

# From the Pastor

January 2020

## A Message from Pastor Sondra



*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of (people). At once they left their nets and followed him."* Matthew 4:19 & 20

I actually like New Year's Resolutions. Oh, I'm no better at following them than the next person. One study showed that 60% of us make a resolution – but within 30 days 25% have failed to follow through; by year's end, there is an 80% fail rate. The good news - 8% actually follow through for an entire year.

Change is never easy. We tend to resist change that is inflicted upon us. And few voluntarily choose to alter routines, replace behaviors or attitudes, sacrifice comfort and complacency. Even when the change is beneficial, there is something about our humanity that causes us to dig in our heels ...

I'm always amazed at the disciples' quick response to Jesus' invitation to "Follow Me." Undoubtedly, change unfolded. Yet the men were open to new possibilities. The Spirit must have been at work to empower them to embrace Jesus' invitation. God empowered and equipped them to follow.

Jesus still invites us to follow him. As a new year begins, perhaps we can help each other resolve to be quick in our response to Christ.

Through prayer we can listen for God's voice ...

Through worship we can offer our lives (hurts and praises) ...

Through service we can experience God alive and at work among us...

Through fellowship we can help one another know the Kingdom ....

We all can benefit from assessing our life and setting goals to address certain areas. Where's the harm in an evaluation? Self-reflection can encourage us and empower us to do the things necessary to enrich our lives. What if we resolve to help one another follow through? Lay statistics aside ... quit digging in ...

Believe the Spirit will empower and equip each of us – 100%!

We do not know what the New Year will offer us. But we do know that as we seek to follow Jesus together, we will be able to face each day with grace and power. God is faithful; God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22 & 23)

Happy New Year!

I look forward to following Jesus with you!

*Pastor Sondra*