MINISTER'S MESSAGE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 2026 KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Come Build a Church"

Based on Matthew 25:14-30

'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. (v24-25)

And the Master said, "You did nothing. You didn't even try. And now you want to hide behind your words as an excuse for your lack of action. Get out of my sight!"

You see…

- It was never about the money.
- It was never about the profit margin.

It was about trying.

- It was about trying to do your best for the Master.
- It still is, about trying.
- It is still, about trying something, anything, everything, in the name of the Master.

But it never was about the risk either. Because if you believe that God is truly,

… the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End…
~Revelation 22:13

There is no risk. Because…

- Wherever you land
- What ever you gain
- What ever you lose
- What ever went according to plan
- And everything that didn't go according to plan…

God is already there waiting for you.

God is already in your success and your failures.

God was with you the whole time.

So there was no real risk. Fear perhaps, but no risk, if you believe.

Three years ago we started to talk about this renovation of ours. For some time, the Board and the Session had watched our budget numbers inch down and our expenses curve up. Let's call it what it was. Our future was beginning to look bleak. Each year we would make do with less, scale back the vision, let go of plans, and hold on tight for a coming year that did not look very much like the joy our scriptures talk about.

Each annual meeting, we would talk and pray and hope for a different outcome. But to change that cycle meant doing something radically different. And that is scary, rather like the last servant. Better not to try, than to try and fail. That's what fear looks like. That's what not really believing that "God has us in the palm of hands" (from the hymn Eagle's Wings) looks like. I know that sounds harsh. I don't mean to upset you, but it's the truth.

But somewhere along the way Knox stopped being the servant holding on in shear panic, and we started to ask questions like:

- I wonder what this building might look like if we opened the doors to new ways of using its space?
- I wonder what might be able to accomplish if we doubled our rental space and increased our overall income?

- I wonder if it's possible to raise that much money?

We have become a church that now more closely resembles the servant with the five or two talents. We don't know exactly what our future looks like yet, but that doesn't really matter:

- Because we are trying.
- Because what ever opportunities this renovation means for Knox, God is already there waiting for us to arrive.

And that's pretty darn exciting.

My friends,

I am so proud of all that our church family and friends have accomplished in the last couple of years. At the same time, I lament those congregations who are presently facing the same questions we had, the same fear, the same hesitation, desperately wishing to save their church but keep every exactly the way it was, hoping for different results. I keep praying that some spark may come into their midst and give them the courage to try something new and dram dreams again.

But this parable is bigger than our renovation project.

In your life and your relationships…

In your faith and your faith journey…

In your dreams and your goals…

Our God says..

Try.

Just try.

Because whatever happens, I'm already there.

I'll catch you.

I'll be there for you.

We'll figure it out together.

There is no risk.

There is no need to fear.

Just try. And keep trying.

For I am with you.

And bounty and blessing will follow where we go together.

So today, come, let's build a church.

Amen.