



October 17, 2018

LITTLE MOMENTS FROM RECENT SUNDAY MORNINGS

7:00 a.m. The sun's rising colors the sky with pink as I walk to the church door. The stillness of the sanctuary is holy expectation. I speak to empty pews, practicing the words of the sermon that arose from a trust that God speaks through scripture and through the lives of this community.

8:30 a.m. Greeting my colleagues on the church staff, we catch up on the pastoral news of the church over the weekend, and share the news of our own lives.

9:00 a.m. The Chancel Choir begins their Sunday rehearsal by singing verses of the morning hymns. It's my chance to sit in a pew and sing along.

9:25 a.m. I visit the Hills Ringers, where I am often invited to put on gloves and play two notes during our children's bell choir rehearsal. Martha Stowell is an excellent director and teacher!

9:45 a.m. Greeting a church member in the hallway, I learn news of a health concern in the church's wider family. We make plans to follow up during the week and to lift the person in prayer during the worship service.

10:03 a.m. During the processional hymn, a toddler who is very comfortable in worship is kneeling on the pew and facing backwards to watch the choir walk up the center aisle. With my hymnal in one hand, I raise my other hand for a high five.

11:05 a.m. After worship, I meet new visitors to the church. A long-time member has made them welcome and introduces us before taking them to community hour.

11:30 a.m. At community hour, I smile to see a shy teenager hugged by his church school teacher from years ago. A woman whose children are grown listens raptly to a five-year-old describe her outfit, allowing the parent to finish a conversation without worry. A cancer survivor offers support to a family who has just learned of a diagnosis.

God's grace is made real when the church family gathers itself with our wonderfully human mix of hope, fear, longing, worry, compassion, nervousness, frailty, patience, attentiveness, and love. "Praise God from whom all blessing flow."

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister