

JANUARY

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COUNTRY CHURCH COMMUNICATOR



Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

A cooperative ministry of:

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The people of the
United Methodist Church

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

A message from Pastor Hae Seon Lee:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We are now in the season where we send off the year and welcome the new year. This year has been a year of great uncertainty, and with uncertainty comes fear. We usually fear the things we do not know. Things we do not have knowledge of. Things we do not have experience of. In today's text, Joshua was afraid. Moses, the great leader had just died, and Joshua had to step up to the role. He spent a lot of time watching how Moses led the people.

However, watching Moses lead, and leading himself were two vastly different things. Joshua was under great pressure. A small mistake may lead to a catastrophe. So, Joshua was curled up in a corner worrying and in fear. There was only one place he could turn to. He looked up to God. God then commands him.

At first, I found this odd. God does not speak words of comfort, but commands Joshua to be strong and courageous. Soon, I realized that the next part is important: The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

When we pray, we ask God for things. We ask God for health. We ask God for healing. We ask God for Success. We ask God for other riches in life. But by doing so we are missing the point. How often do we pray for his presence? We think God gives us all those things ask for. However, Jesus tells us otherwise. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us ask for His Kingdom and His righteousness and everything will be filled. This means that God does not give us health, but God is our health. God does not give us healing, but God is our healing. God does not give us success, but God is our success.

When God is with us, there is no need for anything else, because God is everything and He will fill anything that is lacking. No wonder John Wesley once said, "The greatest of all is God with us"

I am not going to lie. As we tread this time of uncertainty, it will be scary, it will be depressing, and it will be frustrating. However, God is commanding you as God commanded Joshua almost three thousand years ago: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Peace and Grace in Christ

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