



BETHANY UNITED METHODIST
Church Office: (253) 475-7098
email: bethanytacomaumc@gmail.com
web: www.bethanytacoma.com
5634 South Park Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98408

Greetings,

I hope you find this
devotional helpful
in your daily jour-
ney.

Blessings, Pastor
Dan

A Reflection: Access

Greetings:

This past Sunday the reading was about Jesus' display of anger in the temple. (John 2:13-23.) The passage is not about justifying our own moments of anger, even though some have tried to use it that way. Over time I have sensed that this episode in Jesus' life connects him with many of the prophets. How is that? Prophets were about reestablishing a connection between God and the people. They got upset when barriers were placed between the two. In this temple setting those selling sacrificial items were monetarily gouging those that came in the door. The result of this was the poor were finding themselves cut off from access to God. Simply, they could not afford to purchase the items required by rabbinical law in order to bring an offering. Jesus' anger is not about what is happening

to him, rather the impediments placed before others. God's invitation to all of us is one of relationship – throughout our life. When barriers are placed in the way, we see God's momentary expression of anger.

I found some irony in the fact that I had selected this passage prior to knowing about the ensuing snowstorm. Due to the snow a decision had to be made about whether to keep the church open. Certainly safety for our congregation was a major concern, but in the light of this text, how could I place a barrier before those able and desiring to gather? Know that we kept the congregation in our prayers, and look forward to seeing you this coming Sunday. It is God's longing for us to be united in One Spirit wherever we may find ourselves.

Grace and peace, Pastor Dan

Upcoming Dates

Monday: Bounty Food Bank: 9 am to Noon, Volunteers welcome.

Friday: *Bounty Food Bank* needs Volunteers every Friday for food pickup and storage help. Call 253-335-7860.

Next Sunday: Worship Service 11:00

Feb 16: Administrative Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. this Saturday (weather permitting)

Foodbank open from 1-3 p.m.

Feb 21: Finance/Trustees: 6:pm/7pm

March 10: Congregation meeting with the D.S.

Valentine's Day - Give them a Papa Murphy Card!

They are only \$5.00 (no tax), no expiration date

*proceeds benefit the "Mid-High Madness! At Seabeck Christian Family Camp

Bounty Food Bank Item of The Week: Canned Fruit

This week, consider adding this item to your food bank donation. Also - We are always needing plastic bags - So, if you shop where they still give out plastic bags, the food bank would love to take them off your hands.

Please keep in your prayers...

Judy Egan & her family

Mary Egeland

Danielle - and family

Liz Best

Maria Aliaga's son and father (Dad stop drinking so much soda, son to be more harmonious in family).

Bill & Gail Rocheleau and her brother Donald

James & Jenifer Angus

Rev. Barbara Brown

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Anderson-Gammel family

Don't forget to bring in a picture of someone who has inspired you on your Christian walk!
Pastor Dan is placing them on the Epiphany tree.