

## Worship Notes for October 25, 2020 - Orrville Trinity UMC

### “The Generous Seed Planter” Series

#### WEEK #4: “Just Keep Planting!”

#### **This Week’s Scripture Passage: Matthew 13:24-33 (CEB)**

*<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.*

*<sup>27</sup> “The servants of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Master, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?’*

*<sup>28</sup> “An enemy has done this,’ he answered.*

*“The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather them?’*

*<sup>29</sup> “But the landowner said, ‘No, because if you gather the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvesttime I’ll say to the harvesters, “First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.”’”*

*<sup>31</sup> He told another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> It’s the smallest of all seeds. But when it’s grown, it’s the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.”*

*<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough.”*

#### **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION**

- In many of Jesus’ parables, he begins with the statement, “The kingdom of heaven is like...” What do you suppose Jesus meant by that?
- In **the first of these parables (v. 24-30)**, Jesus speaks of a landowner who planted good seed in his field. But then an enemy came and planted weed seed in that same field. What would your reaction have been when you first noticed that the field was just as full of weeds as it was of wheat?

- As you think about the damage that the enemy has tried to inflict, would you want to go and rip the weeds out? Would you want to just start over?
- What did the landowner recommend to the servants? What do you think that says about how the kingdom of heaven works? How do you need to adjust your expectations in order to be more in line with what Jesus says?
- In the **second parable (v. 31-32)**, Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, the tiniest of seeds that can be planted in the ground. How might this statement inspire you to invest even the smallest of what you have into the kingdom?
- In the **third parable (v. 33)**, Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like yeast. What do you know about yeast and its ability to be a catalyst for making dough (bread) from flour? How might you envision yeast working in the spiritual life?
- Close in prayer. Consider how you can more fully live into Jesus' kingdom values.