



# PARADE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*James A. Cannistraci, Pastor*

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

Dear Friends,

I've noticed the night time air is really cool and great for sleeping this time of the year...it's refreshing! Each morning for the past week, I've been reading the "Love Chapter" from 1 Corinthians 13 for my daily devotions... they are comforting, thought provoking... and refreshing too! Here are my favorite verses:

- **1 If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or clashing cymbal. 4 Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, 5 it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, 6 it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth.**

These words from Paul to the early Church read like an "instruction manual" for living a meaningful life. ***Patient, kind, isn't jealous, doesn't brag, isn't arrogant or rude, doesn't seek its own advantage, isn't irritable, doesn't keep a record of complaints, isn't happy with injustice, happy with the truth.*** Paul's words fill be with feelings of hope and joy. How about you, when you read Paul's words from I Corinthians Chapter 13 how do they make you feel?

Years ago I was listening to a Christian Radio station and I heard this amazing quote that I've remembered, "***Faith won't change our circumstances, but it will change how we see our circumstances.***" Friends, we all know life is filled with complications and it's far from perfect, yet God promises us that we can find joy in the midst of the difficult experiences of our lives. God promises us if we do our best to faithfully live according to the "instruction manual" in I Corinthians 13, He will give us all we need to face the complications and difficulties with a sense of hope!

***As Christians, we have the most amazing thing the world needs – God's Love and the gift of Eternal Life!*** God gives us joy and happiness; it's there for us each and every day to experience! God invites us to make decisions and take actions in our personal lives that reflect our commitment to share God's love and joy with people yearning for hope and meaning in their lives. God invites our Church Family to make decisions about our ministry that reflect our commitment to share the story of God's love and joy! Every minute of our time that we volunteer, and every dollar of our offerings are entrusted to the Church as a gift to God, openly invested in a courageous, risk taking ministry that extends the gift of hospitality to all of God's children, people of all ages, at every point in their lives.

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Hope and Prayers, Pastor Jim

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of the United Methodist Church**