



First United Methodist Church

2622 11th Ave Sidney, NE 69162
Church Phone 308-254-4505
E-mail: sidneyfirstumc@gmail.com
Website: sidneyfirstumc.org
Facebook: SidneyFirstUMC
Secretary: Karen Larson
308-249-2066

Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8am- 1pm
Fri 9 am - Noon

Pastor: Rev Corey C. Jenkins
Mobile Phone: 308-249-3709
E-mail: crstrnr@gmail.com

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SIDNEY, NE
Permit No. 80

Sidney First United Methodist Church

Pastor's Ponderings

February 2021

Where does the time go? I mean, here I sit @ my computer working on Bible study stuff, and readin' for this week's sermon, and it seems like just last week I was preparing our first Advent service and X'Mas Eve services, and now it's time for the Super Bowl and Sarah's birth-day! Where did that eight weeks go?

You know what I'm talking about - one day you are bringing home your first child from the hospital, and the next day you're sending her off to college! Where did that 18 years go? And why does it go so fast!!!

"Life is short," so they say - and I think there's a lot to that... Psalm 90:10 says, "The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away." To think we're only given a few years on this earth to do all the things we're s'posed to do along the way, and very quickly we arrive at the conclusion there's no way we can get it all done! There just isn't enough time, and the time we do have, seems to slip away so quickly...

You know, it occurs to me all we're really here for is to learn to love God and each other. Really! We're not here to make a name for ourselves, or build large monuments, or even to earn a lot of money. We can't take it with us when we go anyway, and besides, listen to what the city of God is made of - "The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He [an angel] measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length (+/- 1,500 miles), and as wide and high as it is long. He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick (+/- 216 ft), by man's measurement, which the angel was using. The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass." [Rev. 21.16-21] So, even if we could take it with us, it would be worthless - God's already using gold as pavement and building blocks in heaven!

So why are we here? If it's not to get rich and famous on earth so we can be rich and famous in heaven, what's our reason for being? I believe we're here to build permanent relationships with God and one another. After all, those who enter the kingdom of heaven for all eternity will have nothin' else of worth besides their relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and their relationship with other people.

Although it's impossible for us to understand, God doesn't measure time as we do. Time, as a linear construct, means very little to God, Who lives outside of "time" as we know it. Time doesn't exist for God the same way it does for us, so that makes the idea of eternity very hard for us to grasp. That means, in human terms, eternity is a very long time...!

Bill Cosby once explained eternity like this: Imagine the earth is a giant solid glass marble. Now imagine that once every 10,000 years a dove flies by and brushes the earth once with its wing. When the earth has been ground to dust by that dove wing, that will be like the first instant of eternity.

We work and we worry and we stress about all the things in this life we wanted to do and get done. We can't believe how fast time got away from us and how much we missed. When in reality, we're not much more than a vapor or a breath in the overall scheme of things - all our lives together in the balance go up. Psalm 62:9 says of people, "...from the greatest to the lowliest - all are nothing; they are a delusion. If you weigh them on the scales, they are lighter than a puff of air!"

So what do we do in our very short, very speedy time on this big, blue marble? We learn to love God and we learn to love each other. Jesus couldn't have said it any plainer than He did: love God, love people. Simple! However, anyone who has spent much time on this earth would say, "It might be simple, but it sure ain't easy!" You're right about that one - there are a lot of mis-steps and mis-directions, and trials and errors, and bumps and bruises along the way - the journey is rarely easy.

But I dare you - take the journey - no matter how long or short your time - and before your time gets away from you - learn to love - it's worth it in the end!

Pastor Corey

February 2021

First United Methodist Church

Our Mission:
Make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.
(Matthew 28:1-20)

Our Vision:
To know God, to love God,
and to serve God and our neighbor.
(Luke 10:27)

Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

Wednesday Mornings during Lent
6:30 am - 9:30 am
*There will be a short devotional for you to read, along with prayer focus for the day.
*Help yourself to the consecrated elements.
*You are welcome to spend time in the Prayer Room.
Come and Go Communion



Sunday Worship Time

9:30am - Sanctuary

Sunday School

8:30 am—Adult Sunday School

Weekly Bible Studies:

Tuesday

6:30am - Son-Rise Group by Fireplace
10 am - Romans Bible Study

Wednesday

7 am - Men's Breakfast & Bible Study -
Grandma Jo's

Thursday

6:30 pm - Romans Bible Study

