



Easton Place United Methodist Church
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September 2018

Sunday School
 for all ages
 gathers at
 9:00 am

Worship Service
 Every Sunday 10:30 am

Cephas's Corner

Cephas' Corner

My Theology of Ministry

How do I make God the center of my ministry? Two biblical texts have driven me in forming "my theology of ministry." Thus, the metaphor that best lead this form of ministry is "bread of life." The first text that drives me to do what I do when it comes to answering God's call upon my life is the words of God's incarnate Jesus the Christ: "the spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captive, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor". (Luke 4: 18-19)

This text is the center of my practice of ministry. It continues to reflect in my teaching, preaching and the ways I approach issues in my ministry. The text is the reflection of God's kingdom here on earth. Therefore, Gods kingdom is here on earth when I proclaim God's justice and mercy to all men and women. Living the above text takes the power of the Holy Spirit and one's readiness and boldness in today's world. An incident that relate to this textual foundation of my theology of ministry is when I was working with youth who were less fortunate financially. I watch smiles and joy on their faces during camps which their parents couldn't afford, and this happened because generous members of the Church in Texas brought the good news to these kids. This is an example of bringing the good news to the poor.

The next textual foundation for my theology of ministry comes from the gospel of Matthew which reflects on the caring aspect of my theology of ministry. In the words of Jesus the Christ: For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you give me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the King will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me. (Matthew 25:35-40)

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Thus, caring is the main point/center for my theology of ministry, and the above scripture is my mandate as a Christian/Minister to my calling to ministry. If I agreed that I served a God who cares for his creatures and creation, and that I am made in his image and likeness, then the passion of caring that is of God should be my conviction toward those who need care, for they are God's creation too. Thus, the "least of these" are those believers of the Christian faith and non-believer's that are sick, oppressed, hungry, broken... and need God's caring touch and love that should be manifested through our ministry.

Why should I care as a minister? I care because caring is an act of hospitality which is essential to my theology of ministry. For me hospitality is giving without boundaries. As the old Negro spiritual goes, "If I can help somebody as I pass along the way, then my living will not be in vain". For caring is the act of reaching the "least of these" with love and kindness, showing the acts of love, giving, and understanding that God gives to the world without reservation. As I often say 'to live is to give' and giving to another person in time of brokenness or sickness without reservation is caring. Sometimes all our parishioners want is the ministry of presence. Thus giving/caring to [for] the strangers is giving to God whom we have not seen. I say that the most important ingredients of My Theology of Ministry are agape love and relational deeds. By relational deeds I mean acts that reflect Jesus's teaching as narrated in the New Testament.

Lastly, the biblical metaphor "bread of life" reflects the textual foundation for my theology of ministry, and it's my prayer that it reflects my pastoral leadership as an elder in the United Methodist Church. Thus, when I lived and worked toward these theological and pastoral formations by the help of God the Holy Spirit I will serve as God's vessel of the bread that then give life to God's people, the rich, the poor, the able, disabled, all of God's children.

Because of my Theology of Ministry, I continue encouraging members to be God's hands and feet, living out their calling as a believer in proclaiming God's Kingdom here on earth. As I often say our future is assured in our Lord Jesus the Christ; the question is how can I proclaim God's Kingdom here on earth. For me I continue living out the question in my preaching and ministry; thus, I was in my native country of Liberia in February of this year. While there I processed documents for a not-for-profit origination that is named God's Hands and Feet International which aim will be reaching the "least of these." The organization is now incorporated in Liberia and I am working on registering it here in the USA as a nonprofit. The ministry will focus on homes (a hope village) for disabled Children in Liberia, Substance Abuse, Health Care, and Education empowerment (Liberia Young Minister Conference). The Liberia Young Minister Conference was to be launched during my February visit but didn't because I didn't get responses from a proposal sent out which was in the amount of six thousand to host the conference of 125 young ministers under the age of 40. It's my hope and prayer to host this conference during my next visit, Late January of 2019 and as well launch "God's Hands and Feet International."

In Mission with Vision

Rev. J. Cephas Z. K. Davis, Mdiv.

Facebook: Joseph Cephas Davis

Twitter: Zebedee1977

Kankoryahdvis

Finance Update

AUGUST

8/05/2018-\$3,207.65
8/12/2018-\$1,186.51
8/19/2018-\$1,965.71
8/26/2018-\$2,312.07

Total for August \$8,671.94

JULY

7/1/2018-\$2,608.75
7/8/2018-\$1,877.80
7/15/2018-\$1,625.42
7/22/2018-\$1,104.00
7/29/2018-\$843.85

Total for July \$8,059.82

God is Good, All the Time! As we are starting the 9th month of 2018, we are coming along. We need \$10,000.00 every month. We have paid our bills. In July & August, we were not able to put money into our Apportionment fund. We will be having our stewardship drive soon, please prayerfully consider your offerings to Easton Place. Is this the year we are willing to step out in faith, and do what God calls us to do? Think about it.

