

# **First United Methodist Church**

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

**Rev. Keith Nelson, Lead Pastor**

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6.16.17

This past week there have been a lot of capes and masks around **Downtown Mitchell First UMC!!** You see, our church facility has been "Hero Central" for this week as Carolyn's VBS Team took over and demonstrated for somewhere between 75-100 children what it means to be a super heroes in God's eyes by "**Doing Good, Seeking Peace, and Going After It!**" It's been a great week!!

To get into the spirit of things, I found a super hero costume for myself, complete with bulging muscles, a cape and a mask. So, every morning Mr. Incredible (or Captain Indigestion – as I called myself ☺) showed up to welcome the children, youth, and adults to Hero Central. It's been a great time!!

The interesting thing is, once I put on the suit, cape, and mask, I found that indeed a transformation did take place. My voice became lower and much more deliberate, I tended to walk around with a greater sense of purpose, and I believe I even became a bit more extroverted (or outgoing) than what my usual nature is. All because of a costume.

This week has truly been fun, and part of what I like about VBS is simply getting to have some fun with the children of the church. But about mid-week I began to reflect on the change that took place whenever I put the super-hero outfit on. What struck me was that this "change" that was taking place when the costume was on, is really rather contrary to the message that Carolyn and the Hero Central Team was teaching the kids.

You see, the message to the kids is that **they DON'T have to become someone else to be a super hero.** They don't need a special outfit, they don't need a mask or a cape to make a difference. The lessons being taught is that all they really need to make a difference in the world, or in someone's life, is to have heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power. Being a super hero for God doesn't change their voice or anything like that. What being a super hero for God does is **bring out the best** of who they are for doing the things that God values and desires for our world.

In fact, the Bible stories that were told during this past week really emphasized the same message. The men and women of the Bible that truly made a difference didn't change identity or even personality; **they simply said "yes" to be the person that God made them to be.** Good words for all of us to live by!

So the message for us all...you too can be a hero for God. All you need is to discover and release the heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power that God gives to each of us. The outfit and the cape have been fun...but it might be time to hang it up. I don't need any of it to do God's work, and neither do you. Let's just "do good, seek peace, and go after it!" **Thanks VBS Team and Kids** for helping me grow!

Serving Together,

*Pastor Keith*

-Remember, tonight, Friday night, our church is providing a great opportunity to be yourself and enjoy the great outdoors. Join us at Lake Mitchell Campground at 5:00 pm for **outdoor worship and fellowship.** Bring a friend. Check out the church's Facebook page for more information.

-Be sure to join us for worship this Sunday. The **VBS Kids** will be singing a couple of songs to help us all experience a touch of Hero Central. My message for this week is "Where We've Been...and Where We're Going!" I'll be talking about my past year with you and also about where we're going. Come Join Us. **Worship is at 9:30 on Sunday morning and 6:00 pm on Wednesday evening.** Our location is 310 N. Rowley in Downtown Mitchell.