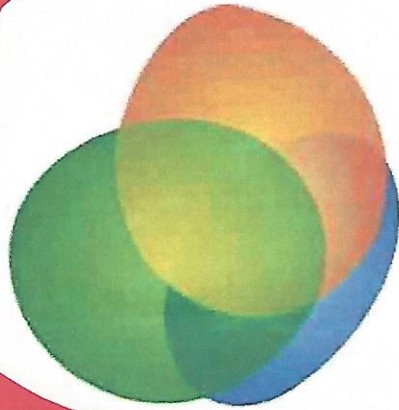
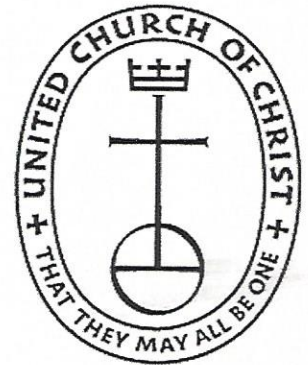


EXHIBITING A SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION AND
ONGOING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE



alliance
of baptists
*welcoming progressive
Christians home since 1987*

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



I actually do not have specifics about his personal spiritual practices, but it is obvious that his background has led him to a strong foundation of faith. This is seen in his public prayers in worship, as they are well-grounded in his faith and lead us to a real presence of God. I feel that his belief in the importance of justice in the

NURTURING UCC IDENTITY

The Good Shepherd group at Youth Camp



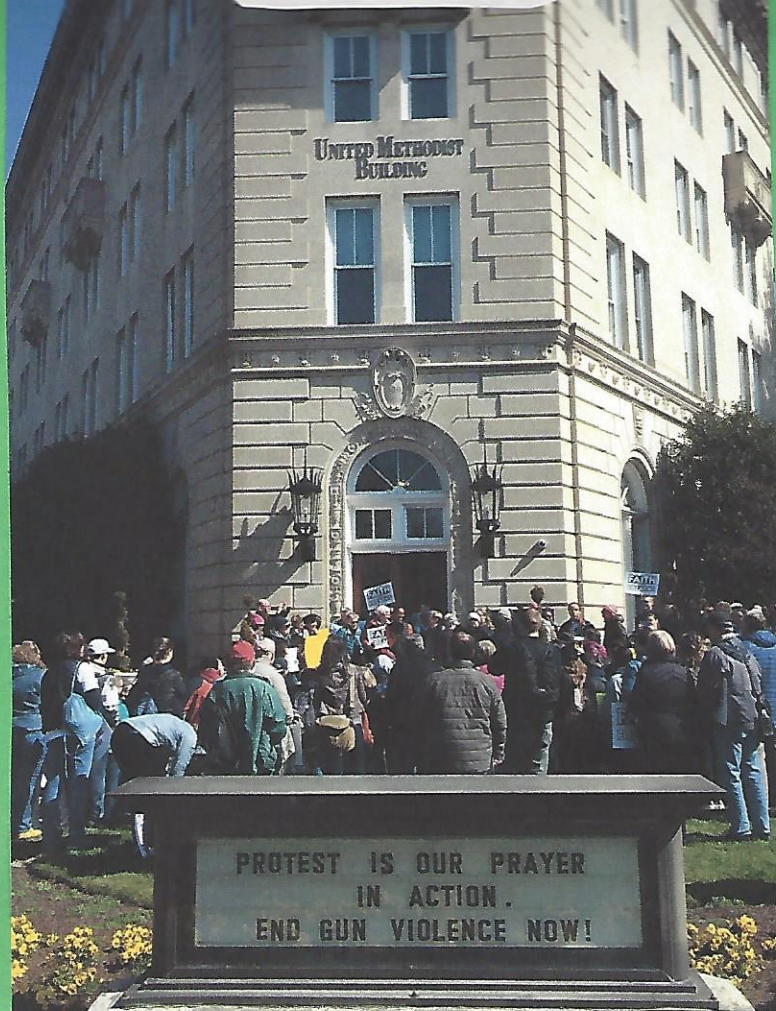
AS one of the Discernment for Ministry Committee locally, I find that Nathan understands UCC polity. As he matures and integrates into the UCC, I believe he will find it to be in line with how he does ministry.

In his short time with the local church he has immersed himself in the conference, has taken the youth to Washington for the march, and attended Synod. Nathan believes in the core values and demonstrates them as he meets and greets people on Sunday.

Jackie Smith- Member at Good Shepherd

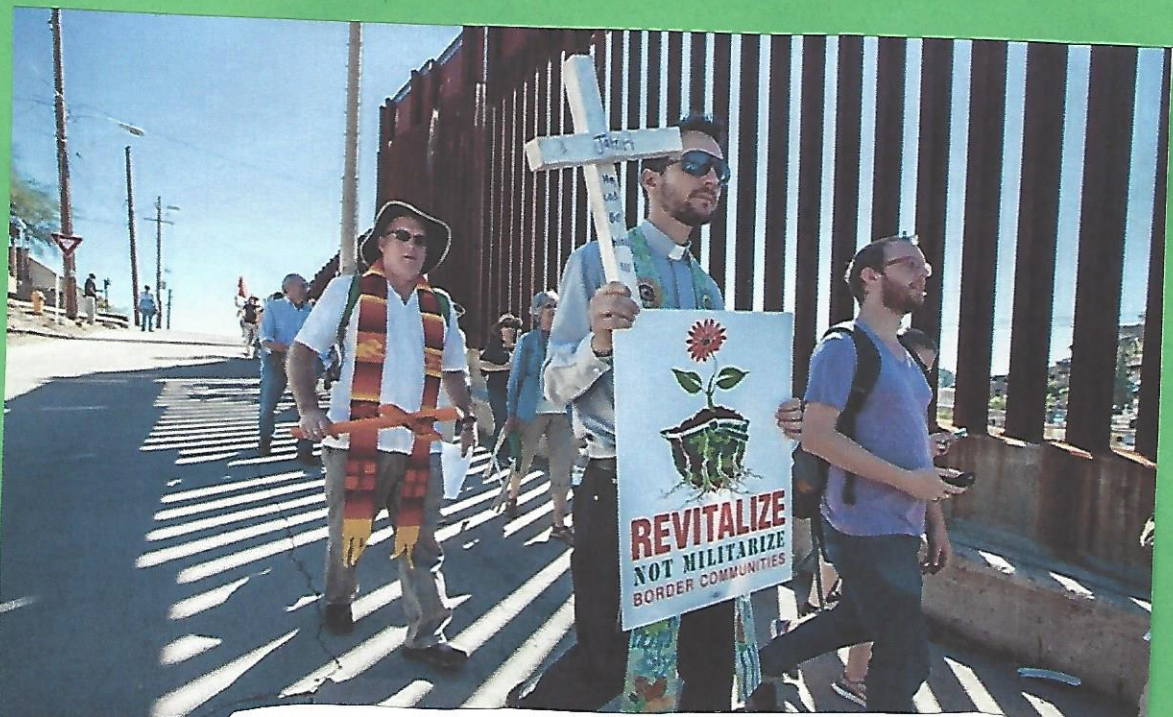


UCC General Synod with my pastor mentors, Scott Jones and Randy Mayer



Coming from his Baptist background, Nathan has made significant progress in learning about and taking on a UCC identity. Recently he has participated in the Southwest Conference sponsored trip to Washington, D.C. accompanying the youth group from The Good Shepherd. He has attended a Southwest Conference Annual Meeting. He will be leading the Youth Camp this summer. In his leadership of our youth ministry Nathan has helped young people to know and appreciate how the UCC works. Furthermore, Nathan very easily and comfortably acknowledges Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church. This is evident in his teaching and preaching. He has expressed this at the number of luncheon meetings we had over the past year.

