

Children, Youth & Family Ministry
Jen Hoerber, Director

On October 8th, our church will participate in the Interfaith Crop Walk in the Redmond/Bellevue area. The details of the walk are listed below. More than just a good time walking 3 miles with friends, although having fun is important too, our hope is that we will gain a better understanding of the Crop Walk's purpose.

The conversation of the purpose of the Crop Walk was started with our club 345 and youth group at the end of our time together on September 10th when we did a privilege walk. A privilege walk lets us see and think about where we fit into the range of privileges and hardships that we have within the community we live in. We all started on one line and based on certain statements we took steps forward or backward. Some of the statements were...

Take a step backward if you are lefthanded

Take a step forward if you have 50+ books in your house

Take a step forward if you are a male with athletic ability

Take a step forward if at least one parent graduated college

Take a step backward if you you're being raised in single parent household

Take a step forward if you have a gardener, maid, or nanny

Take a step forward if you went to an overnight summer camp

Take a step back if you ever felt like you were at risk for being judged based on your race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, or sexual orientation

During the privilege walk activity, it was interesting to see

- when someone had to step backwards they weren't quite as big of steps.
- when not as many people were stepping forward, the steps were slightly smaller as well.
- some weren't sure if they should be stepping forward...what if we have yard service but not an actual 'gardener'?
- no one moved when there was a statement about race.

Although we weren't all in a straight line any longer, we were all clustered together and no one was behind the line we started on.

During our follow-up discussion the youth/club345ers were asked if they felt privileged, everyone answered no. When the youth and 345ers were asked if they felt blessed, everyone answered yes. I've been thinking about this and I think they differentiate between the two for a couple of reasons. Being privileged feels different than feeling blessed. The connotation of the two words is different and somehow privileged is snobby and negative where blessed is grateful and positive. Also, we can all find someone who has it 'better' than we do. This impacts how we see our privileges. It also pointed out that although we all have our own stories and are different, our Club 345 and youth group and maybe Aldersgate as a whole, are all in the same range in our community. Where would you fall in the privilege walk? If we did it with the entire community, what would it look like?

We all have food in our fridge and in our pantry. We all have clean water to drink. We all have a place to live. We are privileged and because of that and the belief that every human in the world should have food, water and shelter, we walk to build awareness and to raise money so clean water is not something that determines privilege.

The Crop Walk is an interfaith event to raise awareness and funds hunger around the world. Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, October 8th. Registration starts at 1pm and the walk starts at 1:45pm. A light lunch will be available at Aldersgate at noon for walkers. We will then meet for the walk at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound at 17550 NE 67th Ct, Redmond, WA. Please sign up at the table in the narthex, the attendance form, or by contacting Malia Hampson or Jen Hoerber.