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Greetings,

I hope you find this devotional helpful in your daily journey.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

Reflection: Heart Ministry

Greetings:

In the readings for this past Sunday, we heard about a Roman soldier named Cornelius (Acts 10: 27-35.) He was a man of prayer, gave to the needy, and was recognized by the local Jewish community for his support. In the middle of his prayers, we find that God reaches out to him, and through it, Peter eventually comes to his house. This is amazing, because up until that point, Peter would never darken the door of a Gentile home, according to the teaching of that day. Peter was as orthodox as they came, and he did not want to do anything that would undermine his relationship with God. (Tells you a little about his relationship with Jesus.) However, in that moment he too had come to realize that God was looking at the heart of the individual, and

Cornelius met the criteria. Cornelius's household becomes a place of worship. God changes the heart of his followers. They are baptized into the community. This was an incredible shift. What that means for the future is yet to unfold.

As we enter Lent next week, which begins on Wednesday with Ashes, we proceed on a journey with Jesus, first up the mountain of transfiguration this coming Sunday. It is a time in which three of the disciples are perplexed by what they see. It is a time of uncertainty. Not unlike the feeling in the Jewish Christian community after Peter visits Cornelius. It is, as well, how many are feeling in the United Methodist Church given the turmoil we continue to face after this past weekend's conference. However, I believe we should be comforted that God is still God, and with prayers and openness to the Spirit, we too shall find a direction in the midst of uncertainty.

Blessings, 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

March 6th: Soup and Service @ Fircrest UMC

March 10: Congregation meeting with the D.S.

Soup and Ashes

Join us at Fircrest UMC, 1018 Columbia Ave also known as (19th) this Wednesday for Soup and Ashes. Soup at 6:00 and service at 6:45 – all are welcome.

Bounty Food Bank Item of The Week: Pasta Dinner

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

Bill & Gail Rocheleau and her brother Donald

James & Jenifer Angus

Rev. Barbara Brown

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Anderson-Gammel family

Please keep our U. Methodist church in your prayers as we reflect on what occurred at the Conference in St. Louis.