

Greetings!

July 2019

The summertime allows us to enjoy the outdoors and be amazed by the creation God has entrusted to us. Vacations allow us to slow down a little, or at least experience a different routine. Vegetables and flowers are showing off their bounty and beauty. Rides or hikes through the countryside inspire awe when we see the wildlife, sunrises and sunsets, waterfalls, or the picturesque scenes our region is noted for.

The church calendar brings a time of growth, hence the green altar cloths/paraments. We will hear many of Jesus' teachings recorded by Luke, and the epistles/letters from Paul to the Galatians and Colossians, and then move to the book of Hebrews.

Your calendar is probably filled with picnics, family gatherings and other events. Be careful that your worship-both at church and private-does not get squeezed out of your days. If you are travelling somewhere, look for a church to attend. Bring back a copy of the bulletin or some ideas that we might use. If you have guests visiting you, be sure to invite them to church so that we can worship together. They might surprise you, even if you don't think they'd accept!

I recall meeting a woman at the grocery store while I was living in Florida. She and Dottie struck up a conversation and we visited back and forth a few times. She told us that she attended the UMC just around the corner from us. The one thing she didn't do, that would have gotten me through their doors, was to invite us. She talked about the church, but never said the few more words that would have made a difference. Don't repeat her mistake.

Finally, as we wait for the decisions of the Special Session of General Conference to take effect in 2020, please keep our denomination in prayer. I believe there will be a split based on issues of sexuality, namely marriage and ordination of practicing homosexuals. Continue to pray for our leaders at the conference and general church levels as they work to define how this separation will take place.

As we seek to keep our eye on our mission--to make disciples--do not let the world's divisions distract us!

*Pastor Barre*