

From the Pastor

March 2020

A Message from Pastor Sondra

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Jesus' prayer (John 17:15 – 18)



Jesus prayed for you.

As he neared the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus lifted his followers up to God. Those who follow Jesus are in the world for Jesus.

I invite you to pause for a moment and reflect on this truth ... a prayer and hope of Jesus. We are protected ... empowered to be like Jesus (sanctified) ... sent ...

The world is to be different because Jesus' followers are in the world -
Not removed from the world ... not hidden ...
Sent into the world by Jesus.

I want to encourage each of you as you seek to follow Jesus.

- Be prayerful
- Be kind
- Be helpful
- Be forgiving
- Be patient
- Be loving

The political climate of our day
The denominational conversations we are engaged in
The day-to-day interactions and situations of our lives
All these and much more challenge us.

Jesus did not pray that we would be taken out of the world but instead, empowered by Christ, we would be Kingdom-builders. Let us not grow weary ... or afraid ... or hopeless. "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

As Lent begins, join us as we walk with Jesus; learn his spiritual disciplines; grow in God's grace. As we engage in conversations regarding the United Methodist Church, join us as we walk with Jesus; learn from each other; grow in God's grace. As we live and move and have our being, join us -
We aren't perfect;
We don't have everything figured out;
We certainly differ in many ways.
But Jesus loves us ... prays for us ... sends us ...
Let's follow Jesus together and experience His Kingdom coming among us.
That's Jesus' prayer, and mine, too.

Pastor Sondra