
PASTOR'S CORNER

FAIRFIELD CIRCUIT CHARGE / BETHEL & MONTICELLO UMC

Take me on up to Detroit city
Jails are full, the factories empty
Momma's crying, young boys dying
Under that red white and blue still flying
Drop me off in Baltimore
Where every other window's got a plywood board
Where dreams become drugs and guns
The only way out is to shoot or run
-Eric Church

While riding down the road, those lyrics immediately jumped out through the speakers of my vehicle. I had to hit the repeat button over and over. As we know, lyrics can speak to us in a variety of ways. As I continued to drive, I began looking around and seeing the same issues that the song pointed out.

The question that I began to ponder was: **How are we being like Jesus in our community? Are we really making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?**

Surely, we don't have to travel to Detroit City to see empty factories and loved ones dying right before our own eyes. Just drop us off in downtown Columbia or in Winnsboro to see plywood and hear the sirens roar through the street.

My prayer is that the church moves beyond the four walls and into the community to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves and hear the cry of the needy right in our own back yards. There is so much that the church can offer to this community that is dealing with pain and suffering. Let us work together as a church and a world to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ everywhere we go and to love and live like Jesus each and every day.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." -Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)

Grace & Peace,

+Pastor Ben