

First United Methodist Church

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“For just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ.” “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” I Corinthians 12:12, 26

In Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, he speaks of a great truth. That as Christians, as followers of Jesus, as a part of the church, we are connected. In other words, there is a oneness among us. So, since there is a connection, it follows, as the above verse states, that if one member is hurting or is suffering, we all suffer – we all can identify with the hurt and the pain.

This is truly one of the great things about the part of the world we live in. I feel we have a stronger sense of community. I witnessed this in my youth that when an area farmer was injured, the community came together to help bring in the harvest and do work that the farmer needed to get done...but he was unable to do it. That farmer was hurting because of his injury and also because he couldn’t do what needed to be done on his farm and to support his family. The whole community hurt with him and came together out of a sense of care and compassion to do the necessary work.

We are experiencing the same care and compassion here at Downtown Mitchell First UMC, in that one of our church families is experiencing a significant point of need in their lives. Their baby is ill and the family is doing all that they can to care for and get help for their little one. Yet, in the midst of the struggle this family is going through, our church has been doing what we can to make a difference. Tomorrow evening is the benefit event for the Vogel family. There will be a meal served, games for kids, silent auction items (90+ items!!!!) a movie, and all the monies raised through the evening will go to help the Vogel’s with the care of little Haley.

I am so proud of how our church family has been praying for and doing what we can to make a difference in this child’s and in this family’s life. It is a beautiful thing when we see the church living out the words that Paul wrote to the Corinthians – expressing how the church is really a family...a connected family. We rejoice when one rejoices (Confirmation and Graduation Sundays, etc.) but we also hurt when one hurts (the Vogel Benefit, part of our prayer focus in the church, Love Feast, etc.)

Please come join us for the meal, the games, the silent auction, and even the movie. The event starts at 6:00 pm on our “main street” lot behind the church. **Please note** that the alley behind the church will be blocked off for our event, so parking will not be available behind the church. It’s going to be a fun evening...but it’s also a way of helping one from our “body” that is hurting and can use the support and care of the rest of the body. This is a way we serve. This is what Christ calls us to do! This is who Christ calls us to be as the Body of Christ!!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Be sure to join us this Sunday for worship. We’ll be honoring our graduates at both our 8:30 and 11:00 am worship services. The message theme for this week is “Send...ing – Out into the world” This is also the last Sunday of Sunday School. Thanks to Carolyn and all the Sunday School teachers, helpers, and support staff. What a year it has been!! Well Done!!