In Christs Love

The Finance Committee

Presence:
August 244

Gifts -Tithes and Offerings Receive
August \$8,671.94

The Mission of Easton Place UMC

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Gather in a safe, nurturing Christ-centered way in worship, meetings, and small groups as we...

Grow in relationship with Christ; and

Go into the world, to share the love of Christ with others

**As members of the Easton Place UMC,
we vow to faithfully participate
in its ministries**

Asking Jesus into your life:

O God, without you, I am lost - a sinner in a sinful world. Jesus I believe in you. I need you. Be my Lord and Savior? Receive me -- your child. I ask for forgiveness. I ask for guidance. I accept you as my God, my Guide, my Help, and my Hope from this day forward into the very light of eternity. I lift this prayer in the power of Jesus' mighty name. Amen. God's Promise of Forgiveness: 1 John 1:9 God's Promise of Salvation: John 3:16 God's Promise to You: Romans 8:15b-17a All you need to do: Romans 10:9



****To start prayer chain:**

Call Romona Moore

Keep In Prayer For Healing: (Remember to let the office or the Pastor know if you are in the hospital)

PRAY FOR

HOSPITAL:

RECOVERING AT HOME

NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING

RESIDENTS: Gladys Hooten (Spurgeon Manor, Dallas Center, IA), and Mary Alice Winterbottom (Fleur Heights) Nadine Layton (Bridges, Ankeny)

KEEP IN PRAYERS: Deb Christian, Karen Baumgartner, Anna Mascaro, Kim Cox, George Schultz, Jenny Schultz, Judy Burns, Keith Mascaro, Ron Smith, Phyllis Randall, Virginia Kimberling

LOST A LOVED ONE:

**The Basement sale raised \$1,109.67
for the church's general budget.
Thank you to all that helped with this
project.
Many things that were not sold were
donated to the veterans, homeless, the
jail system for men and women and
the DAV.**



Missions Report

God is good, ALL the Time!! We as a missions committee feel so blessed. We are serving the people of our community every Thursday night, on the average of 40-50 people each night. We do want everyone know, you do not have to be a member of the missions committee to help out. If you want to come help, come, no one is turned away. If you want to cook a meal, we would be so appreciative!

On July 29th, we took a second offering in church. This was for the disasters in Marshalltown from the tornadoes. We collected \$305.00! Easton Place always comes through! We took donations of storage crates, diapers, wet wipes, laundry soap, 20 healthy kits, deodorant, razors and shave cream. Thank you to all who helped.

The Hunger Hike is coming up on October 14th. There is an orange bucket in the back of the church. Easton Place has always been so good to donate to this.

In Christ's Love
The Mission Committee

September

Roger Scharf	9-01
Adam Christian	9-05
Peggy Bishop	9-09
Devan Jeffries	9-10
Karen Baumgartner	9-14
Theresa Lay	9-14
Gloria Bouvier	9-16
Beverly Ellis	9-17
Barry Tillotson	9-17
Cassie DeYoung	9-19
Stacy Layton	9-19
Sue Bellis	9-23
Ryker Campbell	9-25
Janice Green	9-28
Douglas Layton	9-28
Jeannie Staton	9-28

Worship Helpers for September 2018

September 2, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Romona Moore
Liturgist: Jim Alton
Sound: Mick McFadden
Acolyte: Delanee Stuve
Ushers: Mary Jo, Caleb, Wimpy, Ray
Children Message: Jeannie Staton
Jr. Church: Jeannie Staton
Nursery: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Janice Hoffman
Mike Parsons
Communion Stewards Sandy Mathews
Mike Parsons

September 9, 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Romona Moore
Liturgist: Jim Alton
Sound: Mick McFadden
Acolyte: Delanee Stuve
Ushers: Mary Jo, Caleb, Wimpy, Ray
Children Message: Jeannie Staton
Jr. Church: None
Nursery: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Mike Parsons
Jeannie Staton

September 16, 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Mick McFadden
Liturgist: Courtney Heer
Sound: Mike & Janice Hoffman
Acolyte: Jamisin Breeding
Ushers: Marlys, Leo, Amanda, Aaron
Children Message: Cathy Parsons
Jr. Church: Diana Alton
Nursery: Kayli Brealing
Offering Counters: Mike Parsons
Ellen McFadden

September 23, 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Mick McFadden
Liturgist: Courtney Heer
Sound: Mike & Janice Hoffman
Acolyte: Jamisin Breeding
Ushers: Marlys, Leo, Amanda, Aaron
Children Message: Cathy Parsons
Jr. Church: Jeannie Staton
Nursery: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Mike Parsons
Kathy Fedson

September 30, 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Cathy Parsons
Liturgist: Judy Burns
Sound: Mike Parsons
Acolyte:
Ushers: Bob, Peggy, Kathy, Sub
Children Message: Diana Alton
Jr. Church: Jeannie Staton
Nursery: Diana Alton
Offering Counters: Mike Parsons
Sandy Mathews

