

First United Methodist Church

310 North Rowley, Mitchell, SD 57301

Rev. Keith Nelson, Lead Pastor

keith@mitchellfumc.org

605.630.6586

Mourning Doves...there seem to be quite a few of them in the north part of town where I live. I hear their haunting call almost every morning. I'm guessing many of you hear them too. So, my question is, what do you hear them saying? I'm serious! When you hear their call, what do you hear? What does it sound like to you?

To me the cadence of their call has a specific pattern and sound that reminds me of a question I heard an individual ask a while back. The cadence of the question asked by the speaker is the same as what I hear from the mourning doves. In the words of my dad, who when he was in the Army, was a company clerk and communications person, so he knew and used Morse Code...(and knew it still until the day he died). He would have described the cadence as "short...loooong...short" or "dit...daaaaaa...dit." So, the question I hear being asked in those bird calls?? "Who are you?" Emphasis on the "are." "Who are you?"

So, how would you like to be greeted by that question every morning as you head out for the day?? Actually, it's a great question to start your day with? Who are you?? It is a very powerful question if you really stop and truly consider it.

My mourning dove experience reminds me of a story I heard a while back about a Rabbi from many years ago running an errand. He took a wrong turn in his village and ended up at a military garrison. As he approached the Post, the guard on duty hollered out, "Who are you? What are you doing here?"

The Rabbi stopped and considered the questions. Then he responded, "Young man, how much are you paid in a week? When the guard answered, sounding a bit bewildered, the Rabbi said, "I'll pay you twice that amount if you'll come to my home every morning and ask me those same two questions. "Who are you? What are you doing here?"

How would it change your life or the direction of each day if you had someone asking you those questions? Actually, maybe you can have that experience. Listen for the mourning doves in the morning. They'll start you out with, "Who are you?" Then you can fill in the rest. "What are you doing here?" Part of the answer, I believe, is remembering each day that we are children of God...and that what we are doing here is trying to touch this world...or touch another person with the Love of Christ. That's Kingdom Living made simple.

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Hey everybody, this Sunday is Worship in the Park. We'll be gathering at Hitchcock Park, which is at the corner of East Hanson and South Gamble in the east side of town. Worship will begin at 10:00 am and a potluck will follow the service. The Methodist Men are providing hamburgers, hotdogs, beverages, and utensils. Bring a dish to pass (Salad, main dish, and/or dessert) and a lawn chair...as well as yourself, a friend and a smile!! Hope to see you there. The forecast looks like it's going to be a beautiful morning!!

ONE THING: From time to time we'll put out there a "One Thing" item that is needed to help with a mission project. One Thing that is **greatly needed** for the Love Feast School Backpack Project is the **Crayola, 8 count Washable Paints**. Shopko and Walmart carry them. So, let's work together to bring in this **"One Thing,"** that can help a child in school. Bring the paints to worship this Sunday or next Sunday, and also the next two Wednesdays. Thank for making a difference with "One Thing."