

First United Methodist Church

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Do you like seasons? I do. I like the various changes that come along with each of the differing seasons we experience here in the Dakotas. It's true, about this time of year I start growing weary of snow and cold. But, I must say, this winter in Mitchell, from my perspective, really has not been bad at all.

Every season of the year has something unique to offer; Winter (snow fun), Spring (running outside again ☺), Summer (get the bikes and the paddleboards out), and Fall (love the colors and the last few camping trips). What I've mentioned are great seasons, but there are also the seasons of the church year; Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Kingdom Tide or Ordinary Time. Each of these seasons have something unique to offer and something important for our faith journey over the course of a year...or even our lives.

We have just started the season of Lent. This is usually thought of as a somber time, a time of heaviness, and "giving something up." Actually, in earlier centuries Lent was seen as a time of preparation for church membership because it was common to receive new members into the church on Easter Sunday. I don't necessarily think of Lent as a somber season as much as I see it as a season of reflection. Reflecting on my faith journey, reflecting on what I sense God is trying to teach me, reflecting on how I've grown in the past year, reflecting on where or how I need to grow in the coming year, reflecting on the church of today, my place in it, and how I/we can be more "Kingdom Effective."

This year during Lent, my sermon series title is, "Lent...ing!" In this series, I'll be looking at a different word each week that ends in "ing." This word will be our guide for the week as we consider how it affects our faith journey in this season of Lent. Some of the words I'll be look at are Losing, Experiencing, Excuse...ing, Serving, and several other "ing" words. This series will also relate to the Dare to Dream book that is being studies in various small groups in our church. (BTW - There still is time to join in with one of these study groups. Call the church office for more information.)

Of course, if you can't join us for worship, please feel free to watch all the messages of this series through our web site. www.mitchellfumc.org. Please keep in mind that we have four worship opportunities each week here at Downtown Mitchell First Church; Sundays at 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00 am. And also a Wednesday evening service at 6:00 pm.

I look forward to all that we will experience together in this season of Lent. May God open our hearts and touch our souls as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus and builders of the Kingdom here in Mitchell.

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith