

## **BLESSINGS ALWAYS**

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Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

*REWORKED.* “The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he *REWORKED* it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.” (Jeremiah 18:4.) It is fascinating to watch a potter handle clay. Clay is “thrown” on the center of a pottery wheel that spins. Then the potter will use either hands or tools on the clay as the wheel spins the clay, so that the clay becomes pieces of art, bowls, plates, cups, vases, and various cylindrical items for the potter to design in various ways. Sometimes, though, the potter finds flaws or wants to change what is being made and pushes the clay together to *REWORK* the clay again. Miraculously a new creation is formed. After this the potter paints it and puts it in a kiln to bake it to become an art piece, container for nourishment, or other items.

When Jeremiah was called by God to be God’s spokesperson, Jeremiah’s first response was “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” (Jeremiah 1:6). God responds with assurance that God would be with him and make Jeremiah a prophet to the nations. God *REWORKED* Jeremiah and he was a courageous and persistent prophet, and was described as the weeping prophet because his heart was so tender. God called him to bring words of hope and warning in the midst of uncertainty. God *REWORKED* the established covenant so that God’s law “would be upon their hearts, and not on tablets of stone.” (Jeremiah 31:33). Like clay, the people would be *REWORKED* and become new creations of God with sincere changes of hearts and re-dedication to God in their community, worship, and acts of social justice.

God calls us to be voices of hope in these times of contentiousness and fractured relationships with one another. We are clay in God’s hands and we call upon God to *REWORK* us time again and again to bring new life into this time of uncertainty and despair. Like Jeremiah we may make excuses and have fear not to bring words of faith for our time. However, God promises to be with us into a future filled with unlimited possibilities of life with abundance of love and generosity of spirit. *REWORKED* and loved unconditionally by God can change us and others to become vessels who proclaim the Good News to share God’s creation in all its splendor and goodness. Thanks be to God. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*