

The Bell Tower

The Newsletter of the

First United Methodist Church of Eureka

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March 2018

GLEANINGS: THOUGHTS FROM AROUND THE EDGES

By Rev. Kenneth Baker

When Society Gets It Wrong

Deuteronomy 30:7-10(NIV) ⁷The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you. ⁸You will again obey the LORD and follow all his commands I am giving you today. ⁹Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your fathers, ¹⁰if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Right now, in the aftermath of the Parkland, Florida mass murder, it seems as if the people in our society have completely lost all vestiges of civilized behavior. Seldom have I seen such hatred on so many fronts and on so many faces. There is outrage! And properly so, at least for the fact that so many beautiful lives were callously ended by a horribly demented young man. But the outrage that has erupted in the aftermath, with good people spewing hate towards other good people, has me nearly in despair.

Much of this outrage seems to stem from the clashing ideals and values of our nation's leaders, and in their haste to advance their causes, so much hatred and vitriol has thrown around that it seems to me the real problems have largely been set aside or overlooked. So many hateful accusations, so many purposefully misinterpreted motives, so little focus on figuring out what is really wrong. So, what are the real problems? Is it the fault of the gun? The NRA? The right-wing conservatives? The liberal left? President Trump or the previous administration?

All of these things have been beaten back and forth like a mad game of tetherball, and with as little effect. And while so many have taken up positions on one side or another on the pole, it seems the polemics have largely obscured some pretty obvious problems.

Therefore, let us ask ourselves what has happened that has allowed these sorts of violent acts to become almost common place. Might it not start with our society in general? Has there been a shift in values, in ideals, in philosophies, that actually underlies all of what has been going on? The first thing that I notice as a pastor, is that both as a society and as individuals, God has become marginalized, and rather than being a priority, God has become just one amongst many choices in life. And with that, the foundational values and teachings that served to keep so many prior generations sane and healthy. We seem to have lost touch with the God who loves us, and with His Son, Jesus Christ, who walked with us and ultimately gave His life for our sakes, for His love of us. God knew this was a confusing chaotic world, and never intended for us to try and get through this life alone; He always intended to walk with us every step of the way, shepherding us away from the very pitfalls we have stumbled into. But now-a-days we seem to have pushed God aside, preferring our own ways. How's *that* working for us.

There are so many things we can start doing differently, but how about if we turn back to God, first? If we set our hearts on God, God is available to us, and in some very powerful ways. When we *start* with God, so many other things will fall back into place. Then, perhaps, we may begin to gain a handle on what's going wrong in the world.

Blessings, my sisters and brothers, Pastor Ken

The Mission of the Eureka United Methodist Church is to be a living, breathing, celebrating entity where time, money, and the talents God has given us are freely and joyously given, where serving God through ministry is a way of life.

What's happening at the Main Church On the Main Street in Eureka, Kansas USA?

UMW NEWS

Fourteen UMW members enjoyed a 'hygge' evening Feb. 15. It was a time of fellowship, food, and faith. Gentle chair yoga was relaxing and the visiting was refreshing. Another gathering will be planned for summer.

UMW will be preparing and serving the meal for the Greenwood County Cattlemen & Cattlemen's spring meeting on Monday, March 5. If you're available to help in the day or evening and haven't been contacted, please let Jan know.

Teacher Appreciation is being planned by Leslie Spillman and Rise Russin. They will take baked products to the school for teachers and staff to show our appreciation for the work they do with local students. The date has not been determined yet for this. If you are willing to contribute to this, let Leslie know.

Our church will host the Community Good Friday Service on Friday, March 30, at noon. We will provide refreshments following the service. Please contact Jan if you are willing to help provide and/or prepare refreshments.

LOST AND FOUND SHELF

There is a "Lost and Found" shelf in the church hallway that may have something you've lost! Currently it has a couple of black women's vests (one found in the south room and one in the choir room), a man's hat, cap, jewelry, glasses, and other forgotten things.

COMMUNITY LINC

Eureka Dinners

Thurs, Mar 8th & 22nd @ UMC

Hamilton Dinner

Wed, Mar 21st @ Hamilton Community Center

Madison Dinner

Tues, Mar 27th @ Madison Community Center

"Ministering the Love of Christ to ALL People."

Meals are provided :

Eureka—Every 2nd & 4th Thursdays

Hamilton—Every 3rd Wednesday

Madison—Every 4th Tuesday

Watch the newspaper, Facebook, or posted signs for times and menus.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

If anyone is interested, we will begin a confirmation class after Spring Break. This class will teach the basics of our faith, and the basics of United Methodism. At the end of the course, we will invite the confirmands into full membership in our church. For more information, call Pastor Ken at the office.



