

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning
as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

- Romans 8:22

Dear Friends,

Changing leaves, dropping temperatures, pumpkin patches, apple cider... there's so much to love about October. Yet this is also a wistful time. Many people – myself included – admit to feeling nostalgic, contemplative, or even depressed as the shadows lengthen, the days get shorter, and the onfall of winter looms. Hope mixes with heartache. Joy and sorrow intertwine. It is a season of groaning beauty.

That's how I often think of the Christian faith, too: as a life of groaning beauty. Romans 8 says that all creation groans like a mother in childbirth, yearning for adoption and redemption. We know that things are not yet as they should be. Grief and conflict are familiar bedfellows. We struggle and sin. And yet Jesus has made a way for us. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us. And God's love will win the day. The leaves may fall now, and the snow may come, but new blossoms will soon spring forth in our hearts and in the world like rays of light from an empty tomb. This we believe and hold onto.

And so...

- As October begins, we will start the month with World Communion Sunday, worshipping with Christians around the globe and celebrating the feast given to us by our Savior.
- On October 3rd, the new Pastoral Relations committee meets. Our focus is looking at how High Church can best serve the congregation and community both now and for generations. Your prayers, support, and suggestions are welcome and needed. Contact Pastor Gaye, Janel Baughman, Art Holden, Nick Kindel, Carol Blunar, Amanda Cotton, or Brian Poetter with your comments.
- Lunch and learn is back on Thursdays at noon. Come join us and learn about the Old Testament one week at a time in this easy no-prep program and then stay for fellowship and a soup lunch.
- Clean out your sock drawer and bring in your change on Sunday, October 15th for Change for Change and help us make the holiday brighter as we fund Share-a-Christmas.
- Then on Saturday, October 28th from 1 to 2pm, don your costumes and decorate your car for the always fun Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot.
- We will close out the month with a healing service after worship on Sunday, October 29th.

I hope to see you this month as we journey through autumn together.

*Blessings,
Pastor Gaye*

