

# WILLIAMSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



WUMC's

**Daily Devotional**

Wednesday, January 5, 2012

from *Pastor Barry Robinson*



## Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

### *The People of the United Methodist Church*

#### Scripture Verse:

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and[a] is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 1:18

#### Devotion:

I'll never forget one of the first counseling sessions I ever did. She was a church member in a very strict church in the community I lived in who had gone through a divorce and had remarried a man in our church. Her preacher at the other church she had been attending told her that not only would God not forgive her for her divorce, but that her children would be punished for it. He brought out the old "punish to the fourth generation!" line and that her son (who was only about 2 at the time) would be afflicted with some divine wrath of some sort.

And as she said that with tears in eyes, saying I don't want my son to suffer for what I have done. Why would God punish my two year old for my divorce? After she got through, I sat and asked her if that sounded like something Jesus would do? She was stunned. She said, "no, it doesn't." Well, then if it doesn't sound like something Jesus would do than why do we think God the Father would be any different. I pointed her to this verse, (And also the verse in Ezekiel 18 about punishment for your own sins and not your fathers) and afterwards she left with a bit of comfort. Does our view of God seem more like Jesus or like a Judge or an old curmudgeon?

#### Questions to Ponder:

What is your view of God and what do you base that on? How does that compare to the Jesus represented in the Gospels?

#### Prayer:

Father, I know You are loving, compassionate and kind. I know this because I see it in Your Son. Help me to see You more clearly this day. In Jesus Name, Amen.