

First United Methodist Church

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“I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from?” Psalm 121:1

Yesterday I had an experience that made me proud to serve and be a part of Downtown Mitchell First Church. I was at a care facility in Mitchell visiting a person whose health was failing. As I visited with family in the hallway I noticed someone waving at me. I’ll be honest, I wasn’t sure who the person was. She looked familiar but I couldn’t put a name to the face...or where I knew her from. I went over and greeted the woman. She asked me, “Will I see you tonight?” I did a fast memory scan in my head, “Tonight, what do I have going on tonight?!!” I couldn’t come up with anything so I finally said to her, “What do I have going on tonight?” Her reply was, “Love Feast!”

Of course,...she was right. Love Feast was taking place. And then I realized that is where I knew her from. She was one of our regular guests at Love Feast. So, I told her, “Absolutely...I’ll see you there!! And indeed, I did!

What struck me about this encounter and conversation was that I had just read Psalm 121 to the individual whose life was slowly ebbing away. “I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from?” My hope was those words would bring some comfort to the individual and family as they remembered that their source of hope, help, and strength was in God.

But then it struck me as I was reflecting on my encounter with the person asking me about my participation at Love Feast, that maybe that bi-monthly meal, and trip to our church, was a source of encouragement, help, and hope for this individual and the family members that accompany her. This made me wonder how this person, or maybe others who attend Love Feast, might rewrite Psalm 121 to reflect their more immediate situation. Maybe this particular Psalm would sound more like;

“I lift up my eyes to that bell tower. Where does my help come from?
My help comes from a smiling face, a warm greeting.
My hope at times is found in a hot meal prepared for me.
It gives me strength to sustain me and my family,
And it helps me to know that in this community...someone cares
Even for me.....”

I find it interesting the moment in a day that can change one’s perspective. The simple question, “Will I see you tonight?” gave me a new perspective on the Love Feast and our churches role in it. I realize that at times I become the “face” of Downtown Mitchell First Church. I don’t believe the person I visited with was just wanting to see me that evening, she was really speaking of the affirmation, the family, the connection, the sustenance and hope that a simple meal can give. Am I reading too much into that simple question?? Maybe...but then again...maybe not. It is my strongest hope and desire that our church, and our ministries would truly become a place that does indeed help lift people eyes to see God and God’s love made real in this world...touching their lives.

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Speaking of Love Feast, congratulations to Cindy Bierman (who is very involved with Love Feast) who was just named a “Hometown Hero” for her many hours of service to the Mitchell community through her work as a Special Education teacher at MHS, and for her many hours of volunteer service to this community.

Join us for worship on Sunday at 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00 am. Our Wednesday service begins at 6:00 pm, which is also when the Lenten Lessons for children begins. Our “ing” word for the week is “Discover..ing.”