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR WEBSITE?

www.eureka1stks.org

Our new website has a lot of useful information such as: our calendar of events, news about upcoming events and happenings, monthly newsletters, Pastor's blog & past sermons, Upper Room Daily Devotionals, contribution options and links to other important resources.

WEEKLY BELL TOWER (email)

Each Friday you should be receiving an email of the WEEKLY BELL TOWER. This weekly newsletter is being created with the intent of informing you of what is happening during the upcoming week, in Sunday worship, and in the near future. It also has our contact information, the ministers' schedule for Sunday and other news at Eureka UMC. If you do not receive yours, please let Joanie or Pastor Ken know.

2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

If you are a graduating HS senior and a member of Eureka UMC, have been active in the church, and will be requesting a scholarship, please request an application from the office, ASAP.

THE SHACK BOOK STUDY

The Wesleyan Covenant Group has begun meeting to explore the book/movie 'The Shack'. It's not too late to join in. We meet on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. This is a powerful story that looks at many concepts such as God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, at the concept of Holy Trinity and how it is important, as well as how God can be present during times of tragedy.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Folks, this has been a difficult winter for us, financially speaking. We have lost some key supporters this past year through death, and we have had to really struggle lately to keep up on the bills and maintain our ministries in the ways that are important to us all. We have had to borrow from our reserves, twice, and are really praying that this is just a temporary challenge. And for that, we need everyone's help. We are asking all our members first, to pray for our church, for our ministries, for our mission and for our leadership. And second, we are asking everyone to pray for how God would have you give, both regularly and generously. God's promise is if we will be faithful in our giving, He will pour out so much blessing we won't have room for it (read Malachi 3:8-12) Our hope is to live into that blessing as we continue to share the love of God in a myriad of ways, throughout all our community. With your help, we can.

Please remember we need your support – even when you are not here. You can now easily give your offerings electronically by EFT, by phone, and on our website. No need to write checks or carry cash, easier to continue to support the Church even when you're out of town. For more information contact the office.

Sermons for March 2018

Lenten Series: The Journey Toward the Cross

Theme Verse:

Matthew 16:21 (NIV) ²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Series Theme: We are now well into the season of Lent, which started Ash Wednesday, February 14th. This year, we will focus on some of the key aspects of Jesus' purpose in coming into our world – namely, our salvation.

March 4th: Communion Sunday.

Sermon: "Behold – the Lamb of God" John 1:19-36

Key Verse: ²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NIV)

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 12:1-13

March 11th:

Sermon: "This is My Son, Whom I have Chosen" Luke 9:28-36

Key Verse: ³⁵A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." Luke 9:35 (NIV)

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:18-19 New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 5:7-10

March 18th:

Sermon: "Show Us the Father" John 14:1-12

Key Verse: Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? John 14:9 (NIV)

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 42:1-6

New Testament Lesson: Colossians 1:15-20

March 25th: Palm Sunday

"Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord" John 12:12-19

Key Verse: ⁴¹They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the King of Israel!" John 12:13 (NIV)

Old Testament Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-10

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 11:28-30

March 29th: Maundy Thursday "John 18:1-13; 19:28-30"

Sermon: Who Is It You Are Seeking?"

Key Verse: "Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said." John 18:4-5 (NIV)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY

To begin Holy Week, March 25th we'll celebrate Palm Sunday with Palms, and Pastor Ken's message will be 'Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord'. Join us at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 29th, 6:30 p.m., the first of three days of remembrance of the events leading up to and following the crucifixion of Jesus. The message will be 'Who Is It You Are Seeking?' Holy Communion will be served in remembrance of 'The Last Supper'.

Eureka Area Ministerial Alliance will sponsor a Good Friday Service at *EUMC March 30 at 12:00 noon. Pastor Shirley Fisher (pastor of New Life Assembly of God Church) will deliver the message and various pastors will assist in worship.

Celebrate the Resurrected Jesus with us April 1st at 7:00 a.m. for SonRise Service followed with breakfast in Fellowship Hall and an Easter Service with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

*here at EUMC.



MINISTERS FOR MARCH

GREETERS

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Mar 4 | Jack & Cindy Knotts | Mar 18 | Jack & Linda Downing |
| Mar 11 | Richard & Geneva Myer | Mar 25 | Jim & Leslie Spillman |

USHERS

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|--------|---|
| Mar 4 | Jim & Leslie Spillman, Paul Seeley | Mar 18 | Charlene Baker, Caylee Baker, Deanna Funk |
| Mar 11 | Stan & Susie Porter, Debbie Ball | Mar 25 | Roger & Darla Winfrey, Keith Ball |

SCRIPTURE READERS

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| Mar 4 | Harold Garner | Mar 18 | Cindy Knotts |
| Mar 11 | Leslie Spillman | Mar 25 | Jan Stephens |

ORGANIST

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Mar 4 | Robin Himes | Mar 18 | Robin Himes |
| Mar 11 | Rhonda Boone | Mar 25 | Rhonda Boone |

COFFEE TIME

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Mar 4 | John & Pam Cowley, Jan Stephens | Mar 18 | Connie Mitchell |
| Mar 11 | Jack & Cindy Knotts, Fran Bobey | Mar 25 | Jim & Leslie Spillman, Judy Schlegel |

It is always a blessing on Sunday morning to join with others and share the activities of your week. Lots of planning for future events go on at Coffee Hour.

