

Celebrate Childlike Faith

“Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, and said, “I assure you that if you don’t turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:2-3

There is a quick realization when humans reach a certain age then pause and pose a question to their self, “Is this all there is?” It is common to stop and quiz oneself when leaving home, graduating, entering the professional workforce, and continuing that questioning process through retirement. You can pick your own age for when you began to ponder upcoming transitions and stressed over how the change would affect life. It is common to think about the routines of life and goals one strives to accomplish but soon feel a bit empty.

Likely each of you know someone, family or friend, who tattooed their body, bought an expensive sports car or a high-powered rocket motorcycle. All the while they are believing they can maintain their youth through the adult toys and imaginative belief systems. Those thoughts occur when facing the future after living what you and I might have considered a boring lifestyle. Commonly it begins when monotony sets in as life options feel less accessible.

God’s plan to place all human creatures on a playground with millions of people to hang out with became the way to encourage fun, frivolity, and build positive relationships. Intermingling with others to find commonalities and build positive relationships brings about joy. The idea to allow camaraderie to meet, build, and flourish began at God’s conversations with Moses. and set the stage for His plan to make every person feel seen and celebrated. Jesus message to His disciples was to return to childlike thinking, inquisitiveness, and vivid imaginations and carry them forward throughout their life span. We can all return to the time in our life when joy was found in cotton candy, amusement parks, and filling a Volkswagen Bug with as many friends that could be squeezed in and still find room for a guitar.

God gave us imaginations so we could dream things no one has ever done before. Our faith grows through the creative thinking of people who saw the vision of what a United Methodist Church should look and act like. It is evident that the vision of planning events that brought people together in more than simple worship gatherings. Martin events like Lord’s Acre, Craft Fair, mission trips and providing goods and labor make life better for people in our communities. Each idea has strengthened close knit and loving relationships within the Martin Family and our neighbors.

Reaching out to the community goes beyond the fun of gathering in worship. Doors are opened for people in need to experience the love driven by our faith. From that beginning, we collectively, feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and prisoners, offer hope, and spread love to all just as Jesus directed.

Peace always,
Ted