

Pastor's Greeting

Children of God at AUMC:

July 2021

The storms of life WILL come. Sometimes in waves. Driving to Corning yesterday, I ran in and out of heavy downpours. Wipers on high, wipers off. Wave after wave. Troubles in life seem to come the same way. We have just finished a study called "The Secret Battle of Ideas about God". The author, Jeff Myers, tells how the ministry he heads up was experiencing financial issues; he was emotionally exhausted helping students through their life crises; his children were struggling with their schooling; wildfires threatened his home and the Summit campus; his wife sustained a brain injury in a cycling accident, recovered, and then chose to end their marriage. Wave after wave.

He first turned to God for help through this series of storms, but eventually began to lose faith. Finally, in some forced quiet time, he expressed his feeling to God—love, guilt, anger, fear, frustration. He eventually realized five things about his faith that can help all of us:

1. I am loved (Romans 5:1-5)
2. My suffering will be overcome (John 16:29-33)
3. I have an incredible calling (John 15:12-17)
4. I am meant for community (Romans 12:14-18)
5. There is hope for the world (Romans 12:9-12)

No other religion can provide these assurances. By participating in our church community, reading the Bible, praying (talking and listening to God), and following Jesus' example of serving others, we can rise above our circumstances. Difficulties become an opportunity to demonstrate our faith. We can either wallow in despair or thank God for our situation and find a way to share our faith. Our prayers may not change our situation, but they can change our attitude. God can remove our fear, allow us to trust God for our future, and share with others that our future is secure.

It is my prayer that you do not face difficulties. But if you do, know that you are always loved as God's child and your future is assured through your faith in Jesus.

On another note, as the summer progresses, please make an appointment if you want to see me. Office hours may be erratic depending on the weather and camping opportunities!

Praying that you trust in God for today—and tomorrow,

Pastor Barre