



Dear First Methodist Family,

I hope you've been with us through the First two Sunday's of the "Amazing Stories" message series. Last Sunday we looked at what it was like to be a "Face in The Crowd" when Jesus was up front. We learned that the truth about God was that everyone matters to God. The theme was the remarkable grace and love of God. You can also check out the website at fumcennis.org and get the flavor of the service. The series will continue this Sunday as we talk about how you can live everyday of your life conscious of the glorious presence of God. This message in the "Amazing Stories" message series is called "The With God Life." My first three Sunday's with FUMC of Ennis have been nothing but fun! The music has been celebratory, the people have been warm and welcoming, God has shown up, and the people of God gathered. The choir is wonderful. You are a remarkable people. Following this weekend we will conclude the "Amazing Stories" series with "Brave Church." The sermons build on each other so you don't want to miss any of them.

This Sunday I will be passing out a special prayer that will prepare us for the next message series following "Brave Church" called "4 From the Heart." Please come this Sunday as we pass out this prayer to each attendee. Of course we will continue to make the God is Big Enough Bracelets available. I'm hearing so many stories connected to the bracelet and the powerful phrase that is emblazoned on it. Continue to wear yours as God opens a door for you to share why you wear it or even better, opens a window for you to share it.

As we move even further into 2019, Easter is already on our minds. On March 10th the season of Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is on March 6th. We have special plans for this very special season. Our season of preparation for Easter begins on Ash Wednesday. The sermon series for our Easter season will be called, "Encounters with Christ – Indescribable." It will be such an important time for FUMC of Ennis. We will be sharing the name and story of the new pastor and his family and that will be exciting. But we have five months before they arrive and we want to continue the traditions of a great church during these interim months.

Jesus was born in a backwater town to an unwed mother. He announced a kingdom yet to come. He sought those who society rejected. He had compassion for the broken. He healed the sick. He upset the establishment, convicted the powerful and brought hope to the hopeless.

So many portraits So many perceptions...

He shaped Western civilization and changed the course of history. Two billion people claim to follow him. Why do we call Jesus the messiah? We follow Jesus because the cross, death and the grave could not stop him. Encounters with Christ changed people and the direction of their lives. In "Encounters with Christ - Indescribable" there will be seven weekends where we will present seven different portraits of Jesus

life. They will be based on eyewitness accounts of those who actually knew Jesus when he was walking on this earth. You may be surprised as we continue to look at Jesus. He's a surprising Guy.

But we have two more messages in the "Amazing Stories" message series followed by the "4 From the Heart" message series. You can probably guess that series will take four Sunday's. Please take this Journey with us. I also hope you'll invite others to attend. They'll be glad they came.

We also have an usher and greeter meeting after church this Sunday. What a great group they are and what an important mission. I looked forward to meeting with our ushers and greeters as we connect and prepare for the next few months.

The Men's Chili Cook-off will be great day for the men of the church. It's on Saturday the 26th. I hear it might be an annual event that will grow to include much of the city. What a great idea. But please support this event! It will fund some important ministries and it will set them up next year for a much bigger event. It's also great to serve with a church that is a Leadership group in Ennis.

I'll still be teaching a Bible Study each Wednesday at 10:00 on the Book of Acts. Dr Larry Jinks will teach a Study on the Book of Romans at 6:00 pm. Carve out some time each week and join us in one or both of the studies.

I do want to share a brief word about the Ennis Church. We've had a ton of end of the year reports to put together. They are done! What a great leadership team you have. You can trust them to do a great job. I was also part of several planning sessions for the rest of the year and the next few years. What exciting plans? You can be confident the very best years of the Ennis church are just in front of us. But pray –pray – pray!

Everyone is invited – Everyone is included - and Anything is possible!

SEE YOU THIS WEEKEND AT THE "WITH GOD" PLACE!

In Christ,

Pastor Steve Ramsdell

Interim/Consultant/Preaching Pastor

FUMC Ennis.

(Pastor's Corner January 25, 2019)