Pastoral Letter | August 12, 2025

Dear saints of FPC,

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

We have journeyed through so much these last several weeks—this community is holding the painful reality of many losses, several sudden and unexpected.

However yesterday, in the midst of all this community holds, we gathered once again to worship our God who guides and loves us. In this worship, we had the gift of baptizing two young adults, Mikayla and Jahnai.

As I reflected upon the beauty of God's movement in the baptismal waters of our lives, I was reminded of this prayer I wrote for the Somethings (our young adult crew!) in 2024 for Baptism of the Lord Sunday.

I hope these words might resonate with you, as we remember the joy of our baptisms in this new moment of Mikayla and Jahnai's story.

***waters and wonders***

God created *you*.
not the "you" on your resume.
not the "you" of family expectations.
not the "you" of the endless checklists, goals, deadlines.

just the "you" that exists in the quiet moments of your life
the stillness of the night
the trueness of being that exists in the inwardness of your spirit.

God *called* you
to the baptismal waters
waters which call you to live and breathe and be in a way this world is not equipped to understand.

God *continues* to call you
to summon forth waters of justice, mercy, righteousness and liberation.
but these waters don't always look like the grand torrents of the prophets.
sometimes they are puddles
sometimes they are streams
and sometimes they are simply little drops.

but of all the waters God has guided into your life, to approach them as *you* is perhaps the greatest call.

for only you can know what justice and mercy look like for your place, situation, context and life.
so do what you can
love how you can
and remember this baptismal promise;
God is with *you*, even until the end of the age (Matt. 28:20).