
MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 18

October 16, 2024

George B. Harris, Minister

Email: bernerdharris@yahoo.com
mhcc16@yahoo.com

Church Telephone: (434) 845-3855

Minister's Telephone: (434) 215-4846

Pam Hubbard
Music Director

Brenda Harris
Administrative Assistant

Who We Are

If someone were to ask you what kind of church you are, you might have to think about the answer for a minute. The Disciples of Christ denomination describes itself as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. When I was looking for a church, I was looking for a church with theology that was centered on Jesus. The movement of wholeness is insisted upon by Jesus. However, we lost the wholeness a thousand years ago when the Eastern Church split from the Roman Catholic Church. If someone were to ask me what kind of church we are. I might say that Madison Heights Christian Church is a loving and caring ministry that is grounded in the teaching of Jesus. This is a very important concept to understand because a movement towards wholeness is a movement in the direction of being the church that Jesus intended for us to be.

In John chapter 17, when Jesus prays for his disciples, his prayer is that we may all be one. The timing of this prayer from Jesus is very significant. It is at the end of his mission when he is turning the church over to the disciples. It is like a death bed confession. He knows it is at the end and he wants to make sure that his people do what they need to do. He is very specific about the necessity of unity – it is so that the world may believe.

As the word spread through the world, the Christian Church became fragmented and lost its unity. The east split from the west over issues of power and control. Instead of following the teaching and living example of Jesus, they followed their own desires for power and control. Then the Protest Reformation came along and split the Christian Church even further. Jesus teaches unity and people claim to follow Jesus but ignore the necessity for unity.

We will never agree on emotional issues, contemporary problems, politics, or the regulation of morals and values. What we can all agree upon is what Jesus did, said, and told us to do. We can all get along and be united together if we commit ourselves to following the preaching and teaching of Jesus instead of catering to the whims of a transgressive society. When it comes to the divisive emotional issues Jesus was silent because his focus was on uniting us in love instead of divisive emotional issues. Judging and condemning others, wealth gaps, and selfish ambition are prevalent and destructive. If we follow the teachings of Jesus in regards to loving your neighbor, loving your enemies, and the condemnation of selfish ambition, we will prevent the repeat pattern that leads to desolation.

Governments follow the selfish ambitions of the people in order to get elected or seize power, this leads to the collapse of their respective societies. If the world religions lead their governments to follow the peace and prosperity that their respective religions emphasize, the world will have peace and prosperity. The Christian religion teaches to love your neighbor and your enemies, Islam teaches truth, justice, and life is sacred, Hinduism and Buddhism teach non-violence, and Judaism teaches peace is a fundamental goal. The world is comprised of religions that teach peace and governments that do not follow the teachings of their respective religions. Turmoil awaits every society that runs away with selfish ambition. In a divided world, we are to remain true to the love and unity taught by Jesus.

Thank you,

George