Thursday, September 10, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"And when Jesus entered Peter's house,
he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever.
He touched her hand, and the fever left her,
and she rose and began to serve him."
Matthew 8: 14-15

No social-distancing. No mask-wearing. Jesus got right up close to Peter's mother-in-law, who was sick and even had a fever, and he touched her, likely with no hand sanitizer around, and she became well. She immediately got up and began to serve him.

Who knows what she had? We just know she was sick. Was it the flu? Was it food poisoning? Was it some exotic disease? We are not told what she had, only that she was in bed with a fever. If someone has a fever today, we are very careful not to be around them because it might be COVID. In fact, here at Bethlehem we have been taking people's temperatures before they come in for worship on Sundays. A fever may or may not indicate that someone has COVID-19, but why take the chance?

Jesus touched a lot of people that everyone else would not touch or be around. He even touched lepers to heal them, even though they were prime candidates for social-distancing. A person with leprosy even had to call out "Unclean" when he or she was around so that people knew to keep their distance.

God does not approve of sin, to put it mildly. And yet, Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, came in the flesh and hung out with sinners in this world. Not to give His approval for our sin, but in order to remove our sin from us "as far as the east is from the west." Doctors and nurses are spending time in the midst of people with COVID-19, not to give their approval for the disease, but in order to remove it from those who have it.

The Bible says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." That's a reference to Jesus becoming a human being in order to love us to the point of dying for us on the cross. He came to "touch us" even though we are sinful. In fact, he came to be infected with our sin. The Bible says that Jesus BECAME sin for us. The disease of our sin was drained out of us and into Jesus, who then paid the price for our sin.

Let Jesus touch you. Let Him touch your life. He will take the fever of sin away and enable you to get up and serve Him.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim