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## April 2023

The Equinox of spring is upon us, and I am grateful for the light! The Yeagers have neglected their yard in favor for indoor remodeling but this year I want to be outside as much as possible. This IS the great Pacific Northwest, and I am feeling more like a native, even if I still don't drive a Subaru!

This is a time of year I really like – with snow where it belongs (on the mountains) and NOT on my sidewalk. No wildfires fill the air with ash, and the only thing to worry about is mud on your shoes. Not bad at all.

And of course, life is emerging from all that brown mud. That's lovely to see. It restores my faith and gladdens my soul. Not all that new life will make it. And nothing will be exactly the same as before, but it is still promising.

I love the word 'promising'. It's not fulfilled, it's hopeful. It's likely. It can happen! I love that. After all, I'm not fulfilled yet, am I? Nor are any of y'all. We're promising, not finished. No matter how old we are, we have unfinished business. We have as yet untapped potential. Maybe not enough to make history, but plenty for the day.

That's a vital message, because the opposite of promising is despairing, and the world we live in is chock full of despair. Despair leading to suicides, drug abuse, and all manner of depression, even as new life is breaking out all around us.

The stories in the bible are full of hope meeting despair. Life prevailing over death. Light over obscurity. Resurrection after destruction. The kingdom of God that Jesus points us toward works all these promising things into the fabric of our reality. The kingdom is full of ordinary people working for new life, new hope, and resurrection on day at a time. Slowly, eventually, and steadily since the beginning, the people of hope, faith, and love have carried the banner of love forward. They are, this kingdom of God, a very very 'promising' people of every tribe and nation on the planet.

Most often you can't see it, as Jesus says more than once, but it's growing all the same. New life springs from death. It happens every springtime, and it reminds us that the work we do in God's kingdom is like that. Eventual, not immediate. It all comes slowly, but it all comes, nonetheless. So, keep the faith, sisters and brothers. Life is good, and the Lord of Life is with us. Keep shining your light, and don't let anything distract you from the kingdom of God.

In faith, hope and love,  
Pastor Greg