



# PARADE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7 Parade Street, P.O. Box 30, Union City, PA 16438

Office Phone: (814) 654-7102

Website: [paradestreetumc16438.org](http://paradestreetumc16438.org)

Pastor's Cell Phone: (412) 496-5308

Pastor's Email: [jimcannistraci@gmail.com](mailto:jimcannistraci@gmail.com)

*James A. Cannistraci, Pastor*

## **PASTOR JIM'S THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - OCTOBER 2016**

Dear Friends,

Autumn signals the changing colors of the leaves and crisp morning air. Autumn is my favorite season of the year and I enjoy taking a drive and seeing the leaves that are changing colors. Each red, yellow, orange, brown leaf represents a different example of God's creation. It's like that with people too; each of us is different and unique. Yet each of us is worthy of God's love.

We are not only worthy of God's love, God loves us so much that He sent his son Jesus to earth to remind us we are created in the image of God, and God offers us the gift of abundant life on earth, and eternal life in heaven. The best news is, God gives his love freely, even though we are imperfect.

So often we live our lives thinking we have to be perfect in order to earn God's love. However, the Bible assures us in the book of Ephesians that God's love and eternal life is truly a gift of grace.

***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith –and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.  
- Ephesians 2:8, 9 (New International Version)***

Unfortunately, many of us spend our entire lives “keeping score” of the things we “think” God wants us to do with our lives, and we miss out on the real life God wants us to enjoy. The Bible promises us God has a wonderful plan for our lives if we take the risk to live out that plan.

***For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
- Ephesians 2:10 (New International Version)***

I think God wants us to ask ourselves each day, “***have you accepted the GIFT of my love, my promise of abundant life here on earth, my promise of eternal life in heaven, and my promise that you can do the amazing good works I've prepared for you?***” My friends, if your answer is no, then my question for you is, “***what's stopping you from enjoying God's wonderful gift of hope, meaning, and blessings?***” Each day God wants each of us to pick up our gift of abundant life, unwrap it, and live it out!

I pray you enjoy the beautiful colors of autumn and the gift of God's love. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Church.

Blessings, Pastor Jim



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of the United Methodist Church**