

Pastor Jim's Thoughts and Prayers - February 2020



Dear Friends,

I've noticed the pace of life seems to slow down a bit as the amount of snow and ice increased this past month. People drive slower to avoid sliding into another car. People walk slower and look for spots of ice to avoid slipping. People sit a bit longer with a cup of tea or coffee and talk longer with friends as nobody wants to rush out into the cold and snowy weather. Perhaps you find yourself spending a bit longer thinking about your life and praying about things you haven't thought about recently.

Two passages from the Bible have been running through my mind recently as I spend time in prayer. The first is from the Gospels, Jesus said, ***"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly", John 10:10 (NRSV)***. My sense is abundant life is joyous, meaningful, and filled with a sense of purpose. God wants that for all of us. That's how Jesus lived. That's how we can live when we do our best to live as Jesus lived. ***The question is: what will it look like when we try to live as Jesus lived?***

The second passage is from the Old Testament, the prophet Micah said, ***"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God", Micah 6:8 (NRSV)***. My sense is, these words are like a roadmap on how to live life abundantly. God calls us to do justice, to treat people fairly, and expect people to be treated fairly in our homes, our workplace, and our church. To love kindness seems pretty self-explanatory. For many of us, our parents taught us that when we were children. My parents told my sister and me we should always try to be kind to people, and treat people the way we want to be treated. To walk humbly with our God means we realize God is God, and we are not God. That one seems pretty clear, but I notice that sadly, sometimes we get confused it. ***The question is: how do we do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God?***

Reading our Bible, praying and attending worship services bring us closer to the heart of God. Perhaps on these cold and sometimes snowy days, we all need to slow down and draw closer to God. As we draw closer to God, He will help us find the answers to the questions:

+ What will it look like when we try to live as Jesus lived?

+ How do we "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God"?

Looking forward to seeing you in Church!

Love and Prayers,
Pastor Jim