



New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church

Mike's Monday Message

Dear

"Listen to me, my People..."
Isaiah 51:4

COLUMBUS DAY

Columbus Day was started in 1792 as an Italian American Holiday by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to commemorate the arrival of Columbus to America. In 2021 President Biden also declared the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day. Indigenous people are defined as 'first people,' the people who have lived here the longest. The word *Wappetaw* in our church's name, means 'sweet water,' a name given by the 'first people,' the Seewee Indians who inhabited this area.

As a pastor, I have always felt it was my job, or calling, to bring new people into the church, but I also recognize the importance of reaching out to the families who have been here a long time. The generations of families who have been in the New Wappetaw congregation may not be 'indigenous' but you all have been here for many generations, and I believe we are called to pass down the faith to the next generation.

So, it doesn't happen overnight, and who knows how or when the spirit will move in someone's life, but we always want to be welcoming and encouraging, and the church doors should always be open not just new folks but to those who have lived in the village all their lives.

In the meantime, I will be reaching out because it's not enough to just leave the doors open, in today's world we have to invite folks in. And by the way, whether you are the 'first people' or the last, you are all God's people!

It's a joy to serve as your pastor.

Blessings,
Mike