

MIDWEEK MISSIVE – 02/28/18

As we move through our Lenten journey, I hope you are finding some success in fasting from things that harm you and feasting on things that build you up. It is not an easy process that sometimes can be tough to face. We become self-critical of our failings and let our own self-judgment get in the way of moving forward in God's grace. Nowhere have I seen this better put than in a daily devotional that I read called "Jesus Calling". The premise of the devotional is that Jesus is talking directly to me (or any other reader) and that was especially true this morning. Here is the reading for today, February 28th:

"Stop judging and evaluating yourself, for this is not your role. Above all, stop comparing yourself with other people. This produces feelings of pride or inferiority; sometimes, a mixture of both. I lead each of My children along a path that is uniquely tailor-made for him or her. Comparing is not only wrong; it is also meaningless.

Don't look for affirmation in the wrong places: your own evaluations, or those of other people. The only source of real affirmation is My unconditional Love. Many believers perceive Me as an unpleasable Judge, angrily searching out their faults and failures. Nothing could be farther from the truth! I died for your sins, so that I might clothe you in My garments of salvation. This is how I see you: radiant in My robe of righteousness. When I discipline you, it is never in anger or disgust; it is to prepare you for face-to-face fellowship with me throughout all eternity. Immerse yourself in My loving Presence. Be receptive to My affirmation, which flows continually from the throne of grace"

Now, there is something to fast from! As you pray, and study and seek a closer walk with God, this reading reminds us to do it without self-criticism and with full acceptance of God's grace. It is certainly something I am always working on.

Upcoming events:

- Tuesday March 13th at 7:00 p.m. Evensong Worship
- Food Drive for "Food with Friends" at Candleberry Chapel. Bring your contributions to the chapel any Saturday or Sunday in Lent. This is what is requested:

Individual bags of chips

Individual fruit cups

Granola bars

Individual apple sauce cups

Individual pudding cups

Individual gluten free snacks

Ranch dressing

Paper towels

Napkins

Spoons

Snack sized zip-lock baggies

Sandwich sized zip-lock baggies

- Saturday April 7th: Volunteers from Candleberry Chapel will gather at Centenary United Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m. to prepare, serve and cleanup for a "Food with Friends" meal. If you are interested, contact Rebecca Driscoll at drisre01@gmail.com
- Thursday March 29th at 7:00 p.m.: Maundy Thursday and Confirmation Service

Enjoy this weather....and be good to yourself!

Be peaceful,
Rev. Brad

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Bradley J. Miller
Interim Pastor
Candleberry Chapel
381 S. Main St.
Attleboro, MA 02703
(508) 222-2525
www.candleberrychapel.com

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