

Holding On
Thursday, February 04, 2010

It is hard for me to believe that it is now February. I am still not sure where January went. It seems like it was just yesterday that it was Christmas. And now we are getting ready for Lent to begin (In a couple of weeks anyway).

One of the traditions around the holidays that I really like are putting up lights. I put them inside and outside of our house. I usually put them up pretty early and get them going early (like in early November). By now, most of the lights are off and put away. However, I do have the trees in our back yard still decorated and the lights turn on each evening and each morning. I am not sure why I haven't taken them down yet. They are kind of growing on me.

What is funny is that they really look bad. The reason they look bad is because the first snowfall that we had knocked most of the trees in our backyard over. Debbie and I had to go out and beat the snow off of the trees. In the process of beating the snow off, the lights came down. We had to put them back up. But there was another snowfall that was pretty hard on our trees and on the lights.

I think when I see the lights, and I see them hanging on to the trees, it gives me hope. It reminds me of the times when people of faith throughout the ages have struggled. In those places in our scripture where people are struggling, the word often comes to them (in scripture) to "hang on", to "not give up", to "keep trusting God, even in the face of evidence that can be overwhelming."

I think when I look at the lights and I see them holding on, it reminds me of moments in my life when I have held on, barely. In each of those times when I have been barely holding on, I have discovered that God is there. God is faithful. God is willing to walk with me, to hold me and to lead me through the moments of difficulty and challenge.

I like looking at these lights that are barely holding on, because in some odd way they remind me of the faith and of God's love.

If you find yourself in one of those moments where you are barely holding on right now, I want to invite you to turn to God. If you find yourself barely holding on, think back in your life. How have you experienced God's strength and support in the past? Have you felt it through times of quiet, prayer and study? Have you found it through the support of family, friends and church? Have you found it through hearing of others and how they have lived through times of difficulty?

We all have those times when we feel as if we are barely holding on. The next time it happens to you, may you work at being open to the presence of God drawing near to you.

In the hope Jesus offers us,
Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.