

# ***First United Methodist Church***

***310 North Rowley, Mitchell, SD 57301***

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Yesterday afternoon I heard the most beautiful sound. I had stopped by the hospital to see a friend who was having her baby. I stopped at the nurse's station and asked if it was an appropriate time to visit. The nurse smiled and said, "Well, they are still in the delivery room." Being the perceptive guy that I am, I said, "I'll stop by another time." The nurse's smile got bigger and she replied, "That would probably be best."

I head toward the exit walking by a room that has big double doors (they're closed and windowless ...hmmmm) and just as I pass by these doors I hear this tiny little cry. Immediately my eyes well up with emotion as I realize, or speculate, that my friend is probably on the other side of those doors and she has most likely recently delivered her baby!!

So why the emotion?? Well, there's several reasons really. First of all, hearing that tiny little baby cry instantly took me back 20-30 years to the days when both of my children were born. I was present for the birth of both my children and I still consider those moments two of the most beautiful and spiritual moments of my life. To be present and a part of God's creative power of bringing new life into the world, is truly an awesome thing.

But the other reason for the emotion was that hearing that infant cry gave me a sense of reassurance that the baby had arrived and was doing OK (after all, all newborns cry, right!?) and that my friend was OK too, hopefully holding this precious child in her arms. Pictures on Facebook later in the evening confirmed my hopes. The "rest of the story" is that this was the second pregnancy of this friend and her husband. The first pregnancy had ended with the baby not surviving. There had been complications, tests had shown there were problems, and the little life ended even before it was born. I knew some of the pain my friend had gone through in those days of grief and loss. So, this present-day birth was filled with great hope and anticipation.

So, to hear the cry of a newborn filled my heart with joy for my friend and her husband as they were celebrating this child's arrival and this precious gift God had given to them. Certainly, this child does not replace the infant they lost, but it does give them the new opportunity to be a part of God's great "YES" to our world through the gift of new life. Congrats to the mom and dad – God bless you and your family!!

Now maybe you all understand just a little bit more why hearing that tiny little voice brought such an immediate rush of emotion to me. It really was a beautiful sound!!! Yes, God is doing great things and saying "YES" to our world in many ways...even through Downtown Mitchell First Church. Today, take a moment to celebrate the gift of life in our world! Today, say YES to new life in our midst!

Serving Together,

***Pastor Keith***

Be sure to join us for worship on Sunday morning – 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00. I'll continue with the Re-Build sermon series. This week I'll be talking about Nehemiah's approach to facing opposition. And remember, this Sunday afternoon Pastor Jerry and the Outreach Team are hosting a prayer walk at our Church. This is a time to walk through our building and pray for the people and ministries involved with this great church!! Join us!!!