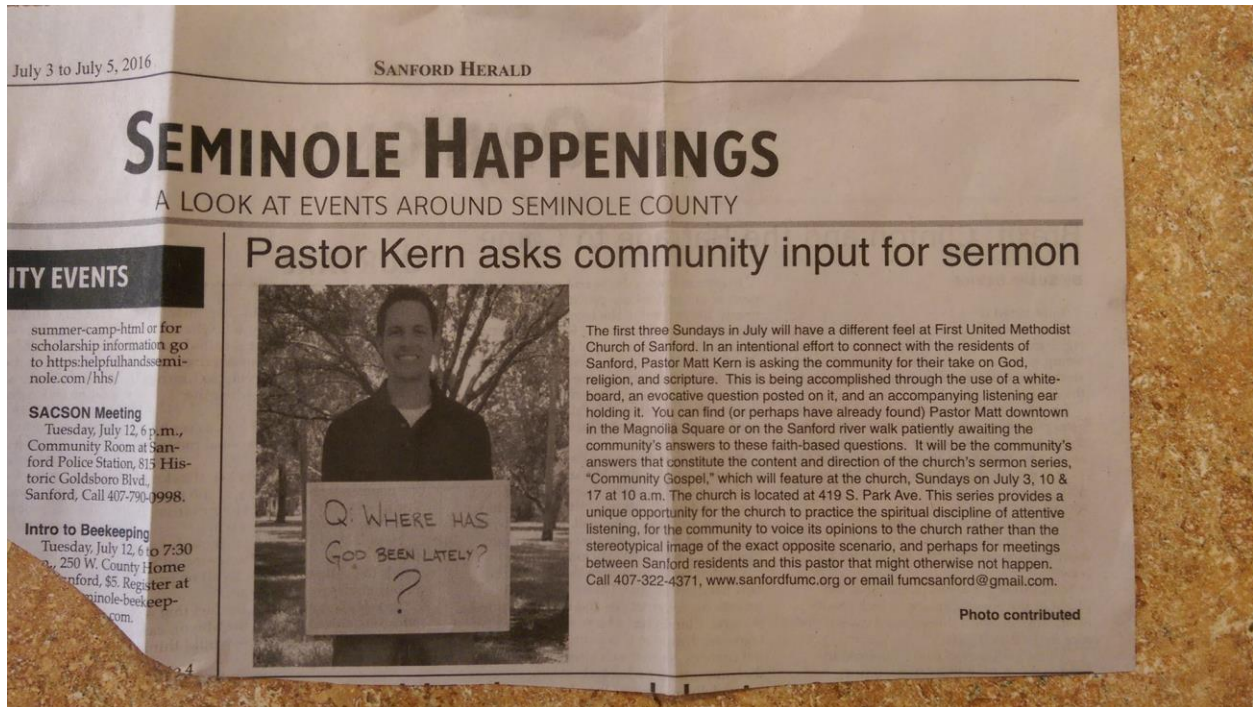


First Sanford – Rev. Matt Kern

“As a part of an experimental sermon series entitled “Community Gospel,” I spent three weeks in July standing out in the community holding a white board with three separate questions regarding matters of faith. Being out there in historic Sanford with these questions yielded some funny looks from passers-byers, some hearty conversation with those who offered it, and perhaps best of all a deepening of relationship with certain parts and people of the community. The community has its own gospel to share, and I wanted to be there to hear it!”





“Trying to track down a person who called the church office in great distress took me on a walking tour of the neighborhood surrounding the church. I ultimately ended up in the pet rescue down the street from the church, where I got to spend time with the director. What began as a quick check-in in search of my caller turned into an hour-long tour and conversation session with this wonderful person of the community. If only people were as passionate about worship as this woman was about the lives and rights of dogs and cats! I thank God for a beautiful and diverse community, and for the freedom in Christ to go into all the world for his namesake.”

“Our congregation offers hugs from God...ok, let me explain. I am so proud of this congregation’s quilting ministry, comprised of a few women who have turned their skills into tangible expressions of God’s care for those in our community who could use a hug of divine love wrapped around them.”