

# ***First United Methodist Church***

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The day has finally arrived. It's been the talk of the town for a week - the major snow event that might drop 12 + inches of snow on our community. The weather forecasters have been predicting it, following it, and warning us. And now finally...the day of it's arrival is here. The big question is, "How bad will it be?" The answer is...we'll know by Saturday evening.

What I mean by that last statement is that we really won't know how bad (or not so bad) the storm is until after it's over. Our weather prediction abilities are really rather impressive, yet there's always a bit of the unknown about the weather. There are always some random forces that we can't fully understand or predict, and to be honest I like that.

Now I'll admit, I'm like the rest of you, I do like a sense of predictability in my life. Yet there's also a part of me that is OK with not knowing all the specific details of life. That is part of the magic of what life is about – being able to adapt to what comes along in our journey.

For me, this sense of unpredictability is so important in spirituality. You see, sometimes we humans want to put our God in a box. We can contain and understand God that way. And, if we say or do this, if we read or sing that...then we think that we've done what is necessary and God will do our bidding. The Bible is full of stories of people who thought they had God in their box. They thought they fully knew God. But God, especially in Jesus, kept breaking out of the box. That's what made religious leaders so mad. Jesus kept messing with their understanding of God. Jesus kept taking the lid off the box!

Yet, in the midst of our not being able to fully understand God, there is something very predictable for our faith experience. The predictable part of spirituality that to me is so essential, is knowing that no matter what happens in this journey of life, that God is with us...God is with me!

As I write this, we're all waiting for the storm to hit. Looking out the window, it doesn't seem that bad. The sky's gray. Everything is damp because of the rain we've already received, but it really doesn't seem particularly threatening. Yet we all have a sense of knowing there is some "uncertainty" about this day.

I'm reminded of one of my favorite Psalms. Psalm 121 – "I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." This is a Psalm that reminded Jewish pilgrims, so many years ago, that no matter what happened on a particular road, that God was with them. This is also a Psalm that reminds us yet today, that no matter what storms in life come our way, no matter the twists and turns that happen in life, no matter what uncertainty lies before us...we can always know that God is with us. God walks with us through all the moments of this life, whether there are storms or sunshine and calm.

My snow blower and snow shovels are ready (it's always good to be prepared), but for now I'm just going to sit back, keep on going through my day, and give thanks knowing God is with me.

Serving Together,  
*Pastor Keith*