

First United Methodist Church

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This is a big shout out to “Mike” and the Mitchell First Church Family. My shout out is to say THANK YOU to all who participated in the Gratitude Offering...and thank you to “Mike” who shared with us the true example of living generously.

In case you missed it, “Mike” is the name I gave to the individual who I met outside the front entrance of our church in early July. I thought “Mike” looked to be someone who was at the church looking for some help. But what Mike really wanted was to say “Thank You” to Carolyn and this church family for helping him out a couple weeks earlier when he was in need and giving him a blanket. Rather than looking for something, he wanted to give me something. He gave me \$11.00 for a gift to our church. I told him he didn’t need to give us anything but he insisted that he wanted to give us something as his way of helping us be “the church.”

I was able to briefly see in “Mike’s” billfold when he opened it up and there wasn’t much beyond the \$11 in it. But he wanted us to have it. He also shared with me the reason he gave \$11. His son had died a while back and he had died on the 11th of that particular month. So, giving the \$11 was his way of remembering and honoring his son. Mike’s story touched me in so many different ways. For those of you who heard me talk about “Mike” you also heard me say that it would be great for us to honor “Mike’s example of living generously by each of us including 11 in with our Gratitude Offering gifts.

Monday as I visited with the individuals who had counted the Gratitude Offering, they reported (with big smiles) that so many of you included “11” with your gift. So, thank you for participating in the Gratitude Offering...and thank you for reflecting and honoring “Mike’s” example of living generously in your own giving.

We received just over \$66,000 on Sunday in our Gratitude Offering!!! This is an incredible amount...and truly reflects Living Generously!!! If any of you reading this haven’t participated in the Gratitude offering yet, there is still time to do so. Gratitude Offering Envelopes will be available at both entryways into the sanctuary this Sunday. Or you can mail a check or gift to the church office. Just indicate that it is for the Gratitude Offering.

Also, if you haven’t given us your 2017 Commitment Card, we would happily receive that and include it with our Fall Stewardship Campaign totals. You can place your 2017 Commitment Card and your Gratitude Offering Envelope in the offering plate this week at either worship service.

Nancy and I will be in Omaha with family for Thanksgiving. It will be great to be with our son and daughter, and connect with other family too. Nancy and I wish all of you a **Great Thanksgiving**. We feel blessed to be a part of this church family and to be a part of what God is doing through Mitchell First UMC. We are THANKFUL for you!

This Sunday Pastor Jerry will begin our Advent and Christmas sermon series, “The Characters of Christmas.” In this series we’ll be looking some of the more known, and a few lesser-known, “characters” in the Christmas story found in Matthew and Luke’s gospels. Jerry will be helping us take a look at Mary and Joseph... and how their “Yes” truly impacts the Christmas story...and our lives yet today.

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith