

First United Methodist Church

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“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” I remember my Mom teaching me those words when I was much younger. Now that I’m older and a bit more experienced in life, my response to those words are **“NOT TRUE!”** Words can be extremely hurtful and damaging.

In fact, I must say that I have been greatly saddened in the past couple months by some of my friends and colleagues in ministry, by words and phrases they’ve used to talk about or describe candidates in our recent election season. This hasn’t just been of the presidential candidates, it’s also been of national and state officials running for office as well. And I must also say, it hasn’t been just one particular party persuasion that has been the most “vile.” It has been multiple.

I understand there are people who aren’t happy about how the election turned out. The truth is that would have been the case no matter who won. That is the way elections generally work...when there is more than one person running for an office or a position. It saddens me to read, see, or hear how friends have turned against friends, family members have turned against family members, coworkers have turned against coworkers...all because of the outcome of an election.

One of the things I have come to appreciate about the United Methodist Church is that we have a history of understanding that we don’t all have to think or believe exactly the same way...but that we can still be focused on and agree upon striving to work for God’s Kingdom here on earth. In fact, that is our **MISSION!!** I hope that is how we will live in community with one another, even post-election. We are the Body of Christ!!

It was, and still is, my pledge to pray for our nation’s President in the days, months, and years to come, no matter who won or who is in office. I affirm what Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1-2;

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

Now is a time to show great respect for one another. Now is the time to live out Jesus words to “love one another.” We may not always agree on things, but we can always pray...and we can always work toward loving one another. After all, we’re all on this journey together.

Serving Together,
Pastor Keith

P.S. As I write this article on Thursday, Rowley Street out in front of the church is being paved. This is great news!!! Join us for worship on Sunday as we continue in our sermon series **“Living Generously.”** Have you done your water bottle or post card “practical project” yet?? Thanks for sharing the journey of faith with me.