

Won't you be my Neighbor?

A word from your Pastor

"The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:31)

This week, along with quoting the Bible in my musing, I want to also quote a popular neighbor to everyone - Mr. Fred Rogers: It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood

A beautiful day for a neighbor

Would you be mine?

Could you be mine?

It's a neighborly day in this beautywood

A neighborly day for a beauty

Would you be mine?

Could you be mine?

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you

I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you

So let's make the most of this beautiful day

Since we're together, we might as well say

Would you be mine?

Could you be mine?

Won't you be my neighbor?

Won't you please

Won't you please

Please won't you be my neighbor?

This past month has been a very productive one in getting to know my literal neighbors. It has been a long time since I lived in a neighborhood that has people that genuinely want to know their neighbors. I wasn't sure that too, is the case of the current neighborhood I live in in the Bella Via area. Then this month occurred and I just have to smile up at God in the heavens and say, Thank you, God for the neighbors!

The month started with a situation where we needed to contact our direct neighbor who we already had met and have had some interaction with. We were in a pinch where we were not at home and an expensive Amazon delivery arrived and we were a bit nervous about the current amount of porch pirates in the area. We called the neighbors and asked them to grab the package and we would get it from them when we were back home. This correspondence with them really brought us closer with this neighbor and we learned a lot about their family.

Last year we invited one of our neighbors across the street to come and check out Spirit of Hope since they were Lutherans. Don and Bobbie Wiles ended up becoming new members last spring and we have gotten to know them very well. Don had a medical condition a few weeks ago that called for an ambulance to come. Of course, being a good neighbor and their Pastor, I was quick to offer my concerns. We now watch out for one another as caring neighbors more than ever.

Another woman from down the street and I have had numerous conversations about personal issues in her life after she found out I was a Pastor. She felt comfortable enough with me to share knowledge about issues in her life. Last week in our conversation she mentioned that she told someone that her "Pastor" lives just down the street and that I was a good source of emotional support for her.

Last week our neighbor from just across the street purchased a fifth wheel RV and we ended up having a good long conversation for the first time, especially after I shared we too have a camper trailer. We had many RV stories to share! We are excited to maybe even share a few outings together!

Last month we had a memorial service for our neighborhood and friend, Bob Henry, (tricycle Bob) who was one of our worshipping brothers. The whole neighborhood came together to mourn the loss of his life.

Carol and I now feel that we are starting to know our neighbors and we are glad to live in a community that we can love our neighbors as we love ourselves. It makes a difference knowing those who you live near. We see evidence that they are also people whom you can pray for and with. I pray this new year will give us more opportunities to safely get to know our neighbors who we live near and those whom we worship with. Might be something to add to your new year's resolutions too.

Peace my neighbor,

PT