Ed Hunt- Member at Good Shepherd, Retired Presbyterian Clergy





Nathan Watts is working to build and transform the world's community through his church leadership. Mr. Watts is empowering his church and the community to act with God's love to all neighbors in the community. Mr. Watts give witness to border issues by teaching people about the social justice and environmental issues on the border. He continues to learn and build community by attending conferences like Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC.

Zillah Wesley- World Christian Student Federation, Mid-Atlantic Conference

BUILDING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Summer Mission Trip to Tijuana with the PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer Program



Nathan Watts has had a powerful impact on me by introducing and guiding me during two Reading/Study groups in the area of racial justice at The Good Shepherd UCC. I was awakened to the issues around systemic and institutional racial discrimination while participating in the reading of Ferguson and Faith, and The Movement for Black Lives- A Vision for Black Lives: Policy Demands for Black Power, Freedom, & Justice. During these studies, Nathan advocated for a spot for me in a leadership training offered by SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) Tucson, which I attended and gained insights from. Nathan taught me, recognized my awakening, and encouraged my participation in racial issues. For the past year and a half I have co-founded and facilitated a new racial justice group in our community where our mission is to learn, educate, and act for racial justice. I would not be doing this

Teen finds voice at Washington rally

"We do have a voice and we should use it."



Nathan Watts

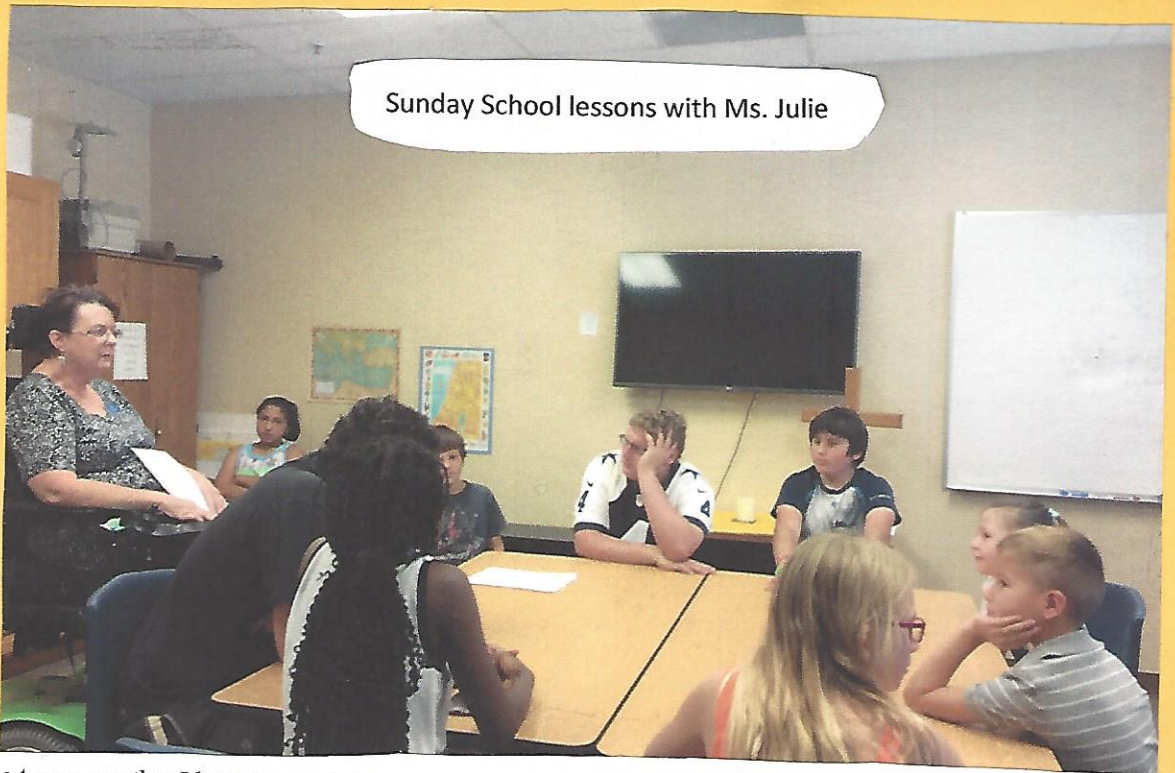
Four teens and two chaperones from the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita were in the nation's capital Saturday for March for Our Lives. From left, Nathan Watts, Domonique Hill, 16, Vicki Bosma, 18, William Palacios, 17, Erika Hill and Christopher Petrequin, 16.



