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Greetings,

I hope you find this devotional helpful in your daily journey.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

Reflection: Hope

Greetings:

This past week we heard the story of two men walking about seven miles to the town of Emmaus. In the depiction they are wondering what is going on in the world around them. They had hope in Jesus as one who would show them the way forward, yet he was crucified. Now there are rumors of him rising from the dead. WOW! Talk about a rollercoaster week! While they are journeying, a third man joins them. Unbeknownst to them, it is Jesus. As they are walking, he is teaching them. Eventually the realization comes to them, when they break bread together, whom he is. There are days I truly identify with these two, walking along, uncertain as to what God is doing, wondering if God is involved at all in our human activities. Has humanity strayed so far from the path that God has given up on us? Just look at all the suffering around the world that oc-

curs through war, economic greed, illness, broken families, and so on. Yet in this story, it is precisely in that darkest moment that God reveals God's self to these two, and hope is reborn. So too, when we may face doubts or fears as individuals, or collectively as a denomination, let us continue to remember this story of God meeting these two in a way initially unrecognizable. For God has promised never to leave nor forsake us...(Deut. 31:6, Hebrews 13:5)

Peace, Pastor Dan

P.S. Please keep Jeremy and myself in your prayers as we will spend time at Annual Conference this weekend. Tensions are high given recent national rulings concerning sexuality.

Upcoming Dates

Monday: Bounty Food Bank: 9 am to Noon, Volunteers welcome.

Friday: *Bounty Food Bank* needs Volunteers every Friday for food pickup and storage help. Call 253-335-7860.

Next Sunday: Worship Service 11:00 - Pentecost (Wear some red if you can!)

Monthly

1st Saturday: Bethany Garden Club - 11:30 a.m.

2nd Thursday: Finance/Trustees - 6 p.m./7 p.m.

2nd Saturday: Food Bank Board Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Food Bank Open - 1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

33rd Annual Cake Auction - It was a wonderful event and we raised quite a bit for camperships - Thank you all for your gifts and Blaine for his leadership.

All church/community picnic - July 28th

Bounty Food Bank: Soup

Consider adding an item to your food bank donation. Also - We are always needing plastic bags - So, if you shop where they still give out plastic bags, the food bank would love to take them off your hands.

Please keep in your prayers...

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Liz Best

Bill & Gayle Rocheleau

Mary Egeland

Marjorie Leppard & Bob

Rev. Barbara Brown

Danielle - and family

Anderson-Gammel family

Judy Egan & her family

Tonya Dean

James & Jenifer Angus

Laura Tippie

Again, please continue to keep our United. Methodist church in your prayers, as well as the upcoming Annual Conference starting June 6th.