

First United Methodist Church

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Have you seen those videos on Facebook of the animal rescues? You know, the one that has an owl caught in fishing line, or the bear with a bucket stuck on its head, or the deer that has one of its babies caught in a window-well, or the goose that has goslings trapped in a storm drain. In each case a human being went above and beyond to free the trapped animal. And in some cases it almost seemed that the animal, in its own way, actually expressed appreciation for the help received.

Well, yesterday morning it was me doing the animal rescue thing. It wasn't nearly as dramatic as what you see on Facebook. Actually, what cued me in to the problem was our dog. Sophie was so intently looking toward one of the window-wells of our house. I could hear shrill chirping that sounded like it was coming from the window-well in question, but I couldn't see a bird down there. There was a mama robin sitting on the house next door putting up quite a fuss, so obviously something was amiss.

I put on some heavy gloves, a long sleeve jacket, and I proceeded to jump down into the window-well to investigate. I discovered that a young robin had fallen into the window well and then fallen into the pipe at the bottom of the window-well. I stuck my gloved hand into the pipe, which allowed the bird to find some traction and flutter her way out of the pipe. Then I had to catch the bird and lift it out of the window-well.

What was amazing was how, when the young bird was out in the open, it appeared to be a bit disoriented. It didn't know what to do or where to go. Then suddenly about a dozen other robins swopped in to divert the dog's attention, protect the bird, and maybe even to encourage the youngster to come with them. I hadn't been aware of all these other birds around, but suddenly the "family" appeared. It truly took a team to get that little bird to safety...and in that moment I was even a part of the team.

On our journey through life and faith, it truly takes a team. There are times that we want to "go it alone," but those are usually the moments when we fall into the window-wells of life and find ourselves disconnected, disoriented, and even in danger. So, the question I'm asking myself today, and it's the same question I want to ask all of you; "Who's on your team?" Who are the people you can call on...or who are the people that will help when there is a need, distress, or danger in your life? Who is helping you, guiding you, encouraging, walking with you on this journey of faith?

In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 in our Bible, it makes this very point. The heading in my Bible for this section is "The Value of a Friend." It's talking about how 2 (referring to people) is better than one, and of course three is even better. As verse 12 says, "And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken."

I hope that each one of you are a part of a team for this faith-filled journey. We do need a team when we fall in the window-wells in life. But being a part of a team means that sometimes we're the one that climbs into the window-well to help someone else out.

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Join us for worship this Sunday as Bishop Bruce Ough will be with us. He will bring the message for the day and also be a part of our re-dedication of a sanctuary for God's use. 310 North Rowley is our address in Downtown Mitchell. Worship is at 9:30 am. Remember we also have our Wednesday evening worship at 6:00 pm for those who can't make it on Sunday. Look forward to seeing you in worship this week!!