

First United Methodist Church

310 North Rowley, Mitchell, SD 57301

Rev. Keith Nelson, Lead Pastor

keith@mitchellfumc.org

605.630.6586

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Right now, I am being influenced by an unseen force in my life. It all started a couple days ago. It started out quite gentle on Wednesday, but yesterday the effect was pretty intense, and we'll see what today brings!! So, what is this unseen force that I'm speaking of?? Well, it's a germ (or bug) of some sort. Yes, I caught a cold. Now, I don't get sick all that often. I'm really a pretty healthy guy. So, when something knocks me down, or takes the "starch" out of me, as my mom used to say, I do take notice and it truly does disrupt my life.

I find it fascinating that something so small and seemingly insignificant can have such a big impact on my life and well-being. Yet it does!!! This little germ somehow entered my body and affected me so greatly that I didn't sleep much one night, and it caused me to feel all stuffed up and just plain lousy for at least a day or so.

Now I know that we have microscopes that allow us to see these micro-organisms that infect us. Researchers can explain how this "infection" process takes place in our bodies. Yet, I still find it pretty amazing that something basically unseen is able to make such an impact in our lives.

But then again, I shouldn't be that surprised. After all, the Bible also talks about an unseen force affecting people's lives. It's a presence called the Holy Spirit. Now just to be clear, the Holy Spirit isn't a "germ" like what gives us a cold. Germs tend to weaken a person or tear them down. The Holy Spirit empowers and strengthens.

The New Testament book of Acts, chapter 1, talks about "The Holy Spirit" bringing "power" to a person. Acts chapter 2 speaks of "The Holy Spirit" empowering people to speak in languages that they normally didn't speak in. Acts chapter 4 speaks of "The Holy Spirit" bringing boldness to some people. These are just a few New Testament references of the unseen presence of The Holy Spirit entering and affecting a person's life in an amazing way.

The truth is, this unseen force called The Holy Spirit is still present and at work in our world yet today. The Holy Spirit has infected and affected my life in some pretty significant ways, ways that still impact my life today. In fact, if you are a follower of Jesus, this same Holy Spirit is at work in your life too. I believe that sometimes we human's try to resist the work of the Holy Spirit, sometimes we even deny its presence in our lives or in our world. Yet this unseen force blows into and through our lives affecting and guiding us in ways we probably can't fully understand.

It is my hope and prayer that his unseen "presence" will continue to touch and influence all our lives at Downtown Mitchell First Church. After all, as the book of Acts in the Bible proclaims, incredible things happen when the Holy Spirit is turned loose. So, my prayer is.... "Come, Holy Spirit, Come!!! Impact this church...Impact my life!!"
Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Be sure to join us for worship this **Sunday, February 5**. The youth of our church will be leading worship and bringing the message. We'll be hearing stories of the Spirit at work in their lives. Communion will be offered at all our worship services. **Our worship times are 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00**. The youth will also be serving lunch from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The menu is a **Taco and Nacho bar**. The money raised through the meal will go to the church Camp Scholarship Fund!!