

# ***First United Methodist Church***

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I “high fived” God the other morning!! Seriously I did. And God “High Fived” me right back. Maybe it’s the farm boy in me, but there’s something about nature and creation that helps me connect with our amazing God. As a teenager on the farm there were nights that I would walk out into the pasture north of our home and stare into the sky. There were no streetlights, house lights, or yard lights to dim my view – there was simply the glory of looking up into the beautiful star filled sky. More than once when I would go out to the pasture to star gaze, the hymn “How Great Thou Art” would fill my heart and I’d actually sing it out loud.

So, the other morning when I was out for my morning run, it was a beautiful morning. The temperature was in the mid-40s, the wind was calm so everything was still. It was dark out, so the view wasn’t particularly great, but I was running near the lake and I could just begin to make out the color of the trees. I was thinking about the beauty of this season, the fall colors, the maple tree in our back yard, the produce from our garden, and the harvest being brought in by area farmers. As I said, it was a glorious morning!!

As I ran along I noticed a tree a few yards ahead of me. There was a small branch hanging down and for some unknown reason I felt the urge to jump up, and give it a high five. So, without missing a step, that exactly what I did. I jumped up and I slapped the branch. In that moment my soul felt as though I was giving God a high five, saying “God, you are incredible. You are present and evident all around me! Thank you for the beauty you have created and shared with us here on earth!”

So, my question to each of us today is...where have you seen the incredible handiwork of God lately? And then my second question is...what have you done to celebrate God’s greatness? Now don’t feel that you’ve got to go out and slap a tree branch, but what have you done recently that recognizes and celebrates the greatness of God in our world or in your life. Maybe it’s a beautiful song that touches your soul, maybe it’s a sunset, maybe it’s a special friend, maybe it’s how something positive has happened in your life or to someone you know, maybe it’s something you’ve read. This list could go on and on because our God truly is a creative and creating God.

Today my challenge to each of us is to take some time in the midst of this day to pause, look around and notice the beauty of the season, see God’s presence in someone’s life, consider where God is seeking to get your attention. And then open your heart, mind, and spirit to see God at work and then celebrate God’s handiwork in your midst. In your own way today, and in the days to come, find some way to “high five” God. It will change your outlook on the day!

Serving Together,

*Pastor Keith*

This Sunday, October 15, is Children’s Sunday. The children of our church will share a story from the Bible that teaches us about prayer. Join us for worship this Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 am. It’s also “Noisy Bucket” Sunday, so bring your change and gifts for this month’s Children’s project, the Mitchell Area Safehouse. And don’t forget about our Midweek Worship service on Wednesday’s at 6:00 pm in the chapel.