

**FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**323 South 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. West Bend WI 53095**  

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**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost ~ July 31, 2022**

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**LOOKING AT LIFE THROUGH GOD'S GLASSES**  
**SERMON SERIES -**  
Adapted from a sermon series by Rev. Dr. John Mathison



Dave Bertelsen, Vocalist  
Katie Glaser, Liturgist  
Rev. Clarissa L. Martinelli, Senior Pastor

**“No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You're Welcome Here”**  
**\*Note: L: denotes worship Leader ~ P: denotes People**

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**~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~**

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**PRELUDE:** **“Come Sunday”** by **Duke Ellington**  
**Deanna Gibeau, Organist/Jamey Simmons Jazz Trumpet**

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**~ WORDS OF WELCOME ~**

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**GREETING:**

**Pastor:** Welcome! Looking at Life Through God's Glasses: do you see obstacles or opportunities? Looking at Life Through God's Glasses: you're asked to take off your bib and put on your apron like Jesus, and discover the most meaningful life possible! On this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in July, what we see in life depends on what kind of glasses we use. If we look through human glasses, we see “I.” If we look through God's glasses, we see “WE.” We may not have it all together, but together we could have it all! Come, WE that love the Lord and let our joys be known.

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**~5<sup>th</sup> AVE. JUNCTION - WHERE FAITH AND FAMILY COME TOGETHER~**

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**HYMN:** **“Jesus Loves Me” vs. #1** **UMH 191**

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**~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~**

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**CENTERING MUSIC:** **“Naima”** **John Coltrane**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)**

L: Father, look upon our weakness and reach out to help us with your loving power. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.!

L: As we gather together to worship, let us remember the words of Scripture:

**P: Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.**

L: Jesus sent his disciples out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

**P: For with two, if you fall, someone is there to help you up.**

L: Jesus says, “Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

**P: Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm.**

L: Every day the believers continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

**P: Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.**

L: Let us consider how we may spur each other on toward love and good deeds.

**P: A threefold cord is not quickly broken.**

L: So, let us not give up meeting together, but let us encourage one another.

*P: Let us worship God together.*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**All:** Heavenly Father, thank You for this simple truth that impacts our lives that two are better than one and for the privilege we have, as the Body of Christ, to support and encourage one another in the work that You have given us to do. Give me grace and wisdom to hold the things of this world lightly and to consider the needs of others before my own. Unite Your people together in the bond of peace and may we be a living testimony to the goodness and grace of God and work together for the furtherance of the gospel. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

**\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE:**

**Liturgist:** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me and forgave me. Amen!

**\*HYMN:**

“Grace Alone”

TFWS 2162

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**\*~WE PROCLAIM~**

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**Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 Good News Translation (GNT)**

I have noticed something else in life that is useless. Here is someone who lives alone. He has no son, no brother, yet he is always working, never satisfied with the wealth he has. For whom is he working so hard and denying himself any pleasure? This is useless, too—and a miserable way to live. Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him. If it is cold, two can sleep together and stay warm, but how can you keep warm by yourself? Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Praise to the Living Word.

SERMON: “*LOOKING AT LIFE THRU GOD’S GLASSES*” – “*I*” to “*WE!*”

*Pastor Clarissa*

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**~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~**

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Pastor: Lord in your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer: (words on screen)

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**~RECYCLING IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO~**

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**~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR TITHES, GIFTS & OURSELVES~**

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**\*DOXOLOGY:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)**

All: Holy God, loving parent; your patience with your children is beyond our comprehension! How many times have we sung praises to you "from whom all blessings flow" and yet in our lives, in our practice and in our giving, we've acted like most of those blessings are from our own – to do with as we wish? Often, we have been deaf to your teaching and blind to your leading. May the gifts we give today be a token to our goal to live generous lives that honor you and express gratitude for your goodness to us. In the name of Jesus, our savior, we pray. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** "Cry of My Heart" TFWS 2165

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~ CHARGE & BENEDICTION ~

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**L:** Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **People:** THANKS BE TO GOD!

**Pastor:** Now, dear friends, go from this place in confidence that the God of Creation is with you. Go boldly into the world, offering peace, hope and healing love, in the name of Jesus Christ. And may the God of love, hope and peace be with you always.

**\*POSTLUDE:** "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" Kenneth Morris

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Bulletins are given by Beverly Hartmann in memory of her husband, Ron.

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~5<sup>th</sup> AVE. JUNCTION - WHERE FAITH AND FAMILY COME TOGETHER~

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## Kids Are Like Lego

### Memory Verse

*Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.* Ecclesiastes 4:9

God created us for relationship with Him. He also created us to have relationship with others.

We were made to connect.

It's how we're wired. God doesn't want us to go through life alone. Here are 3 reasons why we need to connect to others.

Reason #1: Life works better.

It just does. Everything is better with people around you who love you.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.

Reason #2: God likes it.

He really does. God made us to connect. He likes it when we get along.

Reason #3: It makes us stronger.

Did you ever think about THAT? Everyone gets more done when they work together on a team.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 A rope made out of three cords isn't easily broken.

### Discussion Questions

1. Watch the video together. ( <https://www.pursuegodkids.org/kids-are-like-legos/>)
2. Have you ever created something cool like a Lego creation or a puzzle? Explain.
3. Why do you think God wants us to connect to others?
4. How is working with a group better than working alone? Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-18. God has given each of us a special place on His team. What are some of the talents God has given you? How can you use those to build God's team?
5. Your family is a team. How can your family be stronger by everyone working together?
6. Takeaway: Write a personal action step based on this conversation.

***Always remember that you are loved. Do not lose heart. Do not give up!***

Prayer: Loving Lord and Heavenly Father, I pray that I would always invite You into every relationship in my life and seek Your guidance in every decision I make. Keep me from being enticed into worldly ways or seeking after the empty values life has to offer. Thank You for the Word of truth and the wisdom it contains, and help me to learn the lessons that life teaches as I keep my eyes looking to Jesus. May I stand firm, stay true, resist the enemy, maintain the unity of the spirit in a bond of peace, and not fall prey to an alternative thinking or unwholesome mindset. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Read these additional passages as a family this week.

- Read Proverbs 27:17. How can your friends help you to be a better friend?
- Read Proverbs 18:24. How do you get along with your siblings? How would a true friend be more like a sibling?

- Read Proverbs 17:9. What happens when you don't forgive someone who hurts your feelings? Do you think God likes you to be that way?

7.