

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

OCTOBER 2025

**"How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me."**

Last Sunday's service closed with those words sung, first from the Choir and then as a congregation. How does one say thanks for all the miraculous experiences of life, some we are aware of, some that far exceed the limitations of our minds? How do we give thanks, how do we even say it in a way that it captures the depth of what we feel?

The above references point to the magnitude of God's work in the world; things that are beyond comprehension and yet are touched upon in all expressions of love that occur in life. This you did for Marsha and me last Sunday. Such a great outpouring of love upon us as a day in our life was acknowledged and celebrated with thanksgiving to God Who provided for the moment. Wherever and whenever love is shown, there God is revealed and experienced. Last Sunday was so holy because of the love you as a congregation shared. So how can Marsha and I say thanks? Is there something we should do to reciprocate? No, there is nothing we could do to 'pay you back' as is so often attempted in this world when an act of kindness is experienced; nor should we want to for that would make a travesty of your expression of love. We simply let the love you poured out upon us soak in and provide the most beautiful experience within the heart that leaves us blessed with the presence of God. How can we say thanks, that seems so simple, too simple to get the job done. But when love is shared and experienced, there is no job to be completed as is often the case in earthly thinking. The showing and receiving of love is the job completed, there is nothing more to do but to cherish the moment. We did, we still are, and we will forever.

Living in faith is learning that experience. We have all been taught while growing up how to behave, how to observe basic principles to get by in life. As we follow them, the road of life can be relatively smooth; when we may choose otherwise, the road becomes more difficult to travel. Part of the problem is we are trying to think our way through life. Granted, there are indeed principles for the living of life that must be learned and practiced. But the true meaning of life is not resolved in the head but in the heart where one embraces certain desires and makes choices accordingly, choices that flow quite naturally without even thinking about them. We are created in the image of God and the image of God is eternal, unconditional, and uncontainable love. When that rests at the core of who we are, we want to, we are driven by, and we can do no less than love. Our own weakness at times might cause it to be less than perfect, but God's grace covers us in those moments; on the other hand, there will be times when what we say or do will result in things happening beyond anything of which we are capable. Those moments are miracles, unexplainable from a limited human perspective but totally understood from a divine perspective. Such is the life we are called to, and which is within our grasp by the power of the Holy Spirit, God's gift to enable us to rise above ourselves and live on God's level. Such was the experience of last Sunday.

Thank you!!!

With love,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'BGP' with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end.