

First United Methodist Church

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Wow, it's hard to believe this is the final "Pastor's Reflection" of 2016. It seems like just last week I was unpacking boxes from the move to Mitchell. Oh, wait...maybe it was last week I was unpacking a box from the move! There still are a few remaining boxes to unpack! ☺

It is hard to believe that 2016 has just a few days remaining. 2017 is just around the corner filled with many possibilities, hopes, and dreams. Today, my question for all of us (myself included) is, what's your "word" for the coming year? For the past several years I've prayed about and then chosen a word that I focus on, allowing that word to guide me on an intentional path for growth during the year.

This past year, 2016, my word/phrase was, "No Fear!" I chose that word because I had a sense that my ministry focus and setting was likely to change, and even if I hadn't moved back into the local church setting, there were a number of challenges in the DS work that would have pushed me out of my comfort zone. I wanted to approach any changes in my life, not with a sense of fear...but rather with a sense of faith that God would be with me and help me through...no matter where the journey led. Thus, my word, "No Fear!"

There was a book or two I read dealing with "fearfulness" along with several other resources dealing with "change" and "challenges" in life. A big part of my prayer life was talking to and listening to God's still small voice in my life as it related to change and fear. It was a good learning time for me, and God was faithful through it all. Looking back over 2016, there has been a lot of change in my life. It wasn't always easy or comfortable. But looking back on it, I have to say... "Wow, look what we've (including Nancy) come through! That didn't seem so bad. I'm glad we (again, including my wife) did it together."

So again, my challenge to all of us...what's your word for 2017? I am currently praying about and listening to God concerning what my word for 2017 will be. Whatever it is, I'm glad I'm here in Mitchell at First Church... and sharing the journey with you. We're in this together. I am convinced that God has some exciting days ahead for us in 2017. Guide us, Holy Spirit, Guide us!!"

See you in the New Year!!!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Remember, our new worship schedule begins this Sunday with 3 worship services in the morning;

8:30 am 9:50 am 11:00 am

Plus, we'll be offering a service on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. All services will be taking place in the Chapel. Remember, we really need some 11:00 am people to come to the other services on Sunday or the Wednesday service. Please, be praying that during this time of "doing a new thing," that God will use this time to help us reach new people with the love of Jesus. After all, that's why we're here. Also, be praying about who you can invite and bring to worship with you. I believe God is up to something great in the midst of all that is happening here at Mitchell First UMC.