

First United Methodist Church

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It's that time of year again! Hard to believe, but I guess it is. That's why I did what I did the other day. What did I do?? I pulled the snow blower out of the corner, started the lawn mower and ran it out of gas, and then I put the lawn mower in the corner of the garage where the snow blower had just been. Sighhhhh.....

While I was at it I took the time to do a few other things in the garage. There were a couple of camping items scattered around, so I picked them up and put them on the shelf, saying goodbye to them until next year. I hung up a few other things on their hooks on the wall, things I won't be needing for a while. I even glanced over at the wall where I have all the shovels, rakes, etc. hanging, just to make sure the snow shovels and pushers are ready and handy.

Now, I'm really not concerned that a major storm is about to hit. In fact, I don't even know if snow is in the forecast for our region. But what I do know is...it is coming. Sooner or later snow will arrive! Over the years I've learned it's best to get ready for the snow (or the change of seasons) in advance of its actual arrival.

So, the question I want to ask today is, "What season are you preparing for?" or "Are you preparing for a new season?" Understand I'm not asking if you're getting your snow shovels and winter coats out. (Though, if you're not, you might want to consider it! 😊) No, I'm asking...in our life, or in our faith, or even in our church...are we preparing for a new season??

Jesus, in Luke 12:54-56, talks about people being able to look at the clouds or the weather, and fairly accurately being able to predict what's coming; rain, heat, storms, etc. But then Jesus makes a rather pointed statement, "You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" Jesus is speaking to the "crowd" when he makes this statement, but I have a feeling these pointed words are really intended for the religious leaders who have gathered to hear him speak. Jesus represented a "new season" in God's Kingdom, and yet the very people you'd think would see it or "get it," didn't.

This is the very reason that our church is participating in the MCCI process sponsored by our Conference. We believe there is a new season coming for our church. We want to be ready. This is the very reason we're doing the Breakthrough Prayer initiative because I believe everything begins with prayer! Our Breakthrough Prayer is about opening our hearts, minds, and souls for what God is guiding us toward as a church. Just like I want to be ready when the cold weather hits, we also want and need to be ready for the new season that God can see for our church. So, my snow shovels are in their proper place...and my Breakthrough Prayer Card is being used daily. Bring on a new season!!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

This Sunday we continue our "Dr. Luke's Gratitude Prescriptions" series. Communion will be served at both morning worship services. Join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Sunday School begins at 9:45 am. Come to worship with a word or two that expresses what you're grateful for and stop off at the "Gratitude" sign in the Gathering Area to take a gratitude picture. **#downtownmitchellgratitude**