

MIDWEEK MISSIVE 10/18/18

I woke up this morning just a bit unprepared for the cool temperatures. Yes, I had heard the weather report on TV, I had been following the forecast on my weather app on my phone, I had even felt the sting of the wind yesterday afternoon....but still...I was unprepared.

Sometimes I think that is the story of our faith life, too. We do our best to heed God's will, to worship regularly, to read our Bible, to try and be the person God would have us be, to do our best to serve Christ and Christ's people...but still, sometimes we feel unprepared for what comes next.

It happens, like it did with the Candleberry Chapel, when there was a void in pastoral leadership. Some may have felt unprepared when I first showed up to help guide the Chapel into whatever comes next. Some may be feeling unprepared now as we begin, in earnest, the process of finding and calling a new settled pastor. So what are we to do with this unpreparedness?

One of the things for which I have always been grateful is the season of Advent. Advent is a time to step back, to assess where we are, to dream about where we are going, and to recommit ourselves to the belief that Jesus is the Messiah, son of the Living God, Lord and Savior. We do it through introspection, through Bible Study, through worship and fellowship.

This year, beginning with the First Sunday in Advent, the sermons that Rev. Rebecca and I bring during Advent, will be another form of preparation. We will focus on the words of the Prophets of the Hebrew Bible as we recognize that "The Prophets are Still Speaking". In exploring the words of the Prophets that were pointing toward the coming of the Messiah, we can take comfort in knowing that their words can be as meaningful to us as they were to the people they prophesied to so many years ago. There is strength in knowing that in our uncertainty, we stand with ancestors who faced terrific uncertainty, yet persevered. The strength comes from knowing that God stayed with them, and God stays with us. For me, this is the first important component in moving toward preparedness: recognizing - and celebrating - the fact that we are not alone.

There will be opportunities for introducing others to Candleberry Chapel, fellowship, worship and dreaming in the next couple of months, beginning with Saturday October 27 with the Fall Harvest Fair. If you have not volunteered, please contact Marcia Petitbon to see how you can help. The fair runs from 8:30 a.m to 3:00 p.m., so come for part of it or all of it, and invite your friends and neighbors.

Then on Sunday November 11 following worship, the friends and members of Candleberry Chapel will gather in the chapel for their annual Congregational Meeting. Come and see where we are, and where we are going. Please plan on being there.

Following soon after our Congregational Meeting, we will gather to do some dreaming and visioning for the future of Candleberry Chapel. This gathering will include a pot-luck, a time of brainstorming and sharing, and a gathering of input to help guide us into the future. The time, date and place has not been officially finalized yet, so stay tuned for that announcement.

Another event to look forward to is the 2nd Annual Candleberry Chapel Advent Fellowship Event following worship on Saturday December 8th. John Harrop is heading up this event again, and is seeking folks to help him set up for the gathering. If you can help, please contact John at harrop8@rocketmail.com Join us for food, decorating, caroling, hot chocolate and good fellowship!

Be watching for information for other special events as we move through the fall toward that great time of preparation, Advent and the celebration of the birth of Jesus!

Being prepared is not an easy task. But with the examples of the prophets and Jesus, the guidance and support that comes from being part of Christ's church, and our own ability to get out of our own way and dream for the future, we can prepare ourselves to welcome whatever may come!

Be peaceful,
Rev. Brad

--

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