

“MINISTER’S Message”

July 11, 2018

Offering Hospitality ...

Can you imagine going on a journey, yet taking with you only the clothes on your back and a walking stick and your sandals?

When preparing to go on a camping trip, not only do we pack food and clothing, but we bring along a small temporary home away from home structure - our trailer. Even in ministry, as we go from place to place serving God, in today's world, we have some mode of transportation, we pack a bag if we're overnighing, we have plans in place for accommodation, we bring tools for our work - electronic devices, flip charts, prayer shawls, etc.

Yet when Jesus commissioned his disciples to go and serve the world as he did, he asked them to travel in pairs, but to take nothing more than their walking stick and their sandals. He even told them not to bring an extra tunic, so no protection from the elements. Jesus asked his disciples to accept the hospitality of those they met on their travels - the hospitality of total strangers!

What he was asking was for his friends to share the good news, and to trust those they met along the way. He was asking them to build community with those they met. Jesus did let his friends know that they need not linger where they did not feel welcome, that they should move on to places where people were open to hearing, and open to sharing hospitality with them.



What would our world look like if we were more open to offering hospitality, and to listening to one another respectfully and peacefully, honouring one another's culture and traditions? What would our world look like if we could be more trusting of the strangers that we meet on our journeys? Perhaps, if we try, strangers could become neighbours, could become friends.

May God bless your summer journeys, and your friendships, old and new.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Tammy Allan

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