



Orchard Park United Methodist Church

WEEKLY NEWSFLASH

devotion by Jeff Edwards, 2012

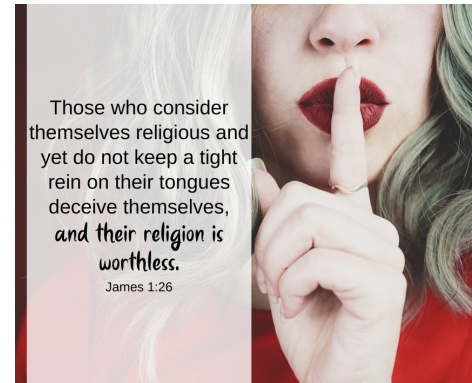
James takes issue with Paul's statement that we are saved by our faith and not by our works. In one passage, he declares that faith alone can't save you. Faith without works, he said, is dead. You've got to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. You've got to care about the poor and vulnerable in this world. You've got to treat people equally. You've got to watch your tongue and keep from saying mean things. You've got to do more listening than talking. If you're not doing these sorts of things, it doesn't matter how often you say you love Jesus.

James specifically mentions Jesus only one time in his book. The impression you get from James is that he's tired of hearing Jesus' name thrown about as though that was all that mattered. In his one reference to Jesus he says that if you show favoritism to the rich, then you can't possibly believe in Jesus. Believing in Jesus means nothing less than living the kind of life He lived.

As much as James emphasizes what we're supposed to do as Christians, grace isn't altogether missing in what he has to say. Whenever any act of generosity occurs in this world, God is behind it. Whenever someone, anyone, lives graciously in this world, they are being a sign of God's presence.

If you think about what James is saying about how every generous act of giving comes from the Father of lights, it's kind of humbling for us Christians. It means an atheist who is living with kindness and generosity might well be more of a sign of God's presence than we are when we're failing to live graciously with those our lives touch.

James says when people listen to the word but don't do it "they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like" (James 1:23-24). We come to church on Sunday to gaze into the mirror dimly, and in doing so catch a glimpse of who we really are. We're God's beloved children, whom God has set free that we may be in this world as those who can return good for evil, peace for hostility. Your job is to go out there in the world and remember who you are.



August 29 Worship Participants

Worship Service 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. Tanya Spencer

Liturgist: Dianne Brent

A/V Operator: Margot Ip

Greeter: George & Vivian
Slocum

**Mask wearing is
recommended while inside
the church building.
Thank you for your efforts in
keeping others safe.**



Upcoming Events

August 29 @ 11 AM:

Worship Service

August 30, 9:30 AM-1 PM:

Sewing Circle

September 19:

Backpack Sunday

September 19 following service:

Safe Sanctuaries training

September 26 following service:

Town Hall Meeting

August Birthdays

Corley Gordon (8/17)

Rebecca Friot-Achtyl (8/17)

Shannon Liggett (8/20)

Thank you to this month's St. Pauly's Clothing Shed volunteers!

George Slocum (8/1)

Ed Nuse (8/8)

Linda Carroll (8/15)

Dan Liggett (8/22)

Art Cooper (8/29)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Prayer Requests

- friend of Dan, *Ish*, who tore his patella and will have surgery on Saturday
- friend of Candy, *Mary Agnes* - health
- friend of Candy, *Dolores* - health
- *Marie Gorman* - recovering from a fall
- *Joan Zimmerman* - recovering from surgery
- Donna Kroh's friend *Linda* - recurrence of cancer
- Candy and Joe's neighbors, *Scott and Roger* - health
- *Lurly Hunsberger*

A Prayer for Afghanistan

by Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Gracious and holy God,

We come to you with the situation in Afghanistan heavy on our hearts. It is a situation so complicated, and so fast moving, that it is difficult for us to know what to say or how to think.

We hold before you the people of the country, those who stay and those who flee; those living with terror and afraid for the future; those who, because of this latest turn of events, will never be able to live the fullness of life that is your purpose. We hold all this before you.

We hold open to you the future: the world leaders with a role in shaping what happens next; the many who are becoming refugees and the people who will be called upon to offer them safety and a future; the impact of these local events on our world story. We hold all this open to you.

We hold in your love all those known to us whose lives have been bound up in the recent story of Afghanistan. We think of all those who have served there in our Armed Forces, those who were injured and those who did not return. We hold in our hearts all those for whom this is a time of special grieving and confusion, and those who minister to them. We hold all these in your love.

Rock of ages, at this difficult time we lean into your timelessness. Turn us, and all people, to your good purposes for your world. Grant courage and wisdom, hope and a future. Amen.

Orchard Park United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation.

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

Orchard Park United Methodist Church

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