

**FIRST AND CENTER**  
**Pastor's Blog**  
**January 4, 2018**

As I write this, I am sitting in my dining room watching snow blowing sideways outside. For me, the snow day is a kind of gift, a day to do some work from home and some work at home. Four loads of wash, baking some beer cheese bread, doing a little Christmas décor cleanup. Answering email and Facebooking.

Checking the news from time to time to see which nation the President is currently threatening, especially as my youngest son is traveling overseas.

How privileged I am. Each day at work at the Church House as we interact with people coming to us seeking help with medical bills, security deposits, hats and gloves, food, bus fare, shelter, and other more complex problems, I see my privilege more and more.

Understanding my privilege does not mean I sit feeling guilty about it. It means I appreciate what I do have, seeing it not as my “due,” but as amazing gift. It also means I continue to try to be more systematic in how I use that privilege to work with those less privileged. So many people in my congregation do this so well.

The only New Year's resolution I have is to work on not just being randomly kind, but systematically use my privilege in both charity and justice work. Not just when I think of it or when it is convenient, but in a planned way. How about you? If you are reading this, you probably also are privileged in some way, because you have a computer and leisure to read what's on it. What is your plan this year to exercise your privilege for good? For love? For justice?



~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,  
Pastor