ENGAGING SACRED STORIES AND TRADITIONS



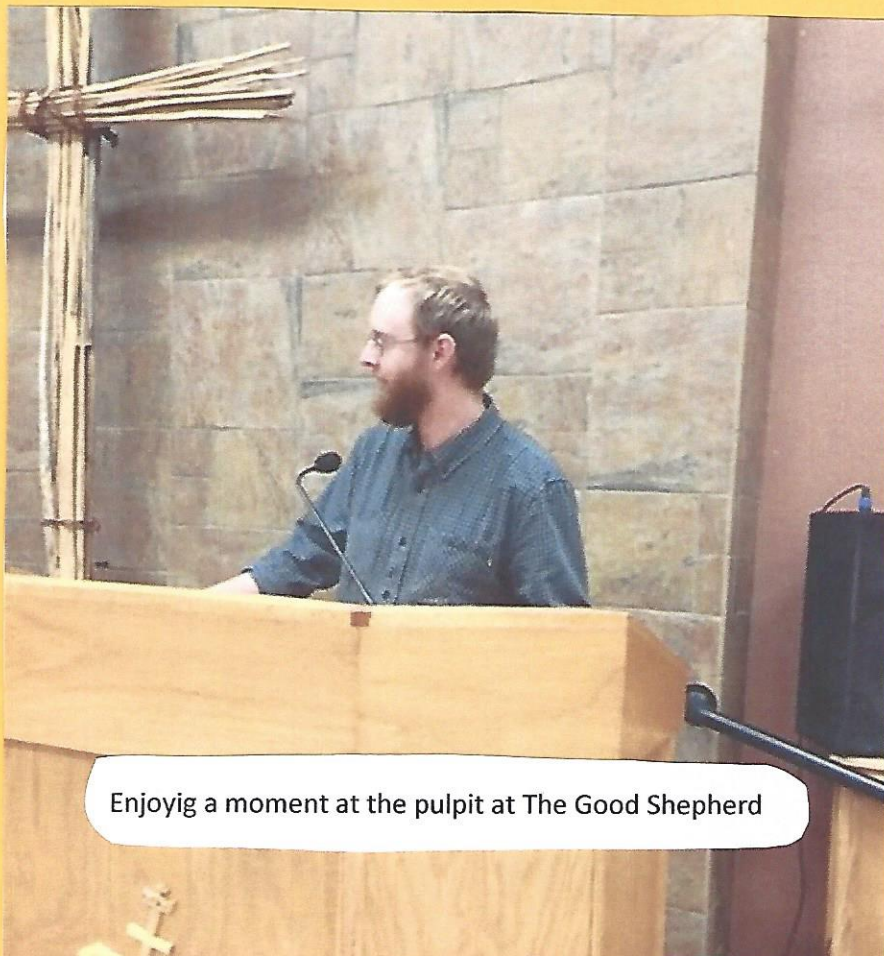
Breaking bread for a communion service in Ambos Nogales



Sunday School lessons with Ms. Julie

In the two years that I have known Nathan I have seen significant improvement in his preaching skills. Nathan has always taken his exegetical task seriously and continues to bring to his message responsible scholarship of the text. In the past year or so he has worked intentionally on bringing his message in a way that engages the congregation. He appropriately shares the relevance of the message to his own journey and applies the text to the current context in a way that is relevant and sometimes compelling. I believe that as Nathan has the opportunity to preach on a more regular basis this will become one of his significant assets in ministry.

