



# On the Same Page

“Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker — An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ Or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands?’” (Isaiah 45:9 NAS95)

## A Developing Direction

### Forever-Family Fellowship

**We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever**

### All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

### Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

### Moment-by-Moment

#### Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

## “The Mud will Stick to the Wheel”

Sunday, August 6, 2017

This quote comes from Martin Luther, pioneer of the Protestant Reformation - a firebrand whose passion and wit and clarity still speaks today, 500 years later. At this point in time, Martin was holed up in Wartburg Castle, translating the Old Testament Scriptures into the German language. Here is what he says: “I figured from the very beginning that I would find ten thousand to criticize my work before I found one who would accomplish one-twentieth of what I have done.” He knew, and said, that when you are trying to move forward, “the mud will stick to the wheel.”

It reminds me of criticisms that D.L. Moody received regarding his efforts in evangelism and soul-winning. Evidently, many thought that he was doing it wrong. He replied, “I much prefer the way that I do evangelism to the way that you don't do it.” And I've heard criticisms of (usually) older Christians, who when they pray aloud, pray in King James English, as though that is the proper dialect for God's understanding. But couldn't the same thing be said? I much prefer the way he prays to the way that you don't?

So with that leadership principle firmly in mind - “the mud will stick to the wheel” - let's turn to the Leader of all leaders, and recognize that Jesus Himself is the wheel that churns forward, and all the rest of us are either the mud who sticks to (him), or else we remain unattached, still lying along the edge of the road, mud none the less.

The metaphor is not difficult. In Genesis, [the text](#) tells us that “the Lord God formed Adam from the dust of the ground.” A departed business man from Milford who grew up as a farm boy used to, on occasion, refer to a person as “a piece of dirt.” Whether he intended it or not, it's Biblical. Further, Scripture is fond of the metaphor of the Potter and the clay. Yes, just common clay, carefully and skillfully applied by the Potter to serve His sovereign purpose. And what a privilege, to find oneself of use in the Potter's hand, not because of some inherent quality inside of us that makes us more useful than some other “piece of dirt,” but because of a usefulness gifted to us from the One who made us and chooses to use us.

So yes, the mud will stick to the wheel. But not all of it, and not automatically. And so, if you are a follower of Christ (to use words of a song with which we often conclude our corporate worship), cling to Christ. Be the mud on that wheel. No, not to criticize and judge. Just to be close, in gratefulness, in hope that he might choose a usefulness for us for His glory.

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Martin Luther, and his “Preface to the Old Testament” (1523, and revised in 1545). This document is a wonderful introduction to the uses of the law, by which we can know God’s will. Without it, we are left to the foolishness of unguided human reason, as we can see clearly in our own day.

**“Besides, reason does not know either that the evil inclination of the flesh, and hatred of enemies, is sin. Because it observes and feels that all men are so inclined, it holds rather that these things are natural and right, and thinks it is enough merely to guard against the outward acts. So it goes its way, regarding its illness as strength, its sin as virtue, its evil as good; and never getting anywhere.”**

Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 118.

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## News and Notes

**Prayer Time:** Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., at the Milford Tim Hortons; Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

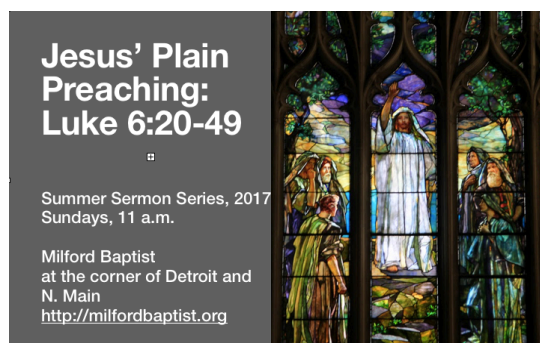
**Next weekend is Milford Memories weekend! Please note these two items:**

- **Men of Action breakfast will take place at 7:30, and we will be inviting vendors to attend our breakfast**
- **Sunday worship will take place from 8:30-9:30 a.m., with no Sunday School. We will follow up worship with a potluck breakfast, so please bring an egg dish or some other breakfast side items to share.**

**American House service, this Sunday, August 6, 3 p.m.**

**Please note the church’s new phone number: 248-717-3564**

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**Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**

**Our Summer Series is “Jesus’ Plain Preaching”,** from his Sermon on the Plain, found in Luke 6. Last Sunday’s message was called “Find an Enemy to Love,” from Luke 6:27-36, and we sought merely to apply the clear commands of Jesus to react and engage with people, not after the pattern of the world, but as Christians - as followers of Christ. Listen to the message here.

**This Sunday, August 6,** along with Lord’s Table, we will again allow Jesus to teach his followers/learners how to live distinctively Christian lives, especially as it comes to our tendency to stand as judges and critics over the lives of other people (Luke 6:37-38). This theme will continue next Sunday as well, with the famous “mote in the eye” passage.

**Sunday School (usually) meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m., (but not next week, due to our Milford Memories schedule).** Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message; the youth are tackling a series on Biblical answers to tough questions; the children’s class is reviewing books of the Bible, and key characters found in each.

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