



BETHANY UNITED METHODIST
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Greetings,

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

Blessings, Pastor Dan

Reflection: Discernment

Greetings:

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he prays for them to be a discerning lot.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11) Some things have not changed over the centuries; we are still called to be perceptive as to what is and what is not God's call for us. Admittedly, I have struggled with what that means in particular, given the time and distance since the New Testament was written. However, I am convinced that words in themselves are not enough, nor are actions. Jesus demonstrated this throughout his life with a wedding of Spirit, word and action. Unfortunately, my observation has often been of an imbalance, rather than co-

alescence, of these in the church. Yet in our hectic world, God's longing is still for the transformation of our lives and revitalization of those around us. To go out and make disciples means that we are first disciplined ourselves, not just conveying the status quo. Hence, what I believe Paul was praying for the Philippians was that they come to know abounding love that is filled with insight. Certainly, throughout Paul's life the Spirit witnessed to the truth of what was said in miracles unbounded. Can we say the same for what is demonstrated in our church, denomination, and world? Seemingly, we have a way to go. Pray for us.

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

Monthly

1st Saturday: Bethany Garden Club - 11:30 a.m.

2nd Thursday: Finance/Trustees - 6 p.m./7 p.m.

2nd Saturday: Food Bank Board Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Food Bank Open - 1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

Bounty Food Bank:

Consider adding an 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...

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Liz Best

Bill & Gayle Rocheleau

Mary Egeland

Marjorie Leppard & Bob

Rev. Barbara Brown

Danielle - and family

Anderson-Gammel family

Judy Egan & her family

Tonya Dean

James & Jenifer Angus

Laura Tippie

Please continue to keep our United Methodist church in your prayers, as well as the upcoming Annual Conference starting June 6th.