

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1*

Dear Friends,

It's been a few months since we have been celebrating the milestones in each other's lives. In June we celebrated those among us who have graduated from high school and university this year. Last month we remembered our recently retired members and encouraged them as they transition into new patterns of life.

In August we are turning our attention to the end of summer and the start of a new school year. On Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> we will bless the backpacks of our students as they prepare for another year of studying and the new friends and experiences that will surely come. We will also be handing out milestones to our VBS participants and honoring their adventures with Jesus.

This month, Tom and I will be celebrating a milestone of our own as we commemorate our marriage in Chautauqua, New York on August 28<sup>th</sup> after 19 years of friendship. Zoom instructions are included later in the newsletter should you choose to join us through the internet for our happy event.

**Consider This:**

As life's road continues to unfold before us, God continues to walk with us with each step we make. As we show up for one another, we become not only Christ's presence, but a cloud of witnesses to the blessings and strength that God showers on us day after day. May we continue to draw sustenance from our God and one another.

Blessings,

Pastor Gaye