



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
214 East Jefferson Street, Iowa City 52240. (At the corner of Dubuque & Jefferson Streets)
Phone 319.337.2857. *Lead Pastor, Rev. Dr. Barrie M. Tritle*

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Sunday morning worship services at 8, 9:15, and 10:30 / Sunday School at 9:15

Growing Deeper and Going Farther by Pastor Barrie M. Tritle

Scripture for the Week of August 29, 2010

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Centering Quote

Do more than exist--live, Do more than touch--feel,

*Do more than look--observe, Do more than read--absorb,
Do more than hear--listen, Do more than think--ponder,
Do more than talk--say something. ~ John Arsen Phoades*

Reflections

Discipleship – to follow Jesus, what does this really mean for our lives?

John Wesley once said "*Today give up thyself, thy body, soul and spirit, to God, through Christ Jesus; desiring nothing but that God may be glorified in all thou art, all thou dost, all thou sufferest; seeking nothing but to know God, and his Son Jesus Christ, through the Eternal Spirit; pursuing nothing but to love him, to serve him and to enjoy him, at this hour and to all eternity!*"

To be authentic about our faith, to radically live our faith and to be spiritually alive is our hearts desire but how do we do this each day? What are the guidelines to accomplish being one with God through Jesus?

Jesus reminds us that we are to "*love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.*" Luke 10:27.

The author of Hebrews instructs us to not neglect the ways of Jesus in our daily living. John Wesley wrote three simple rules in his **General Rules of the Societies** which are: 1) Do No Harm, 2) Do Good, and 3) Attend upon all the Ordinances of God (to invest in your relationship with God.)

Questions to Ponder

How are you living as a Disciple of Jesus?

Do you neglect the ways of Jesus as you live your life?

Do you practice doing no harm, doing good, and keeping your

relationship strong with God through spiritual practices?

How can you more fully live an authentic life of Discipleship?

Resource Recommendations

Three Simple Rules by Bishop Rueben Job

A Blueprint for Discipleship by Kevin Watson