

Pastor's Greeting

AUMC Family of Faith:

September 2022

"This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through, My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue" says a song by an anonymous writer. I often use a similar theme at funerals— "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

Matthew 6:19-21 puts it this way, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We have so many reminders that our real home is not in this world. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" in John 18:36, among other places.

With all the distractions in this world, it is often hard to keep focused on God's kingdom. Work, bills, children and their children, parents, other family obligations, social media, the news, etc. can be overwhelming! We often say, "I just don't have time." Yes, we DO have time; it's a matter of priorities. We all get 24 hours in a day, and how we use them is our choice. You may feel that some areas of your life are beyond your control, but YOU ALWAYS HAVE OPTIONS. Some options may make you uncomfortable, some you can't imagine doing, some you've never even thought of, but you have the final say in how your time is spent.

So, how much of your time is spent thinking about God's kingdom? When was the last time you picked up your Bible? How much time do you devote to being mentored by someone? How much time do you spend mentoring someone newer to the faith? That might be a child, a spouse, a neighbor, or a coworker. Is growing your faith the most important aspect of your life?

Our "Dream Session" and Bible study have reminded us of the "missing generations" in our church. My great niece mentioned that "No one under 40 uses Facebook anymore." Our style of worship and the type of music we prefer does not speak to younger people. Jesus' command was to go witness to the ends of the world, making disciples. Although we continue to grow spiritually, the bulk of our effort (individual and corporate) should be on taking more souls to heaven, our eternal home. How are you doing that?

Don't forget to **B**ee **A** Disciple!



Pastor Barre