



July 30, 2025

A Note from Meredith Osborn

Dear Friends,

If you happened to attend the July 13 Warehouse service, you already know: it did not go according to plan.

Things started off normal. Music, welcome, etc. Until Michael finished and said that our sermon-givers (Lindsay and Nikki) weren't here yet. In fact, they weren't even in sight.

And, sneak peak, they weren't right around the corner either.

It would be several very long, exceedingly awkward minutes until they appeared. Minutes where we did not know what was going on, or why, or when help would appear.

Well, sort of. Help did appear. But I'm going to leave you hanging there, just like we were left hanging in the moment.

I'm an Enneagram 3. (If that doesn't mean anything to you, don't worry about it.) What matters to this story is that 3s are one of the "dominant" types.

And I'll be honest, my first reaction to being a "dominant" type is that it's something to be careful about, to be watchful of. Watchful that I don't steamroll over my husband, for example. I sometimes forget that it is a gift.



Back to the warehouse on July 13 –

Michael is clearly running out of ideas to stall. Ryan (band lead) raises his hand, would we like to sing? Absolutely! The band sings. The song ends. Lindsay and Nikki are still nowhere to be seen.

Ryan is now the one stuck with the microphone stalling. I raise my hand, would you like me to lead everyone in Centering Prayer? Absolutely! I go up. Frankly, I talk too much. Centering Prayer should involve more silence, but I'm Act 3 in this exceedingly unplanned improv show, so some nervous chatter is definitely included.



Thankfully, in the middle of the prayer, I see Nikki and Lindsay coming. The improv show was ending, and we were headed back to the far more comfortable world of thoughtfully prepared material.

There are so many lessons to learn. Lessons about helping each other and not leaving one person stuck with the mic the whole time. Lessons about sitting with the uncomfortable feeling of uncertainty. Lessons about how WE are the church, not the pastors (however much we appreciate their leadership!). Lessons about how we are the Body of Christ.

Now, normally when we talk about the Body of Christ and how everyone has gifts, we use people like Ryan as an example. He has the gift of music. But you know what gift leads you to raise your hand and volunteer to grab the mic and jump on stage and be Act 3 in the improv show? **Being a "dominant" Enneagram type!** It's a gift, too! And in that moment it was the gift we needed, the gift that got us through to the end of the awkward.

So, as you go throughout your day, be the Church. Be the Body. Embrace your gifts. ...or at least trust that they're there even if you haven't learned to name or appreciate them yet.

Meredith Osborn

P.S. If you want to learn more about the Enneagram or Centering Prayer, or if you find yourself looking for the type of self-knowledge that can help you name your own gifts, consider attending one of our shorter Enneagram classes, a Centering Prayer class, or the longer Deeper Waters experience.



Meredith Osborn (and Emmett)

