*

Devotional: 16-25 January 2022

Mediative Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Have you noticed how confusion can enter our lives and churches like a cloud on a blue-sky day? It seems to appear out of nowhere. We don't go looking for confusion. It finds us and usually has infamous origins, especially when it twists and coils its way into the Body of Christ; "For God is the God of harmony, not confusion, as is the pattern in all the churches of God's holy believers. (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Discernment is God's gift to the church to help us dispel confusion. In some cases, discernment is a spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 12:10) certain members of the "body" exercise. It's also a skill that can be developed (Hebrews 5:14).

Our emphasis this week is on giftedness. God's love for us is shown in the work that we do and in the gifts that we use. But not just in the doing itself, do we see God's love in the way service builds relationships and then those relationships create community.

We will take the opportunity this week to re-emphasize spiritual gifts, and engage in a process whereby we will discern what gifts are present in the life of Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church. Then we will, "find ways to use these gifts for the ministry of Fifth Ave. UMC" and service to the unity of the body, growth in discipleship, and building bridges into the wider community. With encouragement and willingness, our church will initiate new and transforming ways to be in service locally and globally as we bring the light to a broken and hurting world.

Above all, we ask for God to help us discern how God is at work in and around us as we worship and work. Our prayers are for wisdom and discernment and for the unity of the body.

Siblings of Christ, if among us there is division or conflict, pray for ways to overcome that which divides us, the body of Christ. Nothing is impossible for God. There is power (where two or more are gathered in His name, He is there) in the body praying together for a common vision.

*There is wonder working power  
Holy Spirit power  
Great redeeming power  
Power in the name  
Resurrection power  
Bondage breaking power  
Power in the name of Jesus*

On this Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend of Service Observance, let us sing songs of unity and of giftedness to proclaim this power of vision and of hope in the life of our church. People of God, be an open and empty vessel to the movement of the Spirit in you and in our community as we gather in person or online to be the body of Christ at work in the world.

Prayer: Do not let us neglect Your Spirit or the gifts You have given us. Give us the courage to use these gifts and the humility to not use them for our glory, but for You and Your glory. Help us see the good work You have ready for us and embrace that work with willingness and joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*With God as our Leader, may we be prepared to live another year under His guidance.*

**You're Not Alone, Let Us Pray with You & For You**

- Fifth Avenue UMC's Laity, Accountable Leadership Board ALB). To God be the glory, great things He has done! We have entered into a period of prayer and discernment as a person has stepped forward for the ALB Chair position. Join us as we pray for this servant-leader. Lord in your mercy, please hear our prayer.
- Praise God! Mr. Ted Meilahn, has returned home. The blessings continue as his brother has moved from Illinois to Wisconsin to care for him. It is truly wonderful when relatives live together in peace. (Psalm 133:1) Please send cards or notes of joy and encouragement to: Mr. Ted Meilahn, 1085 Fond du Lac Avenue, Box 23, Kewaskum, WI 53040. He would also appreciate a phone call: 262-626-2535.
- Healing grace is continuing for our Lay Leader, Mr. Dale Zarling, as he recovers from spinal surgery. Please continue to keep Mr. Dale and Ms. Rita in your thoughts and prayers. Cards of support and healing can be mailed to: Mr. Dale and Ms. Rita Zarling, 5464 Moraine Drive, E., West Bend, WI 53095.
- Ms. Linda Green, sister of Ms. Debra Matthies, needs our prayers for strength and courage as her cancer has returned. Cards and notes to let Ms. Linda know we are present in this journey can be mailed to: Ms. Linda Green, c/o Ms. Debra Matthies, 1466 North 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, West Bend, WI 53090.
- Bro. Bob Krell, prayers for strength and healing. Please mail cards and notes of prayer and encouragement to: Bro. Bob Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- Mr. Len McGinnis, Jr., cards and notes of support, cheer and well wishes for Mr. Len and Ms. Shelia McGinnis can be mailed to: 1230 Vogt Drive, West Bend, WI 53095
- Ms. Trisha Funke, daughter of Mr. Ralph & Ms. Bonnie Hensel. Cards of encouragement and prayers for continued healing and diagnosis can be sent to her parents: Mr. Ralph & Ms. Bonnie Hensel, 629 Highland View Drive, West Bend WI 53095
- Mr. Roger Sacia, is requesting prayers for healing; Mrs. Nobi Sacia words of encouragement and prayers for healing. Mr. Roger and Ms. Nobi have permanently relocated to Madison with their daughter. Their new address is: 1626 Jefferson Street, Madison WI 53711
- Mr. William (Bill) & Mrs. Ginger Hornung would love to hear from you! Cards or notes of encouragement or "just thinking of you" can be mailed to: W194N16744 Eagle Dr. Room 3, Jackson, WI 53037
- Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, continued healing; [alankempf33@gmail.com](mailto:alankempf33@gmail.com); 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.
- Ms. Nancy Whitson, healing and strength; 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095
- Mr. Phil Heimerl, son-in-law of Mike & Fay Lewis. He is diagnosed with ALS.

Psalm 51:12 says, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."

Prayer: Move us, by your Spirit, to pick up our presents, that you so freely give, to open them and to spend them lavishly on the stewardship of your world. Amen.

Your humble Pastor & Servant Leaders,

*Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin*