



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor's Page –September 2016

Leap of Faith

Often times we hesitate to do what we are called to do....Is it because we don't believe? Or we lack the necessary faith? In Matthew chapter 8: 23-27; Jesus and the disciples entered a ship. While they were on the ship a great storm in the sea arose. Jesus was sleeping and the disciples came to wake Jesus and said Lord save us or we will perish. And Jesus said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Didn't the disciples know that Jesus was with them? When taking a leap of faith our assurance comes in knowing that Jesus is with us. No matter what the situation or circumstance may seem like, Jesus is with us.

In Matthew 17: 14-20 which has another account where the disciples lack in faith; A certain man approached Jesus after taking his son to a "prayer meeting" and said...Lord, have mercy on my son.....*he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."* Then Jesus answered and said "*You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" and Jesus said to the disciples, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."*

When we take a leap of faith it is not prudent to be concerned with the why or how. Jesus is saying to his disciples use your faith; operate in the power and authority that I have given you. When the disciples came to Jesus privately this is a revelation for us today to enter into your secret place and commune with our God. He will strengthen you for the journey ahead. As mentioned in Matthew 17 if you have the smallest amount of faith, you can say to any obstacle, anything that hinders you, any mountain be moved. And nothing will be impossible for you. I encourage you to take a leap of faith into the NEW that God has waiting for you. Shatter the enemy of insurmountable faith and take a Leap of Faith toward the endless possibilities that God has in store.....Take a leap of faith that is filled with Gods promises.

Pastor Angelique

PASTOR'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

Meeting God at the Boundaries

Author: Lucia Ann McSpadden

The Scriptures lead us again and again to understand that God meets us at these boundaries, where "how we do things" and "how we understand ourselves" are brought into sharp relief. Realizing that God's vision infinitely surpasses ours, Christians are challenged to look beyond the boundary and with courage and faith to change the very nature of the boundaries. For, in truth human boundaries are not sharp, thin lines but rather relational spaces and patterned places where difference and commonalities are negotiated.

This book is the result of three year study commissioned by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. The aim of the project was to gather and analyze the experience of leaders and congregations in existing cross-cultural-cross racial appointments in the denomination.