



June 7, 2017

### *LEARN BY DOING*

In the magazine *Christian Century* I read a story about a Quaker church near a university. One Sunday a college student wearing tattered pants came into the sanctuary just as the service was beginning. The small sanctuary was full, and when he couldn't find a seat, he simply sat down in the aisle. A member of the congregation, with white hair and a three-piece suit, slowly made his way down the aisle toward the student. Others watched to see what he would say to this strange visitor. With great difficulty, the man got down on the floor with the student. John Berryman wrote that this simple act so impressed the young man that it changed his life. He added: "Every time adults see a young person in church, they should walk up and, with no strings attached, say: 'I'm glad to see you.' It doesn't cost a thing, and you don't even have to have a committee meeting."

Children learn the practice of worship by joining as full participants. They learn how they are valued by the ways they are greeted. They learn about the value of the prayers, music, and rituals of worship by praying and singing and reading with their parents, grandparents, and other friendly adults.

And we will learn from them. All people are born as fully formed spiritual beings; children are as connected to God as anyone. This Sunday is Celebration Sunday, our annual Sunday to rejoice in the conclusion of the church school program year. Youth and children will lead the worship service, we will pray for our high school graduates, and this year's church picnic will follow. We will worship and eat together and learn by doing.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

Senior Minister