

REV. JIM'S THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

June 2017



Dear Friends,

Are you ready for summer?

Do you love being outside and feeling the warmth of the sun on your face? Are you filled with a sense of joy when you see the bright colors of the different flowers? Do you find yourself bursting with songs you want to sing when you hear the birds chirping? As you watch the little chipmunks and squirrels scampering around your yard, do you find yourself remembering the energy you had when you were a child and you played tag?

Are you filled with a sense of joy and energy?

Do you wake up each day filled with excitement and say to yourself, “*Oh God, thank you for all my blessings and thank you for another day to share Your love with all the people I meet today!*”? Or, are there lots of days you wake up, look in the mirror, with a sense of sadness or despair, and say to yourself, “*Oh God, another day, how will I make it through this day?*”

Friends, on the days I wake up, and I’m filled with a sense of joy and energy, I read Psalm 100. I give God thanks for all the blessings He shares with me.

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, sheep of His pasture.”

- Psalm 100:1-3 (New International Version)

Friends, on the days I wake up, and find myself sad or discouraged, I read Psalm 23. I give God thanks for His promise of love and care, even in the midst of the difficult times.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and staff they comfort me; You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

- Psalm 23 (New International Version)

Friends, my prayers for you this summer are that you feel God’s blessings of love and peace. May those blessings be like a warm, summer breeze that renews your energy and fills you with hope!

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Church!

Love and Prayers

Pastor Jim