

Devotions – October 11-17, 2015
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Sunday, October 11, 2015

I'M THANKFUL FOR GATHERING

Text: Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

We all have a need to belong, to connect with one another. My family puts a high value on being together, especially at this time of year. We celebrate the gift of life as we take time to be together. We also celebrate that gift when we gather together with our church families. We are fed and nourished when we gather together as the Body of Christ.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, Thank you for times of gathering. NOURISH and NUDGE us when we forget how important gathering is. Amen*



Monday, October 12, 2015

THE BOUNTY OF THE EARTH

Text: Genesis 8:22

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

We've had an amazing growing season this year. I'm already planning my 2016 seed order. Biting into a sweet crisp carrot is made even sweeter because my Grandchildren helped me plant the seeds. When Andres and Alessandra helped their Papa plant the potatoes they were the 5th generation to plant potatoes in the field that has been planted by Micheal's family since they came from Finland over 100 years ago. Teaching them the blessings God has given us is an easy lesson.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, help us celebrate the gifts you have given us at this harvest season. Make us be ever mindful of our responsibility as caretakers of the earth. Amen*



Tuesday, October 13, 2015

THE BOUNTY OF FAMILY

Text: Genesis 48:15-16

And Israel blessed Joseph and said, "My ancestors Abraham and Isaac served our God, and like a shepherd God has lead me all my life. He was the angel who saved me from all my troubles. Now I pray that he will bless these boys, and may the names of my ancestors Abraham and Isaac be known through them. May they have many descendants on earth."

Two years ago was a year of loss and goodbyes for my family. Our Mom Nancy died after a 27 year journey with Parkinson's, my Stepdad Wayne who was our Mother's love and caregiver for 27 years died two months later and Ken, my first Stepfather, had died a month before our Mother. On the late winter day of our Mother's funeral the comfort I felt being in the arms of my family was an experience I can hardly put into words. When we got back to Mass City after the service we started off on a winter excursion to the Bluff behind our house. When we got to the top Adam and Amber had made us all a gift, an eight foot high snowman that sat on the edge of the Bluff. In the days and weeks that followed when I got home and looked up there was the snowman. Was there a wink, a smile, a hug...I thought so. The town talk was who built that snowman? Even after it melted it brought a smile to my face.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, Oh thank you for the gift of family and the strength you give us on our journey. Amen*



Wednesday, October 14, 2015

THE BOUNTY OF FORGIVENESS

Text: Matthew 18:19-22

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

As a parent one of the most important lessons we can teach is forgiveness. Our children, I can honestly say, have learned this lesson well. When tensions are higher than usual the advice I'd give is fight fair.

When we do not receive the forgiveness we so deeply need we have to remember that God has already forgiven us and we need to forgive ourselves.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, thank you for loving us and forgiving us first. Amen*



Thursday, October 15, 2015

THE BOUNTY OF HEALING

Text: Psalm 103:2-4

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

I've been dealing with some shadows lately, some crazy ideas that I think have been with me for far too many years. Why now? I'm not sure but I do know that there is always the bounty of healing, right there within our reach. Healing can be to get rid of a disease but it can also be the peace that comes accepting the journey you are on; the plate you have been served. It can also be to set some blame free that has been stuck in your head and heart for years.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, Thank you for watching over us, for healing us and sometimes shaking us out of our shadows. Amen*



Friday, October 16, 2015

THE BOUNTY OF MEMORIES

Text: Philippians 1:3-5

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Text: Luke 2:19

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Saying goodbye to those we love can be very emotionally brutal. I am very careful to not give easy answers that end up sounding empty. I do know, however, that in my own experience with loss to give myself enough time (it is a gift) and then go to my memories. This fall I spent a lot of time harvesting fruit from my mother's old orchard in Rockland. It had been so many years since my Mom had been there but the memories were warm and wonderful. Parkinson's had taken so much from my Mother but in her strength of daily life in all the years she could no longer be outside doing what she loved to do she didn't lament over her losses. Spending time in her orchard brought back the memories when she was there and healthy, and also a lesson that she taught me as she sat in her wheelchair.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, thank you for memories and the loving lessons memories can bring.
Amen*



Saturday, October 17, 2015

SING FOR JOY

Text: Isaiah 55:12

For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

We're coming into the time of year of greater and greater darkness. I don't like it. It can be dark when I drive to work, dark when I get home. When we were with family in Finland during the summer solstice it was daylight 20 hours a day. When I asked how they dealt with 20 hours of darkness in the winter, I was told that they light a lot of candles. The darkness can be hard to live with, but we trust in the promise that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light that no darkness can overcome – ever. And so, along with the mountains and hills, we can sing!

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, thank you for giving us a way to get beyond the darkness of the world, thank you for sharing your Son. Amen*

