

# **First United Methodist Church**

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

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I trust we've all made it through Quinn in OK condition. Quinn??? Oh, that's the name of the winter storm that dumped 6+ inches of snow on us Monday and Tuesday, closed I-90 across much of our state, and brought blizzard conditions to our region. It's been awhile since we've had that kind of storm hit our part of the state.

Of course, Tuesday and Wednesday were the "dig out" days. It was a wet heavy snow, meaning there was a lot of moisture in it, which brings a smile to farmer's and rancher's faces, but brings back aches to most of us. I fired up my trusty snow-blower and went to work. So, I got our driveway cleared out, and thanks to our four-wheel drive pickup, I was able to get Nancy and myself to our respective offices.

Later that afternoon I stopped at home to take care of a couple of things, like letting the dog out, and wouldn't you know it, along came the snow blade clearing the street leaving a 2-3 foot high ridge of snow in its wake across our driveway. I wasn't going anywhere until I dealt with snow...again. (Just so you know, this isn't a rant against the city street/snow workers. No, I truly appreciate their work in dealing with the snow in our city and I was rather amazed at how quickly most of the streets were opened up. Thank You!) With a new ridge of snow across the driveway, I once again fired up the trusty snow-blower and with another half hours work or so, my driveway was once again opened up. I was free to move about the city! 😊

But later it did strike me that what I just experienced is such a common reality in life...even in my own life. We all know that struggles, hurts, difficulties, pain, and challenges come along in life, but generally we also believe that if we deal with them, or if we just wait long enough, they will go away. So, we do what we can and think the situation is dealt with in our life, only to discover that at some later moment, usually when it isn't convenient, we find that same challenge or pain has reappeared, blocking us in the life we want to lead.

What I discovered this past Tuesday was that rather than getting mad, the best solution was for me to get "Thankful" and then address the situation again. What I also noticed was that I wasn't the only one. Every neighbor had the same situation, and one by one they began to appear in their driveways, shovels and snow-blowers at the ready. There were even some neighbors helping neighbors, and really the inconvenience turned into a moment fellowship and caring for one another.

This is in part what I believe the church, the Body of Christ, is about at its best. We aren't a museum of the saints, we are a care-center for the hurting, struggling, broken, and imperfect people of life. That's who I am anyway. As the church, we're here to help one another face the challenges and pain of life, we're here to help one another dig through the obstacles that get in our way of living life and loving God, and we're here to extend grace and hope to one another, something God has done for us. That's what I saw happening Tuesday afternoon. That's what I believe the church is about too. So, thanks Quinn for revealing a good lesson for me...and while you're at it, please tell Riley (the next winter storm name) to stay far far away!!!

Serving Together,

*Pastor Keith*

This Sunday is **"One Great Hour of Sharing,"** the yearly event of giving to support UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The "One Great Hour" offering ensures that all the money raised for special disaster/storm requests all goes directly to that cause. See you in worship on Sunday or Wednesday – Sunday 8:30 or 11:00 am / Wednesday 6:00 pm.