Dear Church Family and Friends,

With election day just around the corner, a thoughtful member of our congregation gave me a book written by Eugene Cho entitled: Thou Shalt Not Be A Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging in Politics.

Pastor Cho recalls attending the 2011 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. He quotes the words of President Obama: "And like all of us, my faith journey has had its twists and turns.... I have thanked God for the joys of parenthood and Michelle's willingness to put up with me. In the wake of failures and disappointments, I've questioned what God had in store for me and been reminded that God's plans for us may not always match our own short-sighted desires.... These past two years...have deepened my faith. The presidency has a funny way of making a person feel the need to pray. Abe Lincoln said...'I have been driven to my knees many times by the overwhelming conviction that I had no place else to go.'"

Pastor Cho reminds us of 1 Timothy 2:1-4 where we are encouraged to pray for our leaders. Cho says that he prays for President Trump almost every day. "If I'm honest, it's often challenging, but I am committed to being respectful of him. I pray for physical protection for him and his family. For wisdom and for repentance too, because all leaders need both..."

Why does prayer matter? Cho notes that prayer reminds us that we desperately need God in our lives but, additionally, that we're connected to one another. He says, "In short, prayer is the ultimate antidote to our propensity to dehumanize and vilify others.....Prayer for others is a great antidote to mean-spirited hearts."

Bob Goff, who is a Christian and an attorney made this comment: "Have you ever been able to change someone's heart and mind with a compelling argument? Yeah, me neither. I'm a lawyer. I win arguments for a living....The next time things get a little heated, make it an opportunity to show grace, even if you've got a different opinion. Say the truth in love but be willing to concede the last word. When we let other people have the last word, we let them know we're more interested in spreading love than winning arguments."

During this election season, instead of convincing people we're right, let's be humble. Humble people know when to speak up and when to be silent. People listen to our lives even more than to our words.

"What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8).

Blessings and love to you,

Duff

10-30-26