

June 24, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

In worship yesterday at Huntley United Methodist Church and afterwards in fellowship, we celebrated the 93rd birthday of Clarice Gabel. Many of her family were present along with long-time church friends to wish her a most blessed and happy day. We enjoyed birthday cake and ice cream in her honor. Thank you for your faithful life Clarice, and for sharing it so beautifully with all of us.

During worship, we talked about what it means to follow Jesus Christ and his love for our world. What if Jesus' love was tattooed on all our actions, our attitudes, and our priorities? What if everything we said, did, or thought flowed solely from our identity as followers of Jesus Christ? If that were to happen, wouldn't the world look at us and say, "I know who they are. They are children of God. They are followers of Jesus Christ. It's tattooed all over their lives!"

It is so difficult for some people to be accepting of other people, but it is one of the primary tests of the genuine nature of our faith. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples," Jesus said, "if you love one another." (John 13:35) That's a pretty clear message: being the body of Christ begins with humility and acceptance of others.

There's nothing half-hearted about Jesus' love for us. We cannot look at the cross, a symbol of torture, shame and death, but also a symbol of amazing love and sacrifice and then justify our half-hearted love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we start loving Jesus the way Jesus loves us, the world will finally be radically changed. When we finally start loving Jesus the way Jesus loves us we will begin accepting one another, we will look out for one another's needs, and we will become advocates for one another and for all God's children.

Yes, indeed, when we finally start loving Jesus the way Jesus loves us the world will change and the world will have to admit that God is real and alive and living in and through us because nothing else could explain a love like that. Let Jesus show, in our heads, in our hearts, in our hands. Let Jesus show in our love towards others. That is the call of the Gospel: let Jesus show in everything we do!

Huntley United Methodist Church is hosting a work day at Huntley Project Museum this Saturday, June 29th from 8:00 a.m. to noon. There will be scraping and painting projects, cleaning projects, and general maintenance projects to accomplish. This community work project is open to anyone in the community, and you are invited to participate. The most critical skill needed is a willingness to work and possibly learn a new skill, and that qualifies anyone who is willing to donate their time for the benefit of our larger community.

Also please remember that our summer worship at Huntley United Methodist Church begins at 9:30 a.m.

See you in worship,
Pastor Gary Geiman