

Pastor's Column
January – February 2020

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
Philippians 2:5-8 (NASB)

We have a ready-made theme in the very number of our New Year: 2020. My prayer for us all is that we will have clear, 20/20 spiritual vision. I also pray that we will seek God's kingdom and His righteousness in every matter in our personal and corporate lives. May the United Methodist Church awaken to our Lord's righteousness. (Romans 13:11)

You and I seek to be humble because we are flawed and fallible and finite. We humans are subject to many temptations and what John Wesley called "infirmities." When Wesley called human beings infirm, he meant that we are not at all like our God: eternal, infallible, sinless, unconditionally loving and forgiving. We need to be humble because we all fall short of the glory of God on account of our sin. (Romans 3:23)

Jesus had no such limitations upon His human life. He came into the world as a human being of flesh because that was the only form in which He could bear our infirmities, our sins and our death. He lived His brief life without sinning, constantly attentive to the Father's voice in His heart – and quick to respond to the moving of the Holy Spirit always. May we each look to the year 2020 in hopes of living more as He lived, even in our imperfection. Jesus was completely obedient to His heavenly Father.

My prayer for us as a church, as ministry and mission teams and as individual Jesus-followers is that we will trust Jesus' work in us to make the most of us for the sake of His kingdom. May we be taken up by Him as His beloved children, His co-workers, His humble friends. May we reflect His character in the coming year more and more – and give the Lord Jesus all the glory.

Happy New Year!
Blessings,
Pastor Margot