David Dethmers- Member at Good Shepherd, Retired Presbyterian Clergy



Enjoyig a moment at the pulpit at The Good Shepherd

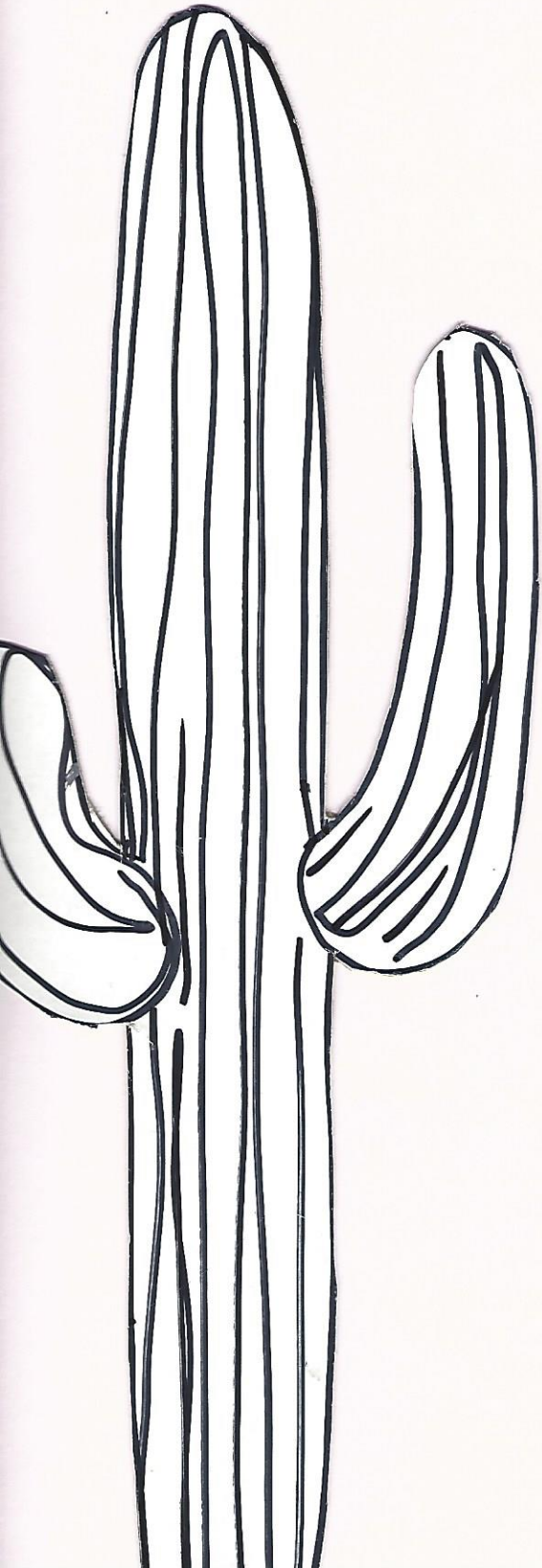


The Children of the Good Shepherd welcome Jeff, our new Music Minister

2017 WHITE ELEPHANT PARADE



Sahuarita Food Bank's entry keeps with the parade theme: Resale, Recycle, Rejoice!





Word for All Ages on a Sunday morning

Over the past three years, I've witnessed Nathan build strong relationships with the youth and parents. He's challenged the kids to use their faith to guide them in dealing with life issues such as sexuality (actively overseeing the OWL program), Racial Justice, encouraging the kids to participate in caring for folks in our congregation dealing with difficult life changes, Border and Immigration issues, caring for others in this world (mission trip to Tijuana), and sharing their voice about gun violence (participating in The March For Our Lives in DC). Working with the youth in our small youth group is not easy due to many challenges the kids themselves have. It's been an honor and privilege to see how Nathan has gained trust, empowered and loved the kids in The Good Shepherd UCC youth group.

