

First United Methodist Church

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“...and a little child will lead them.” These words are used in Isaiah chapter six to describe a time when the world is turned up-side-down. Isaiah is writing these words at a time when the Hebrew people needed hope. Political unrest was very real, the king was making bad decisions/choices. Judgement was coming. Yet Isaiah speaks of a time coming when fierce animals will be in the presence of gentle ones (the lion and the lamb). Then to top it off, he writes, “...and a little child will lead them.” This completes the picture that the Prophet Isaiah is painting. A picture that proclaims the message that when God is in charge, truly in charge, the unexpected happens – the world is turned up-side-down. In a sense, what Isaiah is describing is a moment in time when God breaks-through, into the world, in a very visible way.

For the past several months we’ve been celebrating the ways that we’ve seen God breaking through in our midst. We’ve been recognizing and highlighting the ways God’s presence and Spirit has been at work in people’s lives in our church. Today I want to share a very recent breakthrough moment.

This past Wednesday, as a part of our Wednesday’s Downtown ministry, the children’s activity time was drawing to a close. All the children were gathered around and one of the leaders asked if anyone would be willing to offer a closing prayer. There was the usual pause as everyone waited to see if anyone would step forward. Then a hand went up. It was a young child who had participated in the evening’s events. This child then proceeded to give a simple and beautiful closing prayer. The parents were proud to see this step of faith. The leaders were proud, because this was a first for this child. And in this moment God’s presence and Spirit broke through in the willingness and the words of a child. Once again, the words of Isaiah were fulfilled, “...and a little child will lead them.”

It is moments like this that truly makes ministry worthwhile. It is moments like this that helps us see that the work we are doing here at Downtown Mitchell First UMC can and does make a difference in people’s (even children’s) lives. It is in moments like this that I once again recognize that God is real and at work in people’s hearts and lives...even when we aren’t sure we can see what God is up to.

Thanksgiving is just a few days away. It is my hope and prayer that as each of us reflect on the months and the year that has passed, that we will see the many ways that God has been and is at work in our lives. I hope we will recognize the many blessings we have to be grateful for. I hope we will see and rejoice in even the small ways God is turning the world up-side-down. Today I give thanks for our church and the ways we are allowing God to break through into our world through us. God is at work in our midst! Thanks Be To God!!!!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

This Sunday is our **Consecration Sunday**. We will have just **one worship service at 10:30 am** (Sunday School at 9:15 am). This is going to be a great service of committing ourselves to being God’s people and doing God’s work in the year to come. **Rev. Rebecca Trefz** will be our guest preacher. Looking forward to seeing you Sunday!