

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Pastor Matthias (Matt) Krier

www.aldersgatebutte.org ... 406.782.2425

Romans 12 -- New Life is Christ

12I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Humble Service

Many of you know how much I enjoy reading other people's bulletin bloopers. Well, here is yet another one that had some unintended consequences when the Sr. Pastor was away on a sabbatical:

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:
"I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours."

Sometimes we think we are doing a service when what we do may sometimes be a disservice. We are not exactly sure what was going through the mind of this Associate Minister or how he felt about the church he was serving, but while we may chuckle at this blooper, if it was a blooper, he actually did a disservice to his community.

Again and again there are times when folks have the best of intentions, but they say something or they do something that was not helpful and not productive.

What are some synonyms for the word, “disservice?”



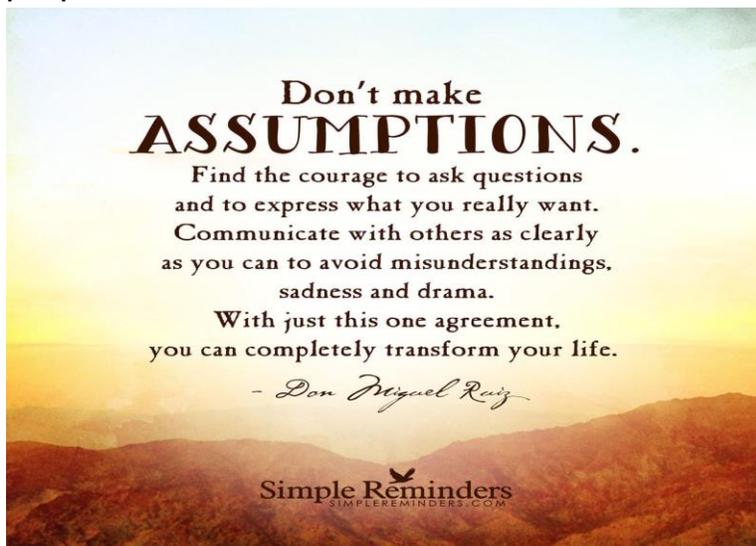
When incidents of disservice happen, intentionally or unintentionally, it may feel something like this:



During these times of COVID, it is important to ask before one intends to be of service, because they may not want you to do an act of service due to guideline restrictions. **First, ask.**

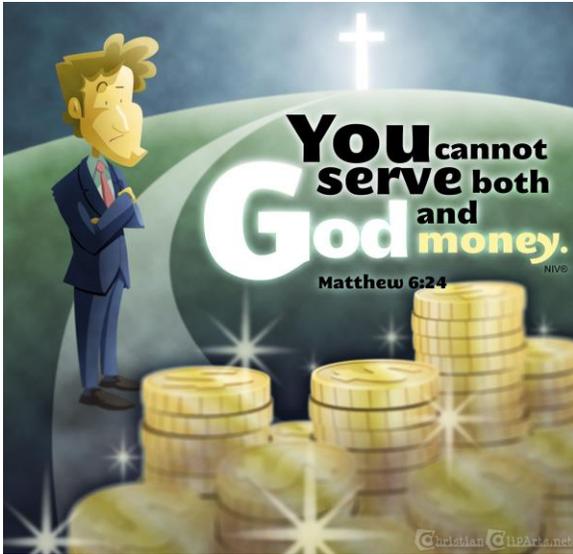
That could very well be the same in the church. We are needing to “re-think” everything we do in light of COVID. Communication is the key to ensure we are on the same page about anything and everything. Don’t just assume because we all know what happens when we assume, right?

One of my favorite all time books is a book by Don Miguel Ruiz entitled the Four Agreements. Changed my life. Here is just one of the Agreements he proposes:



I have made the mistake again and again not inquiring when I should have inquired what was meant when something troubling was said. So much drama and so many misunderstandings could be prevented if we ask what was meant in a given situation.