Dobrah Bosma, Member at The Good Shepherd

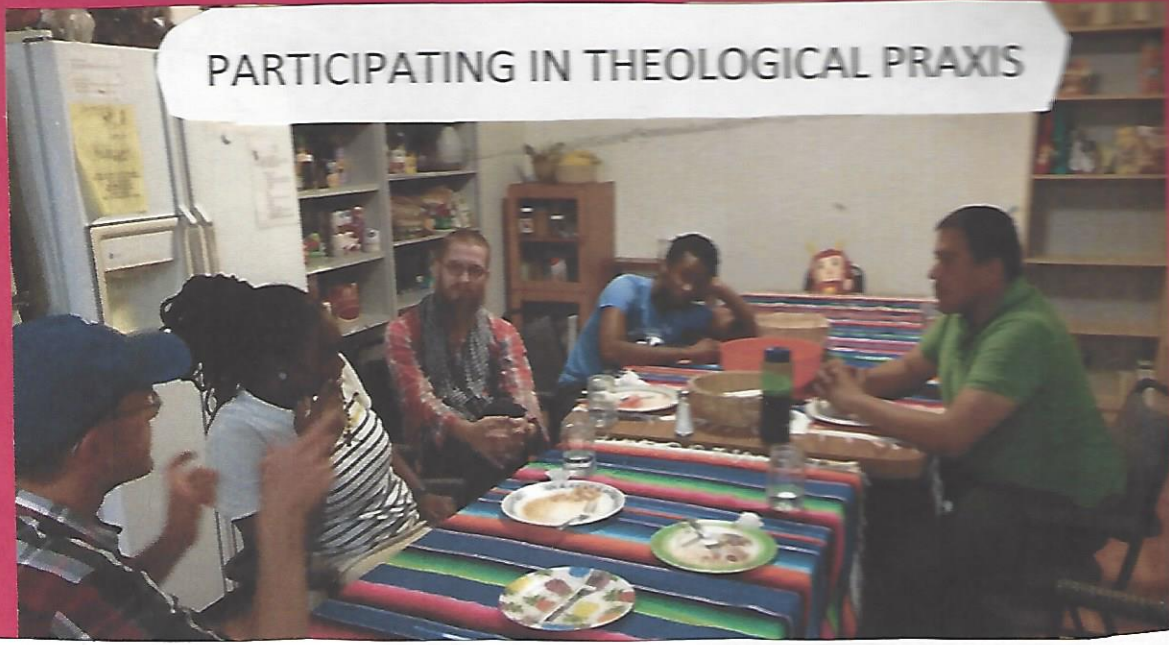




Graduation Day at Vanderbilt Divinity School

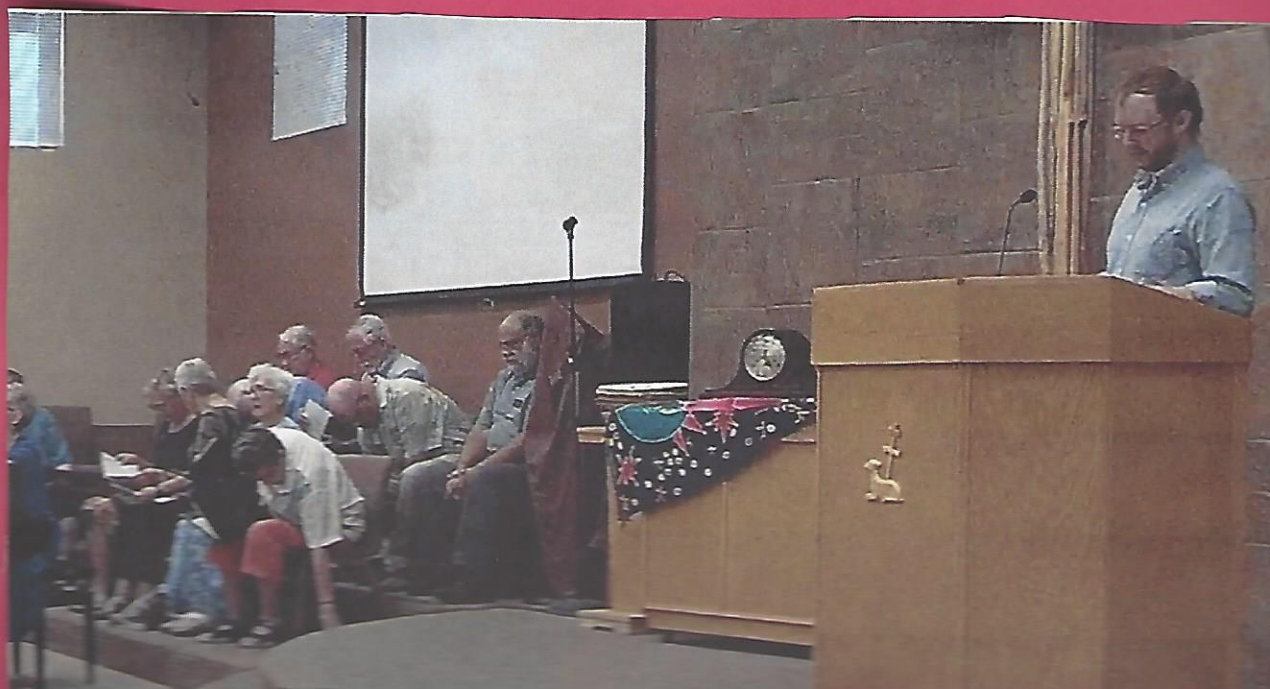


PARTICIPATING IN THEOLOGICAL PRAXIS



I know of few people who can move so easily from theological query and to theological praxis. Nathan seeks to articulate theologies which are accountable, justice-centered, healing, and liberative; he then integrates those theologies with justice-making, which becomes a theological praxis that is profoundly effective because it has spiritual depth and practical implications. He is one of the most faithful, deeply committed ministers of the Gospel of Jesus that I know. Simply put, Nathan's faith has a

Enjoying a van ride to Cuba with young adult leaders from FBAC





Members of The Good Shepherd attend a solidarity vigil for Tamir Rice



Members of the Peace Fellowship Board at our Partner Congregation in Mexico City

As a member of our board of directors, Nathan was a key voice in consistently calling us to confront racial injustice, especially our own unacknowledged biases. He has lived out that radical call in his work in Tucson as well, deeply internalizing the many issues of oppression made manifest at the US-Mexico border and finding clear and cogent ways to convey those evils to others. One of the most memorable worship services of my life was one Nathan led standing in the Tucson desert incorporating scripture and the struggle of refugees. Nathan recognizes injustice, has a clear vision of justice, shapes his own life around that call, and pulls others into the vision and the work.

-LeDayne McLeese Polaski

Director, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America ~ Bautistas por la PAZ



My Pastor mentor, April Baker, with other Baptist Women in Ministry in Cuba



My local discernment team meeting

Strengthening Inter- and Intra-Personal Assets

As a member of Nathan's Discernment Team at The Good Shepherd I have been impressed with both Nathan's self-awareness and with his willingness to be open and vulnerable. Over the course of the several months that we have been working with him through the eight marks of ministry we have often challenged him to look at his own behavior and performance. Rather than becoming defensive or "stonewalling" the group, Nathan has been open to feedback, even when it has been hard to hear, and has worked to integrate his learnings into his ministry and behavior. Nathan also shows a capacity to self-assess even as he is in the midst of a challenging interaction. He usually understands well "what makes him tick." He continues to work on applying those insights and integrating them into his evolving person, a process which is for all of us a life-long journey.

David Dethmers- Member at Good Shepherd, Retired Presbyterian Clergy