

## Service of Anointing – March 1

I am truly looking forward to our upcoming Service of Anointing on Sunday, March 1. Recently, I had the opportunity to spend two weeks at Bethany Theological Seminary for an intensive course focused on *Rituals and Reflection*. This time of learning, prayer, and conversation deeply shaped how I think about the role of meaningful spiritual practices in our lives, and it renewed my excitement about offering this service to our congregation.

During the course, we spent time discussing the practice of anointing. One powerful moment was watching a video testimony from a man who shared about his wife being anointed while she was battling cancer. She was not cured of her illness, but he described how she was truly *healed*. Through that experience, she found peace, comfort, and a deep sense of God's presence as she prepared for the end of her life. That story reminded me that healing does not always mean physical restoration. Sometimes, it is about wholeness, peace, courage, or reconciliation.

It is also important to remember that anointing is not only for the end of life, serious illness, or before surgery. It is a spiritual practice that can meet us in **any stage of life and in any season we are walking through**. Whether you are facing a challenge, carrying a burden, seeking direction, or simply desiring a deeper sense of God's presence, anointing can be a meaningful way to invite God's healing and strength.

I understand that this practice may feel new or unfamiliar to some, and perhaps overwhelming to others. Please know that the invitation will be there for anyone who feels called to come forward, but as always in the Brethren tradition, there is **no pressure or expectation**. If this does not feel right for you at this time, that is completely okay. One of the most important ways you can participate is by praying for those who do come forward to be anointed.

If you have any questions or would like to talk more about what this service will look like, please feel free to reach out to me before March 1, or simply come see me after the service on Sunday. I would be glad to share more and hear your thoughts.

I look forward to this time of worship and prayer together. May it be a moment of healing, hope, and grace for our church family.