Joanie's Journal

Rest in God

"Be still and know I am God." Psalm 46:10

If you read the whole chapter of Psalm 46, it implies that there is war and battle going on. Although the Psalmist may be talking about an actual physical war and battle, we also experience our challenges and crises as battles. A type of war within ourselves.

I feel like I'm in a battle when I become busy with serving, working, worrying, and trying to 'figure things out'. I feel stressed, lack direction and focus. I fail to take time to be still and rest in Him.

The word *still* in Hebrew means "to slacken, let down, or cease." **When we cease the battle within us, we come to rest.** How do we do that? We turn our focus on Him and seek His presence, His shelter.

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 91:1

How often do we seek God's presence?

We tend to recognize that we NEED His presence more when we have a big challenge or crisis in our life. **That's usually when we turn our focus on Him, needing His help and guidance.** But He wants us to seek Him and recognize His presence at all times, not just when we are in 'crisis mode'.

As long as we are busy 'doing life', we focus on everything but God. It's only when we stop our minds, turn our focus on Him, and rest in Him that we can know His presence and receive from Him, and truly begin to live. What are a few things we can receive from God when we rest in Him? Clarity, peace, direction, calmness, trust,

encouragement, patience and more. Resting in God can **also bring rejuvenation. It's easy to get Spiritually and emotionally drained** when we are continually busy.

Resting in God doesn't mean we have a free ticket for 'laziness'. As children of God, we have work to do in His Kingdom here on Earth.

What battles are you fighting that you need to cease? When was the last time that you remember truly seeking **God's presence?**

How do you 'rest in God'?

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

Looking for a more convenient way to give? Not able to make it to church and wish you were able to help support your church and its missions and ministries? Or, if you are like many of us, simply forgot to bring cash or a check? We've got your answer – Online Giving. Vanco, the same company we have been using for EFTs has provided us with a direct link on our website, that you can connect to, and give your tithes and offerings. Fill in a few bits of information on their secure website, choose checking or credit/debit card, then provide the amount you wish, indicate whether it is a once-at-a-time offering, weekly, monthly, offering, then the amount, and hit the send button. It's that easy! Just go to our website, www.eureka1stks.org click the "Contribute" tab, and get started.

Or you can scan the QR code on the right:

You can also download the smartphone app "GivePlus Church" and use that directly. Logon to our wifi connection: EurekaUMC, pw = 1stMethodist



For more info, go to:

http://vancopayments.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Vanco_GivePlus_Church_FAQs_for_Donors.pdf



March 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>UPCOMING EVENT</p> <p>MEXICAN DINNER</p> <p>Watch for details next month</p> | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| <p>9:30 AM Worship w/ Communion Fellowship Coffee</p> | <p>6:30 PM Cattlemen & Cattlewomen Spring Meeting & Meal</p> | | <p>1:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir</p> | <p>6:00 PM Community LinC Dinner</p> | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| <p>9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee</p> | <p>6:00 PM BSA</p> | <p>5:30 PM Finance</p> <p>6:00 PM Administrative Council</p> | <p>1:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir</p> | <p>9:30 AM UMW Circle</p> | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| <p>9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee</p> | <p>SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER</p>  <p>6:00 PM BSA</p> | | <p>1:00 PM Ministerial Alliance @ UMC</p> <p>1:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir</p> | <p>6:00 PM Community LinC Dinner</p> | | <p>4:00-7:00 PM Boy Scouts Chili Feed</p> |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| <p>9:30 AM Palm Sunday Worship Fellowship Coffee</p> | <p>6:00 PM BSA</p> | | <p>1:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir</p> | <p>6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service w/ Holy Communion</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> | <p>12:00 PM Community Good Friday Service @ UMC</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> | |

Eureka Area Ministerial Alliance Sponsors:

Community

Good Friday

service

March 30, 2018 12:00 noon

United Methodist Church

521 N. Main Street, Eureka

Pastor Shirley Fisher will deliver the message.

(pastor of New Life Assembly of God Church)

Refreshments will be served by Eureka United Methodist Women.

The First United Methodist Church of Eureka

521 N Main Street, PO Box 286

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Ph: 620-583-5663

www.eureka1stks.org

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Worship—Sundays 9:30



Find us on Facebook:
Friends of Eureka First United Methodist Church