REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK’S SERMON

Our texts this week are found in Psalm 23; Psalm 100; gospels of John 10:1-15, & Luke 15:3-7. They all focus on the shepherd and sheep metaphor. So,

* When you think of a “shepherd” what characteristics come to mind?
* As you read Psalm 23 identify the verbs. What do these tell you about the role of the shepherd?
* Have you been “through the valley” lately, or know someone who has? Has God used you or helped you during this difficult time? How?
* What is the promise this Psalm offers the believer?
* As you read Psalm 100, what do you think it means to be “his people, the sheep of his pasture?
* According to John 10, what are the characteristics of a shepherd?
* What is the purpose of the shepherd going ahead of his sheep? How does this differ from having cattle?
* Jesus says twice “I am the good shepherd. Why is that important?
* How important is it to you that the shepherd knows his sheep by name & that they recognize his voice. What is the message here for you? Does this give you strength for the “valley”?
* In Luke 15 Jesus tells the parables of The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Son! Have you ever felt “Lost”? How important is it to you that someone is looking for the “Lost”?

What does it mean to be “lost”? Have you ever found something that was “Lost”? Did anyone help you search for it?

The metaphor of the “shepherd” is used throughout the Old Testament to describe leaders and prophets in their time. How significant is it to you that Jesus sees himself as our shepherd?

If you were to use a more modern word in place of “shepherd”, what word(s) might you select?