

03-13-19 Wednesday Musing

Over the past week we've been seeing changes all around us. Changes in the time as we spring forward an hour... changes in our environment as flowers burst forth from the earth and trees in the distance begin to cast a reddish tint of the buds that are forming on the tips of their limbs... The crocus and the daffodils are popping up everywhere. As we travel this road of refreshment and reflection... repentance and re-focusing... let's take a minute to 'stop and smell the flowers.'

When the first signs of spring peek through the dead and desolate leaves and mulch I am always reminded of the refreshing breath that Christ brings to our lives when He defeated death... He breathes life into the hopelessness of our existence. Just as the warmth of God's favor brings to life the dormant bulbs and seeds that wait patiently throughout the cold and bleak winter months... So does His love shine upon us... warming with a loving embrace as we travel our own personal paths to the cross each year... In the warmth and peacefulness of the Son-shine... you can hear His voice telling you "you can do this... you can finish this course well... I'm right here with you, every step of the way." However, if you're dragging your feet as you walk the path that leads to the cross, the noise that you are making will drown out the voice of Jesus... now this doesn't necessarily mean that He's not there... just that you're not going to hear Him when He speaks.

Psalm 46:10a tells us "**Be still and know that I am God.**" The word 'still' here comes from a Hebrew word meaning to 'let go' or 'release'. When we release the power that we think we hold and stand quietly and listen... we will hear His voice and we will know that He is God. Our lives will be refreshed with the living water that He offers. Isaiah 44:3-4 remind us that He is the living water... "**3 I will pour out water upon thirsty ground and streams upon dry land. I will pour out my spirit upon your descendants and my blessing upon your offspring. 4 They will spring up from among the reeds like willows by flowing streams.**" Isaiah 35:1 "**1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;**"

So, as you walk the path through this Lenten season, take time to stop along the way... look at the flowers peeking through signaling a new hope and a gateway through which our path can travel if we 'be still and know'. If it is a dessert that you're walking through... it will spring forth' blossom like the crocus.'

As we go to the Lord in prayer this week... let us remember:

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 and friends: Mike Thaxton, Claire Spence, Mary Ellen Rice, Family of Shirley Collins—Aunt of Tim Collins.

This week's sermon title is 'The Knowledgeable Face of Christ'. The Scripture reading is

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taken from Matthew 7:13-29 and Mark 1:1-12. On the cover of this week's bulletin cover look for a 'knowledgeable' 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.
- On Thursday, March 21st at 1:30 PM, please join me (Peggy Johnson) for a tour and discussion about the history of our Church building. We will begin with the Company Shops meeting place and travel through time to our present historic structure. I have information from church records and our local library that I would like to share but believe you may have information that you can add to this history of the structures that have served our congregation. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us for a walk-through time! ... Peggy...
- On March 31st - the Fifth Sunday - we will gather at 9am in the Bray Fellowship Hall for a covered dish breakfast and some great fellowship.
- Also, March 31st is the day we collect our 'One Great Hour of Sharing' offering. See the bulletin for more details.

May God's love surround you with love... always...

Joan ☺

