

Good morning!



Mona took a picture of the *Mimosa* tree in our back yard a few days ago. It is spectacular with the bright pink feathered blossoms. I've also been watching the flowers burst into colour in the garden. When our little dog Mitzi goes out into the back yard in the morning, the first thing she does is raise her nose into the air and take a deep breath. I've been told that a dog's power of smell is up to 1,000 times greater than that of humans. The morning fragrance must be exhilarating for her and she relaxes into it. A few hours later we all retreat into the house and do our best to stay cool in the summer heat. As we are learning, sometimes life is tough to endure.

Psalm 32:4 reminds me of the heaviness that many of us carry around...

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

It can be like living under a heat dome. When the heat pounds down it seems like someone is out to get us. When we go through hard times in life we can have similar feelings — that was the experience of the writer of the psalm too. However after sorting through those feelings, the writer recognizes that there is always a place of retreat when we feel the heat of life (worry, fear, guilt, sorrow) assault us. **Verse 7** keeps things in perspective: ***You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble...*** During my time off, we would often retreat into the coolness of the house. There we would have a popsicle, ice water, and circulating fans that reminded us that the heat does not have the last say. Leaning on our faith can be like being refreshed when all we feel is the heat of life. Maybe that is why the last verse announces, ***Be glad in the Lord and rejoice O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.*** It makes it possible to see the colours and breathe the fragrance around us each new morning.

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Thank you to **Ray** for presiding in my absence and to all those who keep worship and everything else going at the church in the heat of summer and all year round.

I visited with **Nic** (our former intern) and **Donny** one day last week. They are doing well and **Nic** will be giving us an update on life sometime in the next month of so.

This past weekend, there was a prayer request from the synod office concerning **Pastor Jim and Deacon Judy Whaley**. The family lost track of them as they were journeying home from Ohio and there was significant concern. On Sunday afternoon, Police and Border control located them and indicated family

stress concerning their whereabouts. They are safe and have decided to get a GPS and improve family communication! Thanks for all who kept them in prayer. For your information.

On Saturday morning, I will be sending out the worship materials and invitation to *Zoom for Hybrid worship*. I'm looking forward to seeing you then.

The Lord is with us.
Pastor Terry