

“The ‘Presence’ Path”

(The Second of the 5 Paths in our *Discipleship Pathway*)

Based on Hebrews 10:24-25 & John 1:14

September 16, 2018

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

† **Some Christians in Jesus’ day, just as today, were in the habit of not going to the church meetings.**

† **The church building does not make me a Christian, but it does put me in a place where I am likely to become a Christian and likely to grow as a Christian!**

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

† **“Word” is John’s chosen title for Jesus Christ.**

† **The Greek word for “dwelling” means “pitched tent.”**

† In Christ, God came to meet people.

† Through Christ, I come to meet God.

† I need my Spiritual team (the church) around me to be my best.

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† What groups am I a part of? How often do I attend?

† Do I give church attendance more, less or the same priority to attend as other groups I am a part of?
Why?

† What excuses have I used to not attend an event?

† What excuses have I used to not attend church?

† Who have I been blessed to know because I met them at church?

Who has been blessed by knowing me through the church?

† What is one way I can be more faithful in my church attendance?

Discipleship Pathway - First United Methodist Church, Sioux City, Iowa

	A) Beginning in Christ	B) Growing in Christ	C) Maturing in Christ	D) Sharing Christ
Prayers (Spiritual Disciples)	I do not pray on my own or outside of a worship service. I do not read Scripture.	I take time each day to be in prayer and I occasionally read Scripture.	I pray for others and I have a daily devotional including reading Scripture.	I integrate spiritual disciplines into my daily life.
Presence (Worship & Small Groups)	I attend worship once a month.	I attend worship twice a month.	I attend worship twice a month and I am in a small group.	I attend worship unless I am working, ill, or out of town and I lead or regularly participate in a small group.
Gifts (Ministry, Time & Money)	I am unaware of the gifts God has given me. I do not give of my time or money.	I have identified my spiritual gifts. I give sporadically of my time and money.	I have found intentional ways of using my gifts within the church. I give regularly of my time and money.	I mentor others with similar gifts. I continue to give regularly of my time and money (tithe).
Service (Mission at FUMC)	I do not serve with the church's existing missions. I might serve if someone directly asks me.	I ask to serve with one of our existing missions.	I already serve at least monthly in one of the church's existing missions.	I help to lead mission and am attentive to new opportunities.
Witness (Evangelism)	I do not talk about my faith to others.	I talk about my faith if asked.	I openly discuss my faith.	I openly discuss my faith and actively invite others to church and small groups.

Discipleship Pathway Self-Assessment

(Choose which answer identifies you the best then match your answers with the chart above)

1. This best describes my **Prayer** life:

- A. I do not pray on my own or outside of a worship service. I do not read Scripture.
- B. I take time each day to be in prayer and I occasionally read Scripture.
- C. I pray for others and I have a daily devotional including reading Scripture.
- D. I integrate spiritual disciplines into my daily life.

2. This best describes the importance of **Presence** in my life:

- A. I attend worship once a month.
- B. I attend worship twice a month.
- C. I attend worship twice a month and I am in a small group.
- D. I attend worship unless I am working, ill, or out of town and I lead or regularly participate in a small group.

3. This best describes how I use my **Gifts**:

- A. I am unaware of the gifts God has given me. I do not give of my time or money.
- B. I have identified my spiritual gifts. I give sporadically of my time and money.
- C. I have found intentional ways of using my gifts within the church. I give regularly of my time and money.
- D. I mentor others with similar gifts. I continue to give regularly of my time and money (tithe).

4. This best describes my life of **Service** with the Church:

- A. I do not serve with the church's existing missions. I might serve if someone directly asks me.
- B. I ask to serve with one of our existing missions.
- C. I already serve at least monthly in one of the church's existing missions.
- D. I help to lead mission and am attentive to new opportunities.

5. This best describes my **Witness** to the wider world:

- A. I do not talk about my faith to others.
- B. I talk about my faith if asked.
- C. I openly discuss my faith.
- D. I openly discuss my faith and actively invite others to church and small groups.