

Your Daily Church Epistle

Monday, October 5, 2020

Hello church!

This past weekend was both great joy and a lot of work! When Kathy and I both checked in with each other this morning, it appears we both did nothing but rest on Sunday afternoon and evening. For Kathy, that is a normal Sunday. For me, that meant I woke up needing to write for today, because I rested from my two sermon weekend rather than to write a DCE for today.

This morning, when I was organizing my day, I was thinking about my 1 p.m. DCE deadline as I called Kathy so we could synchronize our work for today. That was when I learned we had a DCE written for today. Many of you will not know Debbie Newhouse yet because she started worshipping with us the very first weekend we were able to reopen the sanctuary. Some of you have met her at various Zoom services. Yesterday, Debbie was inspired to write a DCE expressing what worship in our church as a Hudson newcomer means for her. I hope you are as blessed by Debbie's testimony as Kathy and I were.

Tomorrow is soon enough to take on the pandemic again--and I am sorry to say that we need to. But for today, let us rest in the glow of Debbie's testimony.

Grace abounds!

Rev. Dawn

Deb's Legion of Angels

By Debbie Newhouse

Dear Church,

“In all your ways acknowledge Him and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3.6

I was moved to tears when Rev. Dawn said we should enjoy meeting in person, in the church while we can do it; that our COVID cases are up. If someone tests positive we will have to go outside. I'm not sure what that will mean, but I think I cried because being in church with each of you means so much to me right now.

Many of you may be thinking, “Who is this?” Others, “Oh, that’s the woman who rides her bike to church and likes to wear bright colors.” Or, “Oh, I think she’s from Idaho. She travels a lot. Isn’t she a teacher...In Idaho? Wait, how does that work?” Yep, that’s me. Though I haven’t been around very long, getting teary in church this morning, I decided to share part of my story. It may strike a cord for some of you.

God pushed my truck up the freeway ramp in Pocatello, Idaho on May 7, 2020. I had to leave, but I couldn’t do it without Him. I wasn’t completely sure where I was going, but I headed east. God prompted me to call my daughter here in Hudson. After her warm response I continued east.

Hannah was my first angel on my journey, soon to be joined by what I eventually called “Deb’s Legion”. As I traveled, God provided me with friends and family who showered me with love, gave me advice... reminded me to eat. It’s a two day drive from Pocatello to Hudson, and I started my journey at 2:20 PM Mountain Time, after I could slip away from my remote learning middle schoolers. At 10:20 PM, somewhere in Montana, I started to feel tired. I asked God what I should do. Within 3 minutes I saw a sign for a rest area. There I slept, nested on a sleeping bag in the back seat of my truck, surrounded by semi trucks, and protected by Our Father who woke me at 5 with a soft, pink light and the blessed assurance of His Presence; the power of His direction.

After landing in Hannah’s arms the following day, my legion grew to include her husband who blessed me with his own companionship and guidance, my older daughter with a hug from afar, and my son with love and support from the west. Within a month my legion grew to include qualified professionals, more friends, and my colleagues at work. When I called to say that I would need to let both of my jobs go I was promptly told that we would work it out, that I could keep my jobs, my health insurance, and the remote companionship of these wonderful people. More angels!

After making the decision to stay in Hudson, and finding a place to live, I found HUMC. And now, several of you have joined my angels, though I don’t think you knew that until now. I have returned to the Methodist Church of my childhood after attending other denominations for almost 50 years. I am so happy to be back and I want to stay. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and being part of Deb’s Legion of Angels.

Affectionately, Debbie Newhouse