

PASTOR'S LETTER FEBRUARY, 2022

FROM THE



PASTOR

"They took the whole Cherokee nation

Put us on this reservation

Took away our ways of life

The tomahawk and the bow and knife

Took away our native tongue

And taught their English to our young"

~Paul Revere & the Raiders

I have been thinking about what deems the church as essential. Thinking through the history of The United Methodist Church, I believe I found the answer. It is not about us, it is about the world. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism once said, "I look upon all the world as my parish..."

Between 1830 and 1850, On The Trail of Tears, approximately 60,000 Native Americans were forced from their homelands and relocated west of the Mississippi River. Many Native Americans lost their lives as they walked hundreds of miles to a Government Reservation. It is one of those sad and embarrassing stories in American History. But they were not alone, many Methodists walked at their sides in protest to what the government was doing. This is what Jesus said, Luke 4:18, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free..."*

When the church walks side by side with the hurting and disenfranchised of the world on their "The Trail of Tears", this is when the church becomes essential. I remember my Dad, who was an old cowboy preacher, telling me, "The church is a filling station where you get serviced and filled up with God's Spirit to go out into the world and do what Jesus asked you to do." I think he got it right. The church is essential when it is doing the work and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Are you walking, side by side, on The Trail of Tears?

Let's pray: It is me again God. I think I'm feeling a nudge by your Spirit to get out of my pew and begin doing your work and ministry for those who have no voice and for those who are hungry and deprived. Fill me with your Spirit to reach out with helping hands. Amen.

FEBRUARY 2022 SERMONS

February 6th, God Is With Us.....Matthew 28:20
February 13th, Waiting At The Door.....Revelation 3:20
February 20th, The Promised Land.....Genesis 32:24-31; 33:10
February 27th, God Is Love.....1 John 4:16b