



The First Word

THE PASTOR'S PEN (Disciples of Christ)



May 21st, 2018

Pastor's Pen

It's a lesson I have learned so many times. Over and over again this significant truth has served so very well. Simply put this great truth is "the glass is half full and not half empty." In fact, if I am being honest many times the glass is full to overflowing.

My outlook, my attitude often determines how open I am to recognizing God at work in, through and around me. Or by my attitude and outlook I can choose to wander along unseeing. Our journey of faith is so much more enjoyable when we make intentional decisions to:

- see the good in those around us
- acknowledge that each day we are given is a gift
- freely forgive and let go of bitterness
- admit that God isn't finished with me yet and extend that grace to others
- recognize that joy is at the heart of our faith
- be grateful and willing to serve

In these first weeks of interim ministry I have observed and experienced a joyful and resilient spirit in the church family. Does that mean that there is a general lack of awareness of the church's needs and growing edges? No, of course, it doesn't. I am discovering that this church wants to serve and worship and do mission and embrace healing. Not a perfect church, "but a perfect church for imperfect people" as the saying goes.

In these days of division and disunity I continue to draw strength from our Disciples Statement of Identity that says: "*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one Body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.*"

I am looking forward to the continued getting acquainted process, so please continue to help with names. Let us embrace a positive understanding of Christian love that includes a generous helping of grace and an ample portion of honest reflection and especially the joy of serving the Risen Christ. I am grateful to serve alongside you.

Grace and peace,

Don McLaughlin