

## **FIRST AND CENTER**

**Pastor's Blog**

**December 7, 2017**

**Who knew how hard it could be to find a stable for Christmas?**

**We have a lovely set of creche figures for the Meeting House, and I love to build a creche slowly over the Sundays of Advent, since none of those folk were actually there a month before Christmas! Kids love to watch how the figures move around the sanctuary from Sunday to Sunday. But the figures we had did not have a stable, and the visual of the empty stable all those weeks is powerful.**



**So, I went in search of a stable to buy. Or, an inexpensive nativity set which included an appropriate stable that I could use apart from the figures. I started at Michael's, a craft store, thinking surely, they had kits to build. Six aisles of Christmas paraphernalia and not one creche of any kind. I continued on to Target, Joanne's, Pier One, even Walmart (which I don't usually frequent because they sell guns), etc. I will not, for any reason, go into anti-Semitic, homophobic Hobby Lobby, so don't suggest it. In all those other stores, I found aisle after aisle of Christmas décor. Only one creche, but the figures were attached to stable, so no go. One creche. It was easier to find Christmas Darth Vader than it was Christmas baby Jesus.**

**Sigh.**

**I think I'm going to go watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas* tonight, just to hear Linus tell Charlie Brown what Christmas is all about.**

**~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,  
Pastor**