

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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SURPRISE!!! “The Lord said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:13) This faith story is filled with surprise(s). “Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.” We might say, ‘past their prime.’ Abraham fathered other children with a servant and another wife, but Sarah was sad not to have a child of her own and not providing a “legitimate” heir to the family’s future. She could only watch as servant Hagar and child Ishmael (fathered by Abraham) dance before her and “rubbing it in” that somehow she was not good enough. Wonders never cease and Sarah, in her old age, becomes pregnant and gives birth to Isaac. SURPRISE!!! Again, “Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?” Sarah’s story is a story of dreams realized, possibilities becoming realities, and hope made certain. Will the pandemic ever end? What will happen next? Church worship has changed—have we? Times of protests have made us aware of dreams shattered, possibilities unrealized, hopes uncertain, and for some, their being created in the image of God has limitations and a sense of disparity and unworthiness. The dialogue should and must continue. HOWEVER, talking needs to turn into actions of inclusive hospitality, equal educational and employment opportunities without prejudice or discrimination, and equal justice and respect under the law with grace boundless. If we believe that the creation is God’s doing, when we limit, downgrade, malign, insult or judge that certain people are not in God’s image, we distort and make God’s creation in our own image. We are awed by God’s rainbow in the sky with its varied and beautiful colors. Humanity is also God’s rainbow with varied and beautiful colors, each given unique and complimentary gifts and graces that have, do and will bless one another. SURPRISE!!! Now is the time to be joined together as brothers and sisters as part of God’s family. Now is the time to reject religious bigotry, racism, sexism and all the other “isms” that would divide us and justify superiority over those who look or act different than our select community. We are called to live and share God’s Shalom—God’s peace—that transforms us to be peacemakers and love-sharers with and for all God’s children. Hope is fulfilled by God and brings new life into the community of faith. We can do no other. SURPRISE!!! BLESSINGS ALWAYS.