

Pastor's Ponderings – Oct-Nov 2024

*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.*

- Genesis 8:22

September is my favorite month and October is close behind it. The nights get cool, the days are still warm enough. The air is crisping as the leaves begin to take on color. There is melancholy for some in the passing of summer, or trepidation at the coming winter. But for me it is a refreshing reminder that life in all its phases and cycles and seasons is a gift and a blessing, perhaps even especially in the periods of our life when life seems to be receding, when things are drying out and dying back.

Our lives go through cycles and seasons just like the earth. There are times when there is flourishing and bounty all around us and within us. Other times when things seem to be drying up and dying or withering. And still other times when our lives may seem frozen, or then beginning again to blossom. The ups and downs of our lives, like the seasons of the year come around and go around year after year. Each season is a gift and a necessary component in the cycle of the life of our planet and all that is in it. And each phase of our lives also is a gift and a necessary part of our life experience. There is beauty in it all. There is the God of life at work within it all.

In this unfolding autumn season, I hope you will find the beauty and blessings of this world and of your life within it. And I look forward to celebrating some of this season of your life and of our world with you in our worship services and other special events and occasions this fall.

Here is a prayer of blessing from a book I like called *Praying with the Earth*, by Scottish pastor and poet John Philip Newell.

*The blessings of sun
the blessings of moon
the blessings of east and of west
to guide us on the way
to lighten our eyes
to strengthen our will and our loving.
The blessings of earth
the blessings of air
the blessings of fire and of water
to fill us with heaven
to free us with mercy
to stir us with flames of compassion.*

May it be so.