

**AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #135** (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe,  
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**“United or Untied?”**

Over the years, many have made typos when typing “United Methodist.” A quick slip of the fingers results in typing “Untied Methodist.” Unfortunately, many have observed that it might be a better descriptor of the denomination today. As I watch the tallying of votes in this Presidential election, I’m saddened to realize that the same is true of our nation. Though it may not yet be certain (and official) who will be President of the United States in 2021, it is very certain that our nation is not united but divided and untied from each other and what used to bind this nation together.

Many years ago, Jesus warned, “...*Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand*” (Matthew 12:25, NRSV). I’m not saying we all have to agree on everything or how we do everything. However, it seems that far too often, many in our nation are giving into Satan’s temptations to get us to see each other as the enemy and to fight each other instead of him, our one true enemy. My friends, we need to pray! We need to pray for God’s guidance and wisdom. We need to pray that God will forgive us for our sins and that we will truly let him be the Lord of our lives. We need to pray and work to model God’s love and grace to all—whether we agree with them or not. We all need to do our part to work for peace and unity. As the Psalmist said in Psalm 133:1,

***“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”***

Let us pray and work to that end!



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