



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

August 2017

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to all of you on this beautiful, warm July morning. As I write this, I am saddened to realize that the summer is already half over. But thank you Lord that we still have half the summer to go! This past week I had the privilege of working alongside a wonderful group of young people during Wildfire youth mission week up in Superior, WI. Me and Tora Perkins met up with a group of three from Brodhead UMC, and traveled up, Sunday afternoon, July 9th. We had four full days of working at various sites around the Duluth/Superior area. The first day, we were honored to work in the kitchen of "Mama" Flora at the Damiano Center Soup Kitchen in Duluth. We helped prepare and serve lunch to around 200 people that day. On Tuesday, we helped a boisterous retired Air Force airman named Vicki paint the new trim on a trailer home in her trailer park. Tora had the opportunity to paint some more on Wednesday, while I replaced a window at the Harbor House Crisis Shelter. On Thursday, we stained picnic tables at a YMCA camp a few miles from Superior, on Lake Negabamon. The weather was cold and nasty part of the time but, overall, it was a great trip, and I look forward to a larger group from our churches going next year.

Recently I have had questions posed to me regarding the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and our congregations being part of this organization. Peace Church voted to join the association in the spring, and I can say that nothing has changed in the way we do ministry at Peace church, and we continue to reach out to all people in the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, regardless of who they are. The only difference is that, by joining the WCA, we have made a declaration that we stand with other likeminded UMC churches and individuals who believe our doctrine and *Book of Discipline* should remain as is in regards to marriage and ordination. Trinity's church council has discussed the WCA at length but has not taken a vote whether or not to join. If you would like more information on the WCA, please pick up a copy of the brochure that is available in the lobby/narthex of both churches, and go online to wesleyancovenant.org. There you will find in depth information, resources and FAQs. As always, my door is open if you would like to discuss the WCA, or give me a call.

I am looking forward to the big worship in the park on Labor Day weekend September 3rd. That Sunday was my first one in Richland Center last year, and I was tremendously blessed by the music, worship and fellowship that took place that day. I knew there was something special about this town when 700 people showed up for a worship service; with a population of just 5,000, at 14% that is impressive! So mark your calendars and attend worship in the park September 3rd at 10:00 and enjoy a great time of food and conversation afterwards. So, friends, until next time, go out and enjoy your summer, because by the time you read this the summer will be 2/3 gone!

Your fellow servant in Christ, Rev. Wiley Gladney