

August 25, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

I hope your end of summer is everything you hoped for it to be because we are rapidly approaching the Labor Day weekend and the unofficial end of summer. With that in mind, please remember that our fall schedule will be in effect beginning next Sunday, September 1st and worship will be at 10:30 a.m. for the rest of the school year.

In worship today at Huntley United Methodist Church we talked about one of Jesus' healing stories in Luke's Gospel. Jesus chose to heal a woman who had been bent over for eighteen years, and he chose to do it on the Sabbath. This act of healing brought Jesus into conflict with the leader of the local synagogue. Devout Jews did not work on the Sabbath, and healing someone was considered work. This was their tradition and an interpretation of scripture.

In Deuteronomy 5:15, Moses reminded the people of Israel of God's commands: "Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day." Why did God create the Sabbath, and how does God expect us to keep it holy? The Jews have their interpretation and tradition, but is there another way to interpret this command? Jesus said, yes.

What the leader of the synagogue didn't seem to grasp was that setting people free from slavery or from pain and suffering is honoring the Sabbath. How better to honor the Sabbath than to help someone who is in great distress? How better to honor the Sabbath than to give freedom to someone who is suffering so? God's work has always been about setting people free from that which binds them and keeps them from being all that God created them to be. Jesus came that we might have life and that more abundantly. So Jesus was doing God's restorative work when he healed this woman on the Sabbath. So good works of healing, mercy, justice, and peace are appropriate any day of the week, and especially on the Sabbath.

Children's and youth Sunday school will resume on Sunday, September 8th. We will celebrate with a balloon launch before worship.

Adult Sunday school will resume on Sunday, September 29th.

Dave and Pat Beddes will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 14th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Shepherd Community Hall. A potluck dinner will be shared.

See you in worship,
Pastor Gary Geiman