

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Making the Doughnuts

In 1997 Dunkin' Doughnuts introduced a character named Fred the Baker and he had a catchphrase. It was "Time to Make the Doughnuts". It was so popular that even now, 23 years later, people all over the world say it is Time to Make the Doughnuts whenever they are involved in repetitive work-related activities.

Guess why I thought about this phrase up today? Yep. Writing the newsletter article is a Time to Make the Doughnuts activity for me.

Currently, with so many new things coming at us at once, the opportunity to practice any repetitive and predictable behavior is kind of nice.



Our scriptures for this week's contemplation and for Sunday's worship speak of the fruit of Spiritual Repetitive Behavior. In John 10: 1-10, the gospel writer offers one of Jesus' teachings about how the sheep know the shepherd. It is a brief illustration about those who come for the sheep, some climbing a wall and another using the gate. The sheep go with the one opening the gate. As for the ones attempting to go over the wall which I read as taking a shortcut, it isn't going to work.

We are also revisiting the Acts passage from last week, but this week, instead of asking "what shall we do" we are carefully looking at what the early disciples DID specifically. Religiously, even. You might say their 'time to make the doughnuts' behaviors were the bedrock of the early church. But for these predictable behaviors, the world came to understand a new expression of faith and discipleship introduced among them. And it was attractive. Many came to see, to participate, and be changed by this Holy version of 'Making the Doughnuts'.

For us as a congregation, it is our Holy Call to decide what new expressions as followers of Jesus we will express faithfully. The current situation has changed everything; we won't go back to 'business as usual' and for our sake and that of Christ, I hope we won't. It is a good time to consider what needs to remain and what should be changed. Yet I know that the basics will still be expressed: Being taught in circles of fellowship, sharing meals and prayers, holding things in common and finding ways to stand together, selling and sharing our possessions for those who have needs, finding our way to the 'temple courts', being glad and sincere.

None of these ideas are original. I took all of them straight from the scripture. But consider all the myriad of ways our faith has expressed this for over 2000 years. And we have the opportunity now, with God's full support and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to consider anew what making the doughnuts might look like for our congregation and faith going forward. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Brian