

## **Pastor's Ponderings - July/August 2024**

As the warmth of summer envelops us, I am reminded of the beauty of nature's renewal and the joy of connection within our community of Faith. This season brings with it a sense of anticipation and opportunity, as we gather together in fellowship and faith.

Summer is a time of growth—both in nature and in our spiritual journeys. Just as the flowers bloom and the trees flourish, so too can our hearts and minds flourish in the light of God's love. It is a season to reflect on our blessings, to seek renewal in our spiritual life, and to deepen our connection with one another.

This summer we continue to navigate through changes and challenges with gratitude and hope. The new roof on the sanctuary is nearly complete and thank God for all who contributed to make that possible. We are welcoming a new Church Administrative Assistant in July and gratefully recognizing all that Kathy Lounsbury has done in that role for nearly 20 years as she moves into a new role as volunteer Congregational Life Coordinator (see article on "New Church Secretary" elsewhere in this newsletter).

Our Invitation and Welcome group has been very active this spring and has multiple summer activities planned. They are planning to set up a water stand for people who use our parking lot for 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, and host an Ice Cream Social for our neighborhood on July 10. If you would like to participate in or help out let Katherine Meckes or me know. They have also set July 14 and August 11 as "Bring a Friend" Sundays when worship will be outside at 9:30 and promise to be fun Sundays.

Our worship services, whether you join us in person or online, remain a cornerstone of our shared experience. They are moments where we come together to praise, to pray, and to seek guidance for the path ahead.

I encourage each of you to take advantage of the long days and warm weather to reconnect with nature and with one another. Whether it's enjoying a quiet moment in your garden, sharing a meal with friends, or participating in one of our community events, let us cherish these simple gifts and graces of life.

As we look forward to the coming months, let us also remember those who may be facing difficulties or challenges. Let us extend a hand of friendship and support to those in need, embodying the compassion and generosity that Jesus calls us to.

In closing, I invite you to join me in embracing the spirit of renewal and connection that defines this summer. May it be a season filled with blessings, growth, and joy for each of you and your loved ones.

May it be so.