Lectionary Scriptures for May
for Personal Devotions and Study

September 2

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2 ,6-9 or Ps. 72
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125 or 124
James 2:1-10, 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 16

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 23

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 30

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

EASTON PLACE WOMEN UNITED
News and Calendar for September 2018

Sept. 5 7: 00 pm General Meeting
Mary Circle Hosting

Sept. 12 6:30 pm Deborah Circle
Hostesses: Kathy & Diana
Mission: Paper Products

Sept. 13 1:00 pm Easton Service
Group
Corrine Comer Hostess

Sept. 10 1:00 pm Esther Circle
Romona Moore Hostess

Sept. 19 7:00 pm Mary Circle
Judy Burns Hostess

Sept. 22 7:00 pm EPWU Board
meets

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Sept. 8 8 am in the fellowship hall

Circle Reports August

EPWU General

General did not meet in August

Deborah Circle

We met on August 8, 2018, at 6:30 pm. There were 18 present (that includes our guests). Jeannie opened the meeting with a prayer and the devotion, "Don't be fooled", from 1 Samuel 16:17; leaving us with the thought for the day, "Each person is God's beautiful creation!" The Secretary's minutes and the Treasurer's report were read and approved. Offering was taken and the prayer of the least coin was read. Romona made the motion to give \$50.00 to Valley View for them to give school supplies to the boys' school in Libra. Bev seconded it and the motion passed. Next month's mission project is to bring paper products. Reminded everyone that September 16, 2018 will be the baked potato bar following the worship service. October 3, 2018, we have General meeting to host. Our Board meetings will start back at 7:00 pm on August 22, 2018. Everyone in all the circles are invited to attend. Julie told us the donation of 20 health kits that went to Marshalltown was greatly appreciated. She also mentioned that this year's VBS was a great success. Romona and Lora served an excellent salad bar with warm biscuits and Black Forest dessert! Bev made the motion to adjourn and Sue seconded it. Julie started our program by reading a letter from God. Here are the following points to remember: 1) God will protect us! 2) Don't lose faith, always trust in God! 3) We still have to take that first step toward God. 4) God is with us 24/7! 5) If you don't take that step that you think God is leading you to take, then who will? Jeannie rounded our meeting out by showing her hospitality with a pine apple dishtowel, a sign of enjoying the last of our summer days.

These minutes were supplied by Connie so that Cathy (the Mother of the Bride) could enjoy her Daughter's upcoming wedding.

Mary Circle

Did not meet.

Easton Service Group

On August 9, 2018 at 12:30 pm Easton Service Group made the drive to Dallas Center to visit Gladys Hooten. Even though only four of us were able to go, we had a great time and it was truly hard to leave. Gladys is just as wonderful as ever and it was so much fun remembering "the Good Ole Days"! Of course we got to see pictures of her darling great grandson, who will be turning two this month. On the way home we made a stop at Perkins for a treat, which was a lovely ending to a wonderful afternoon! God truly blessed us!

Esther Circle

No minutes submitted.

Mark your Calendar September 2018

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 9:00 – Noon Pastor Cephas is having a Leadership/Discipleship Retreat in the Fellowship hall. All are welcome to attend. 2. New 4 week Sermon Series begins: Just say YES 3. Office closed for the Holiday 4. 6:00 pm Education
7:00 pm Worship 5. 7:00 pm EPWU General
Mary Circle Hosts 6. 7. 8. 8:00 am UMM meet
3:00-5:00 pm Girl Scouts 9. 10. 11. 6:00 pm Trustees 12. 6:30 pm Deborah Circle
Kathy & Diana Host
Mission: Paper Products 13. 1:00 pm Easton Service Group
Corrine Comer Hosts 14. 1:00 pm Esther Circle
Romona Hosts 15. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. EPWU Baked Potato Bar after
Worship 17. 11:30 am CWU Board meeting 18. 6:00 pm SPRC 19. 7:00 pm Mary Circle
Judy Burns Host 20. 4:30 Missions 21. 22. 23. Potluck after Church.
Desert provided by Julie Marker in
honor of Mike & Janice Hoffman's
40th Anniversary! 24. 25. 6:00 pm Finance
6:45 pm Ad Council 26. 7:00 pm EPWU Board meets 27. 28. 29. 2:00 – 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 30. |
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Happy 40th Anniversary to

Mike & Janice Hoffman

Dessert will be supplied by Julie Marker to celebrate this occasion during the Potluck on Sunday September 23, 2018 No gifts please. Cards are welcome

CHILI SUPPER

FRIDAY OCTOBER 5TH, 2018

4:30 PM-6:30 PM

FREE WILL OFFERING

COME AND ENJOY THE MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP



Baked Potato Bar

after church on

Sunday September 16th



A free will offering will be taken for this fund raiser

Dessert and Drink will be provided.

Come, it's always good!!



“Fall Follies”

October 20, 2018

Meal before show

Show 7:00 pm

Check the
Weekly Update for more
information when
available