

August 2025

Love your neighbor. Seek justice, love kindness, walk humbly. Be the church. Be God's hands and feet and voice in the world.

These are the mantras of United in Faith this summer—the things we repeat to orient our hearts and guide our actions. There's a lot of noise out there. Static designed to distract us, confuse us, even divide us. Voices that suggest the Gospel is outdated or naïve. Agendas that say some lives matter more than others. Narratives that imply

Jesus didn't really mean it when he said: *"Love your enemies."* *"Blessed are the peacemakers."* *"The last shall be first."*

So, as a church, we return to the text. We return to Jesus' own words in Matthew 25:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in... Whatever you did for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you did for me."

These are not poetic metaphors. They're marching orders. A call to see Christ in the face of every person—especially the ones our culture would rather ignore. Especially the ones we're told don't belong.

Because we read this text, because this book lights our path, we know the truth: **No one is expendable. No one is disposable.**

And we remember that "those people" aren't separate from us. They are us. And

Jesus is in our midst.

Maya Angelou once said, "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time." Jesus has shown us who he is—a healer, a teacher, a challenger of

systems, a lover of the least, and the embodiment of love itself. And our faith reminds us who we are: the Body of Christ still alive and active in the world.

At United in Faith, we've long determined that our community will be known as "God's hands and feet and voice in the world."

So even as the static gets louder, and the world pulls us in every direction, we will keep showing up.

We will keep loving. We will keep listening. We will keep being the church.

With faith and courage,

Pastor Jeanie