

## **MIDWEEK MISSIVE – 01/11/18**

As we settle into a new year, we are reminded that Christmas is only the beginning. We are reminded that Jesus was born into a world of conflict and injustice, but his birth did not end those things. We are reminded that his ministry was contentious and threatening to those in power. But we are also reminded that when his earthly ministry ended, he called on his followers to make disciples of all the world. And for 2000 years, Christian communities around the world have worked toward doing exactly that.

In a nutshell, we have come to understand that the first place to look is to ourselves. We are called as a community of faith, but we are also called as individuals. And for both individuals and faith communities, an understanding of who we are, what we believe and how we move forward is essential to doing our part to make disciples of all the world.

Over the next weeks and months, we at Candleberry Chapel will be taking a look at who we are, how we got to where we are, and where it is we would like to go. We will do this with prayer, by grappling with our understanding of who God would have us be, and most importantly, we will do this together.

Soon you will be asked to help the Pastors Search Committee by responding to a survey and also to joining them in group discussion. In advance of that, I would like you to begin to think about some things that will guide us in that endeavor. First, what were the circumstances of your first attending the Candleberry Chapel? Did someone invite you? Had you heard something that prompted you to attend a service? What caused you to stay? In the time you have been attending the chapel, what has been most important to your spiritual journey? Is there anything you would change about how the chapel operates? Is there something you would add to the life of the chapel? If you knew someone who was looking for a church home, what would you tell them about the Candleberry Chapel?

I am not expecting hard and fast answers to these questions right now, but I want you to think about them and think about your time here and think about how others might be well served by becoming part of this community. In short, I want you to think about why Candleberry Chapel is important to you.

We are called to make disciples of the world, and it starts with each of us as individuals, and it starts with this community of faith understanding who we are, so that we can share that with others. It is an exciting time, and I am excited for what the future will bring!

Be peaceful,  
Rev. Brad

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"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." - Francis of Assisi