

09-28-19 Wednesday Musing

Where has the summer gone? I can hardly believe that this weekend we will usher in September! In my mind... the "Labor Day" weekend is the official close of summer... and the beginning of the autumn season... pumpkins... winter squash... color changing leaves... crisp cool mornings and more. Each new season brings unspeakable joy... as well as a bit of sadness as we wave good-bye to the present season and all it's joys.

I'm a summer-time kind of person... I love hot days... working in the garden... yes... and even mowing the lawn... but as we have read and heard from Ecclesiastes 3:1 many times in our lives... **"1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:"**

Summer... in all it's beauty and vibrant colors is all about growth... new life growing into maturity... and basking in the warmth of the Son (see what I did there?)... But as we move toward autumn ... we must be ready for some things to fall away to make room for new growth in the spring... We must start to tidy up our lives... just as we do our yard... getting things ready for a time of rest... a time of peace... and time of new birth to come...

We have recently been experiencing some unusually cool days for the end of August... temperatures I would associate more with late September or October... and with these cooler days and nights... we think of change... things are beginning to change... What is it about a simple change in weather that can bring out the best in people? It's almost like each new season is a new beginning of sorts. It's very representation of newness stirs up changes in our souls. Autumn visions of our favorite warm cozy sweater; rich hot cocoa; and steaming hot apple cider spring into action in our hearts.

The Bible also refers to changes and beginnings in our lives as being seasons... Seasons are representative of God's perfect timing in delivering us to and through all of the changes He makes in our lives. As changing can be a sad time it is also joyous... as certain seasons can bring about the blessings we reap from being obedient in following Him through those changes even if we did not understand fully or welcome them. **"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."** Galatians 6:9 Scripture tells us to never give up... no matter how long... strenuous... difficult and painstaking the pathway is... there is always a new season... a season of new beginnings...

Everyday we are gifted a new beginning... it is your decision to make it so... We can adopt a positive mindset to overcome... conquer... and live triumphantly. But with the awareness that all beginnings must eventually come to an end so new beginnings... new seasons... can commence...

We need to take this opportunity of change to look ahead at what can be... keep our focus on the presence of the "present"... the possibilities of the future... and let our view of the past fade... forget the what-might-have-beens... We can challenge ourselves to be better... live higher... rise above our own self-appointed limitations. Live more positively... looking ahead to a new season of thinking... speaking... acting... and living more optimistically. Each subtle change we implement towards living a more positive life will eventually take root and manifest itself into our days... weeks... and months... And just as the seasons change... and fall is followed by winter... spring will surely come!

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

So as you wake in the mornings to come... embrace the coolness of the breeze... take time to enjoy the bright colors as life fades in the leaves... and look ahead to new beginnings...

09-28-19 Wednesday Musing

new joys... and new challenges that lie ahead... forget your self-imposed limitations... your horizon is limitless!

Knowing that God welcomes our prayers... let us lift in prayer this week Louise Walters, Betty Loy, Family of Elizabeth Woodlief—Mother of Peggy Johnson, Bobby Mebane, Nancy Thomas, Anna Gerow, Family of Jeanne Williams, Family of Mary Jane Pettigrew, Frances Morgan, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, Doris Massey. And friends: Connie Long—friend of Connie Collins, Ann Tew, Marsha Langford, Jim Sinor, Claire Spence, Lester Griffis—father of Tina Paul, Randy Davenport, Larry & Becky Miles and son Bobby, Families of victims of mass shooting in Gilroy, CA, El Paso, Tx., and Dayton, OH., Barbara Garrison—Mark Garrison's mother, Children and Adults at our Southern Border. Please remember the families as well as the person listed.

Our sermon title for this Sunday, September 1, 2019 is "*The Stewardship of Love*" and the Scripture will be read from John 15:9-17 and Philippians 1:1-11.

Embrace the change,

Joan 😊

