

PASTOR'S LETTER NOVEMBER 2020



"We have never preached violence, except the violence of love, which left Christ nailed to a cross, the violence that we must each do to ourselves to overcome our selfishness and such cruel inequalities among us."

~Bishop Oscar Romero

Dear friends,

Our faith in God is an act of faith that turns the world upside down and shakes it free from the social stratification of selfishness and influences where each person and clan is concerned only for itself. It is an act of faith leading those who believe in God to one's own personal cross of pain and death. One should not be surprised by the words of Jesus, Mark 8:34, *"If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."* Romero is correct; the only violence we preach is the violence of love, a love that seeks an end to those things hindering the poor and disenfranchised from God's great love and salvation, both here and now, and in the world to come.

At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, we are not only concerned for ourselves, but we are concerned for those individuals and groups who have not had the opportunities and luxuries we have been blessed with.

Here is the question for us who worship at Aldersgate United Methodist Church: How can we bless others directly from our church doors? Blessings where we see the hurting and poor within our house of worship, face to face?

I think this is a question we need to ponder and plan during this epidemic. How can we do God's work right here at the House of God (Aldersgate UMC)? How can we practice the violence of love, here and now?

The words of Jesus are so relevant here, Matthew 25:40, *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."* So I challenge you this day, what ministries to the needy and disenfranchised is God leading us to as a body of Christ practicing the violence of love?

Blessings,
Pastor Brett