

Taking the Time We Need
August 7, 2008

Not too long ago a member of our church sent me the following e-mail:

Scott:

I thought I would share this true story with you.

My two oldest grandsons play soccer every weekend. The oldest grandson is on a team that is the best in the league. They have won every game.

My second oldest grandson is on a team that struggles every game. They had one win and five loses going into last weekend's game. They were facing the best team in their division. The Coach (my son-in-law) said to the team, "Today we are going to concentrate on passing and teamwork and not worry about the final score."

The Coach was trying to keep their spirits up before the game started. The Coach said, "What do you kids think we should try today?" One little boy said, "I think we should pray before the game starts." So the Coach got the team together and prayed. He prayed with the kids that they would have good passing and good teamwork and . . . they won the game. How is that for the power of prayer?

I loved hearing about that story. I am often reminded that life doesn't always go the way I plan for it to go. But this little story reminds me that it is important for me to remember to do the basic fundamentals and to take time to pray.

In the little Old Testament book of Habakkuk, the author is trying to understand why there is so much injustice in the world? He is wondering why God isn't delivering the Israelites from injustice.

God's response is just be patient. Justice will eventually come. Continue to live faithfully and you will be rewarded. It is a short book that is filled with comfort for people who suffer injustice and for those who have trouble finding meaning in life. In the end, Habakkuk concludes, "I will rejoice in God my Savior. The Lord God is my strength."

Are you taking time today to remember the fundamentals of life? Are you taking time to pray and remain faithful?

May today be a day when we allow ourselves to be found anew in God.

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.