



First United Methodist

Become a part of God's family at First UMC

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*Vision: Hamilton First: a growing extended family sharing Christ's love
in the heart of the city (A United Methodist Congregation)*

Mission: To Know Christ and Make Him Known in the World

June 30, 2010

Dear Friends:

What is the weather like as you read this? I have just come in from a short drive noticing all the bright blue and white puffy clouds of a beautiful sunny day. How different today is over the severe storms of the last two days. How much this reminds us that life changes very rapidly.

Today is beautiful. All is right with the world. God is in heaven and the earth sings of God's glory. During the storms, how easy it is to get frightened and feel the world will stop functioning.

I would guess what is true about the weather is true about our faith life. When things are going well, and all is beautiful, we give thanks to God for all that we have. On other days, when things are chaotic, time seems short and we are feeling grief or just overwhelmed, how easy it is to get frightened and feel that God has disappeared.

How lonely it would be if God disappeared. How easy it would be to lose heart. How desperate we might be to get just what we need and forget everyone else. How much we might want to turn the clock back and return to life as it was. Sound familiar?

I am pretty sure I was an adult before I really made the connection that as the storms blew, above the clouds the sun was shining. I had probably been told it a number of times. It just had not sunk in. I am not sure it really sunk in until I was in a plane, taking off on a rainy day and breaking through the clouds to the sun that I realized what I had been told was so thoroughly true, that I had to believe it. Do we do the same with God?

How many times have we been told the God is with us, always, only to forget it the next time a major bump in the road occurs? What is the breakthrough point for us where what we profess we believe, comes from what we believe deep in our bones?

This beautiful day, take a mind's picture and say to yourself, "This is proof that God loves me." Then put it in your mind photo album. The next time you run into a storm or a bump in the road and feel God is gone, pull out that picture and look at it and

remember. You will be doing what the Psalmist does in a lament. Acknowledging what is real, but remind yourself, “but you are the same God who...”

Have a good walk with God this week, regardless of the weather.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy".

Rev. Peggy

Psalm 77

¹ I cry out to God without holding back.
Oh, that God would listen to me!

² When I was in deep trouble,
I searched for the Lord.
All night long I pray, with hands lifted toward heaven, pleading.
There can be no joy for me until he acts....

¹¹ I recall all you have done, O LORD;
I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago.

¹² They are constantly in my thoughts.
I cannot stop thinking about them.

¹³ O God, your ways are holy.
Is there any god as mighty as you?