

MATTHEW 6:3, NIV

**But when
you give
to the needy,
do not let
your left hand
know what
your right hand
is doing....**

First Church of the Brethren

730 Church Street, Eden, NC February 16, 2022



Doug Diamond, Pastor

Yesterday evening I had the opportunity to offer the opening prayer at the monthly meeting of the Eden City Council. This is something that I did fairly regularly in my old community and something that I have enjoyed so when I received the invitation to do so here in Eden, I was excited and quickly accepted.

As I made my way into council chambers I observed the room and was a little surprised by what I saw. Before I explain, let me back up a little. I am from the north. In fact, I am from a very rural part of the north and in my elementary school classes over the years, there were only about three black kids. Jump forward to Eden, NC, which is a much more racially diverse community. Here is why I was surprised. Every member of the City Council was an older, white man. Maybe I was more sensitive to this than I normally would be since we are in black history month and I am about to preach a sermon on race entitled, "We All Bleed the Same." Whatever the reason, I was suddenly saddened. Don't get me wrong. As individuals, I am not questioning any of the council members qualifications or whether or not they should be there. And as I saw what I saw, I was saddened. I was saddened that the body that represents the entire city of Eden is not representative of its community. Maybe I was saddened, too, because it made me examine what I know about the church, too. Is our church representative of the community that we live

in? I think it is a little better than most churches that I have been in, but we still have a long way to go.

You have probably heard it said that Sunday morning is the most segregated hour of the week. And sometimes I think maybe that's ok. I mean, we are comfortable when we are around people like us. But is church meant to be comfortable? I am both challenged and encouraged by those who sit in the pews with me that look much differently than me. As we become a more and more diverse church, we have more and more opportunities to engage with the community. We have more opportunities to welcome new people and share the gospel with them. We have more opportunities to bring Jesus to the neighborhood.

May our church and those who represent us in government be a beautiful rainbow of diversity that looks a lot like the community in which we live.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands..

Revelation 7:9

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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Pray Without Ceasing

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Leon & Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

Thinking of You

Katherine Bridges

District Prayer Request

Pray for ***Roundtable*** (Grades 9-12), sponsored by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet on February 25-27, 2022 at Bridgewater College. Let us pray that God will nurture the spiritual depth and stamina of our young people.



We are in church for in person worship but if you would like to worship from home you can watch a live stream of Sunday

Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren and catch up on the weekly sermons.

Ignite Men's Impact Weekend is taking place March 11th and 12th at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. There will be special speakers, musical performances, and workshops on various topics. The goal of the Ignite Conference is to "help men align their everyday passions with God's eternal purpose". Any gentlemen who may be interested in attending can find more information, and can also register, at www.ignitemen.net.

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Please join the Challengers and Walk Worthy Sunday School Classes for a bridal shower for Brittini Williams, daughter of Mark and Gina Williams.

Join us in the fellowship hall on Saturday, March 26th from 10 am until 12 pm as we celebrate the bride to be!

Brittini is registered at Target and Amazon.

Upcoming Birthdays

February 23: Sharon Tudor

February 28: Brad Adkins

Shirleen Pratt

Happy Anniversary

February 21: Lynn & Julie Lehman

February 28: Don & Diane Hudgins

