

Can You Believe It?

July 30, 2008

On our first morning back from vacation, I woke up and let Micah (our Siberian Husky) outside. While I was on my way up to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee and start my day, I looked out the window and saw a shocking sight. I saw a wild, hen turkey with nine babies trailing her through our front yard. I couldn't believe it.

I ran upstairs and got Debbie and brought her to the window as we watched this wild turkey and her nine young walk through our front yard, in the middle of Sun Prairie. We were in wonder.

As I thought about this more, I finally started laughing to myself, thinking that I can't see a wild turkey when I am out in the woods with my shotgun, but here were some right in our yard. When I got home later in the day from Church, Debbie told me when she saw the Turkey in the late afternoon, she had fed them some corn that she had lying around. Over the next several days, the turkey's were able to dine in our yard many times.

Then, on this past Sunday, as the day was drawing to a close, we saw the most wondrous sight. That mama turkey came back to our yard. She took a couple of steps and flew up into one of our trees. Her nine babies, each about 8 inches high, took steps and followed her up into our tree as well. It was so cool to go out in our back yard and see them roosting in our trees.

The turkey's have provided much entertainment for us. Even Micah is enjoying following them. Although I think he would like to take a couple out of this world if he could just get his mouth on any of them. They have even brought much discussion for us.

I still haven't decided if this is a good thing for us or for our yard. But at the moment it is fun. I found myself thinking about the turkey's a lot recently. I am sure that many people would tell me these turkey's are not good for us to have around nor should I encourage them to stay around. They may even make some good points (but like I said, I still haven't decided if this is a good thing for us yet).

However I know that throughout history, people have been willing to make quick judgments of others. They have been quick to decide if a group of people are to be liked or rejected by fairly superficial things, like the color of one's skin, or the orientation of sexual givenness they may have. People have been rejected and discriminated against for a long, long time.

Yet our scriptures remind us that God loves and cares for all people. The book of Jonah, especially, reminds us that God loves even those we may have a hard time loving (or even liking). This lesson is a good one for me to remember and hold on to.

I know that it is a stretch to equate welcoming wild turkey's into my yard and being welcoming of people. For me, the turkey's are a jumping point to look at a much larger

question, how do I treat others that God sends my way? Do I make quick, snap decisions about them, based on something superficial? Am I willing to get to know them and explore what a friendship and a relationship may be like with them? Am I willing to treat them with respect, because they are given life by the very same God who has given me life?

My hope is that we will learn to live in ways that honor God and respect the life that is around us.

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.