

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)



Changing Lives and
Growing In God's Love

www.Holy411.org

Rev. Dr. Daris S. Bultena, Pastor
Minister of Word and Sacrament

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Openness

Dear Readers,

I was just looking at the core values of Good Shepherd Church (you can find them on the "Our Beliefs" tab at the left hand side of this page) and was struck by the aptness of openness for our living these days. I think it speaks both to and about the church as well as our lives.

The open arms of Jesus demonstrate the posture God calls us to have for our neighborhood and world: openness, welcome, hospitality, inclusiveness.

Given the open arms of Jesus posture, we will:

- Turn towards people and needs
- Invite and model authentic, intentional, and purposeful community
- Welcome and embrace diversity as a mark of the Community in Christ



Given the open arms of Jesus posture, we will not:

- Turn towards a comfortable, "just like me" mentality
- Ignore people or children in poverty (be it physical, emotional, or spiritual)
- Embrace a cultural nicety over holiness as God's own people

Biblical Image:

Matthew 19:13-15

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let



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the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

May you be open!

Blessings,
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