

03-20-19 Wednesday Musing

Today, if you look on many calendars, you'll see Spring Begins! Turning the page from the bleak winter months into the newness of spring is one of my favorite times of the year. The spring equinox (also called the March equinox or vernal equinox) ... is today, March 20, at 5:58 P.M. EDT. This event marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. The word *equinox* comes from the Latin words for "equal night"—*aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). On the equinox, the length of day and night are nearly equal in all parts of the world.

Spring is the time when, for those of us who like to, dig and till the soil to prepare a place to plant a new crop for summer's harvest. For some it will be vegetables and fruits... for others it will be flowers and shrubbery will bring them joy. As well as tilling all of my garden spaces for my vegetable garden, I'll dig out all of those old pots I stored away last fall and begin planting beautiful flowers to adorn my deck and front sitting area. I will take all the plants I tucked into the house for protection over the cold winter months and repot them and place them in the warmth of the sun's rays to begin anew.

As we travel through our season of Lent... a time when we return to God in a renewing of our faith... I am reminded of repotting a plant... you take it out of the pot... shake off most of the old dirt from the tightly bound roots... and then you gently place it back into a pot, adding fresh soil and nutrients to bring it back to a healthy and fruitful existence. You place it in the proper spot... where the warmth of the sun's rays will reach it ... and before you know it... new growth appears.... Beautiful flowers shoot forth buds that eventually burst out in bloom! New life with old roots.... Something we should aspire to in our own lives....

Scripture speaks of new and old things... 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us: **"17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."** And Colossians 3:9b-10 Scripture speaks of putting off our old ways of man and being new in Christ... **"seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator."** And we complete the thought with 2 Corinthians 5:18-20... **18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."**

Just as it is when we repot those old plants in the spring that we've wintered over with new soil and new nutrients... God creates us anew when we turn our lives toward Him.... We are planted afresh... and connected in an unbreakable bond to the old roots He provides. Refreshed.... Renewed... Rebirth... Celebrate new life today... and everyday... during those hard times when life is like the frozen soil in winter... allow your heart to be tilled by God's Word... then go and cast forth seeds that are able to come to life even in the darkest of times.

This week's sermon title is 'The Servant Face of Jesus'. The Scripture reading is taken from

03-20-19 Wednesday Musing

Matthew 20:17-28 and Romans 12:1-18. On the cover of this week's bulletin look for the 'servant' face of Christ.

Things happening around the church:

- You are invited to bring special crosses for display in our connecting walkway during Lent. Seeing various styles and designs of crosses will help us better appreciate what Jesus endured for our salvation, as well as enabling us to appreciate the creativity of those who design crosses. We thank Ken Little for displaying some of his photographs!
- All are invited to our 5th. Sunday Fellowship Potluck Breakfast on March 31. We are gathering at 9 am for fellowship and set up, with plans to eat at 9:15 am. Make plans to join us for a delicious breakfast along with enjoyable Christian fellowship.
- Hot Dog Lunch and Cake Auction ... April 7th.

As you go to the Lord in prayer this week... please remember to lift in prayer...

Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, Anna Gerow, Nancy Thomas, Margaret Turner, Louise Walters, Family of Delores Johnson - Sister of Troy Johnson, Kathy Russell, Elizabeth Woodlief—mother of Peggy Johnson.

Friends: Mike Thaxton, Claire Spence, Mary Ellen Rice, Family of Shirley Collins—Aunt of Tim Collins, Janette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins.

Grace and Peace to You...

Joan 😊

