

First United Methodist Church

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It's interesting to watch the change of seasons in this community and in our neighborhood. Yes, I've notice some green patches starting to appear in my lawn! YEA!!! But actually, I'm not talking about the change of seasons as in leaves changing color, snow falling, trees budding and flowers pushing up out of the ground, and then summer heat blasting us. I enjoy these seasons very much, but they aren't the changing seasons I'm thinking of at this moment.

You see, there's a lot of children in the neighborhood that I live in, so I can tell the "season" we're in by watching the children. Just yesterday as I was walking Sophie I noticed children playing baseball in the front yard between their two homes. Last Fall I watched footballs flying back and forth between several other homes. In January and February, when there were a couple of really nice days, I saw kids out shooting hoops or playing basketball. Oh Yeah, and in December and January I saw plenty of hockey sticks and pucks out in driveways as kids were practicing their stick handling and slap shots. Then, just last week I even saw a young man out in his front yard practicing his rope work and throwing the lasso around a practice steer's head. Yes, the seasons are a changing...and it can be fun to watch.

So, this leads me to ask the question, what season are you in? Yes, life is filled with changing seasons. So, what is the season I'm in? What's the season you're in? Certainly, we can say we're in Lent. We can also say Spring. Both are true. But let's take it a little deeper. What season are you in...maybe spiritually??

A pattern that is often lived out in the lives of God's people in the pages of the Bible is that of; 1. Living faithfully with God, 2. Wandering away from God, 3. Consequences of faithlessness, 4. Repentance or turning back to God, and 5. Drawing near to God again. Then the pattern starts over again. Each of those stages could be called a "season." Others have described our ongoing relationship with God as a dance; sometimes you're close, sometimes you're distant, but there's always movement. Even a building project, like with our sanctuary, there are seasons; 1. Preparation, 2. Destruction, 3. Construction, 4. Cleaning Up, and 5. Moving In. (With our sanctuary repair project, we're almost ready to "Moving In." Woo Hoo!!!)

So again, what season are you in? What season am I in? This is the great question of Lent. There is no wrong answer. But knowing what season you **are in** can help you consider and reflect on what season you **want to be in**. Once you know what season you **are in** and what season you **want to be in**, it helps you know the steps you need to take to move in the appropriate direction.

Easter will soon be here and Easter is a time of celebrating new life. My hope is that all of us are seeking to be in the season of Spring (in the world around us) but also living in the season of New Life (the spirit within us) that God makes possible. In the past year or so, I have witnessed the change of seasons within me. And I know that God is still at work...and the seasons will change in the future. But it is great to know that God is always a part of the journey.

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

This Sunday is the final time of all our Sunday morning services being in the Chapel. Communion will be served at all services. Come join us as we continue to "Dare to Dream" God' dream for our church. This weeks' message theme is "Lent..ing: 'Perceive..ing' – What's in Your Hand?" Come join us! Worship is at 8:30, 9:50 and 11:00am.