

ARTICLE FOR COUNTRY GAZETTE

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Orting United Methodist Church

Moral values—we all want them, most of us claim to have them, but we all differ in what they look like. One of the earliest values lifted up in the scriptures is that of stewardship.

Stewardship means taking care of the things God has given us and all that God has created—the land, plants and animals and resources, our human community. It is our responsibility to work together to keep life worth living for all people. This means making sacrifices for the good of each other, helping the poor and disadvantaged, opening doors for strangers. It means living peaceably with those who are different from ourselves.

We have just come through an election that shows our country is deeply divided in what we think of as morally acceptable. We may read the same scriptures and come up with different understandings of what they mean in terms of public policy. Yet this is not different now than it was when our country was founded by diverse religious groups whose overarching desire was religious liberty. Accounts of our forefathers coming together to form our country show them deeply divided as well. What made it possible for us to come into being as a nation was a commitment to stewardship of human community. This commitment resulted in a willingness to “agree to disagree” on some things, but to stay together because of the hope for mutual benefits beyond differences.

As we approach Thanksgiving we must remember our long tradition that all are welcome at the table. We have much for which to give thanks, but none of it really belongs to us. It belongs to God, who gives to us that we might give to others beyond our own doors.

We at the Methodist Church open our doors to you this Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 pm. Come to worship and praise God in preparation for a great day of Thanksgiving. You will be more than welcome.