



*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. - Romans 8:22*

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. 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.

As we start October, we begin by celebrating on 10/2 with Christians around the world the love and salvation brought forth by Jesus Christ on World Communion Sunday. After worship, we will have a short informational meeting about beginning the Christian journey through baptism.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, those wishing to join our faith community will be received into membership during our regular worship service.

Starting on Thursday, October 13, we will resume our weekly journey through the Bible with the Lunch and Learn video series, "The History and Archaeology of the Bible". No prep necessary, join us at noon to feed body and soul.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the continuing Christian journey of our third graders with the presentation of bibles during worship. If you do not have a bible and would like to receive one that day, please contact the church and we will be happy to furnish one.

Lighten your spirit with us on Saturday, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> from 1- 3 with Trunk or Treat. Help us welcome all the small souls from the neighborhood for some treats and good fun.

So many ways to deepen your faith and celebrate your spirit this month. Won't you join us?

*Blessings,  
Pastor Gaye*