

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"If then, there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete:

Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves."

- Philippians 2:1-3



Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Florida UMC's Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg! I pray all is well with you.

I'm here with my clergy colleagues and dedicated laypeople who serve the Board of Ordained Ministry. Every year, we spend the better part of a week reviewing the applications of candidates for ministry. This process involves reading hundreds of pages per candidate and engaging in lengthy conversations to discern their readiness for their next season of ministry.

It is a blessing and an honor to serve our larger United Methodist Church by helping nurture and encourage the next generations of servants of our Lord! It gives me a tangible sense that we are all a part of something larger, grander, and longer-lasting than ourselves.

For a time, our work takes us away from our churches, homes, and families. We undergo yearly training and meet to make decisions that will impact the work of others in the coming years. But as the verses in Philippians encourage us all, we put ourselves at the service of God so that the Body of Christ can continue to flourish in our peculiar Methodist Way.

As His People, I encourage us all to remember that we are all a part of a greater whole. May we not put ourselves above everyone else, nor put our preferences for this or that above everything else. Let us, out of love for God and Neighbor, keep God's greater good in mind and continue to grow in faith and love together.

May God's gracious love bless you with peace, health, and joy this week!

"May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance." - Jude
Anil