



NIXON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Jim's Thoughts and Prayers - March 2015

(Written on February 23, 2015 in the midst of the historic cold spell in Western PA!)

Dear Friends,

Did you know Butler recently earned a significant honor in Pennsylvania weather history books?

My sister Jeannie called to tell me her local newspaper in Chambersburg, PA said **"Butler was the 2nd coldest city in Pennsylvania on Friday, February 20, 2015, as the temperature dipped to -15 degrees!"** According to the National Weather Service, the only place colder in Pennsylvania was New Castle, at -18 degrees. **I told my sister, I should contact the National Weather Service to share the news that while the weather in Butler is cold, the people in Butler and Nixon UMC are NUMBER 1 with wonderful warm hearts!**

I've noticed the pace of life seems to slow down a bit as the amount of snow and ice increased this past month. People drive slower to avoid sliding into another car. People walk slower and look for spots of ice to avoid slipping. People sit a bit longer with a cup of tea or coffee and talk longer with friends as nobody wants to rush out into the cold and snowy weather. Perhaps you find yourself spending a bit longer thinking about your life and praying about things you haven't thought about recently.

Two passages from the Bible have been running through my mind recently. The first is from John 10:10, Jesus said **"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"**. Abundant life is joyous, meaningful, and filled with a sense of purpose. God wants that for all of us. That's how Jesus lived. That's how we can live when we do our best to live as Jesus lived. The question is... what does that look like for us?

The second passage is from the Old Testament, in Micah 6:8, **"What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"**. These words are like a roadmap on how to live life abundantly. God calls us to do justice, to treat people fairly, and expect people to be treated fairly in our homes, our workplace, and our church. To love kindness seems pretty self-explanatory. Our parents taught us that when we were children. To walk humbly with your God means we realize God is God, and we are not God. The question is how do we do all this?

Reading our Bible, praying and attending worship services bring us closer to the heart of God. Perhaps on these cold and snowy days, we all need to slow down and draw closer to God.

Love and Prayers,



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of the United Methodist Church



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