As we open our hearts and minds to what it means to serve or what it means to be a servant know that Servanthood must be a priority, just as our relationship to God must be a priority as seen in Matthew 6:24:



If we are to serve God faithfully and effectively, we must know at least two things. **One** is: what are our spiritual gifts? **Second**, what type of leader am I? Let me say that again a little differently. What are your spiritual gifts and what type of leader are you?

A leadership profile that has been around for many decades is helping folks to learn what their strengths are as well as limitations. We all have strengths and we all have limitations. It is a part of the human condition. There are four basic leadership styles in the **Disc** program.

D stands for **D**ominance. **I** stands for **I**nfluence.
S stands for **S**teadiness. And **C** for **C**onscientiousness

Sometimes folks can identify who they are just by these four words. Each of these have strengths as well as limitations. Each of these leadership styles are needed in every organization to be effective.

D's are doers who take action and get things done!

I's have lots of ideas and imagination and influence folks with their enthusiasm.

S's offer support and stability and are patient with the process.

C's are needed with a conscientious approach and making sure things are accurate and maintain quality.

Let me say this again, we need each type of leader to be an effective organization. Each leader has strengths as well as limitations where leaders in other parts of the quadrant can assist. When we know this, it helps as we strive to exercise our spiritual gifts.

I believe both of these are needed.

Know what kind of leader you are!

Know what your spiritual gifts are!

Knowing these two things can transform the way churches, pastors and lay people are functioning in the church. Churches using the Disc profile are getting healthier and as they get healthier, they are happier. And as they become happier they discover true Joy in serving the church and the community! And discovering true joy they discover how much fun it is to serve God and the church!

How many of you have ever taken a spiritual gifts workshop in past years?
How many of you have gone online and taken the spiritual gifts inventory from Discipleship Ministries?

I hope you make it a New Year's Resolution to know your leadership style and know your spiritual gifts. It may change the way in which you live and move and have your being in the church! It has for me and countless others where churches are not just surviving, they are thriving!

Yeshua modeled the kind of humility it takes to be a servant leader. Jesus was a servant as well as a leader.



Look at this slide and see if you can feel the humility of this servant leader modeling what it means to let go of the ego, let go of power. This towel has been a symbol throughout the ages of those who were *willing to not be conformed by this world, but transformed by the renewing one's mind*. And who does this renewing. **Jesus. Yeshua. The Holy Spirit.**

Paul was concerned 2000 years ago about the early church no longer being transformed. He was quoted to have said, *“You have a form of religion, but you deny the power thereof.”* Another way to say it would be to know and understand the difference between “churchianity vs Christianity.” Very simple. Are we being the church to one another, or are we being Christ to one another? The church over the centuries has condoned evils such as slavery, women and children being the property of men, women not having the right to vote, denying science, folks in our LGBTQ community not being treated fairly and equally and so much more. Unfortunately the church was more concerned about being the church as they wanted it to be, instead of being Christ to one another.

Most churches have mission statements that guide them in serving God and the community. Mission statements are to inform and to inspire. Some years ago, this church developed these statements. Let us share in these statements responsively:

Mission Statement (responsively)

Welcome home to Aldersgate,
a community growing in Christ
led by the Holy Spirit:

**Welcoming to all,
Gathering in relationship to inspire
and nurture a spirit of compassion,
and Serving each other,
the community and the world
wherever there is need.**

Welcoming Statement

Aldersgate UMC affirms that all are
made in the image of God, having
sacred worth and dignity.

**Each person has a unique story,
whether it is by circumstance or choice.
With many gifts and passions,
we come, as we are, to journey together
following Jesus Christ.**

Amen and may it be so!

This is a familiar hymn to some and maybe not so much to others, but if
you would like to sing along, feel free to do so.

Our Response & Hymn of Preparation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar0BXa82F9M>

Gather Us In by Marty Haugen

