



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 September 26, 2010

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Centering Quote

*First keep the peace within yourself,
then you can also bring peace to others.*

Thomas à Kempis

Reflections: *United Methodists – A People Engaged in the World.*

John Wesley called the world his parish and led all of us in the United Methodist Church of today to understand that a faith that is not lived in the world, is not faith worth having.

The church is a place that invites and welcomes people, then connects them to God, equips them with a faith that works and sends people back into the world to serve Christ as his disciples. When we are sent into the world to be Christ's servants this can take many forms including: hands on mission work or funding such work, ecumenical partnerships to join in making a difference in our community and advocacy for social changes to help persons who are trapped in poverty hunger and disease.

As you think about what God is calling you to do and how to get involved in making a difference, here is a prayer by Richard Niebhuur to guide your discernment:

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.
Amen.*

Questions to Ponder

- 1) How are you Salt and Light for the World?
 - 2) In what ways are you making a difference in the world by your direct gifts, helping hand and or advocacy?
 - 3) Remembering ML King's saying "that it is always the right time to do the right thing," what stirs your soul to want to get involved?
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