

Dear Friends,

Here comes the sun! Here comes the sun! It's all right. (Play the instrumental in your head, google Beatles if it's not playing in your head.) We have now gone past the Winter's Solstice so the sun will be in the sky a little longer each day. But there is a delayed effect because even though the sun is getting brighter and stronger and shining longer, the earth and our atmosphere are still cooling down. Just as in June, the sun is shining less and less with the warmest days usually being in July and August. It's a reminder that our actions and words may not make an immediate impact, but over time, if we keep shining and sharing love, things can and do change.

There are seasons for planting, growth, harvest, and rest. What season is our church in? I think we may be in a season of growth, for we seem to be expanding and spreading out, but maybe not quite harvesting fruit quite yet. This means we need plenty of water (hydrate), sun, and fuel. What are the things that feed this church? What are the daily occasions that feed your spirit, your heart, your mind, and your body? Is there a way for you to make a little more room for them? Is there a way at the church we can also feed ourselves? The obvious one is now that mask restrictions are lifting, potlucks and meals together may become a part of our congregation once more.

I will not throw in another metaphor. We are in the liturgical season of Christmas, which talks about birth, God's kingdom here on earth, and the poor and hungry being filled with good things. Though the end of the world or Jesus returning by coming down from the clouds has not happened, it doesn't mean that we wait for these to happen or fear that it will happen. Jesus tells us to focus on the here and now, don't worry about tomorrow, and love our neighbor and ourselves.

May you have a blessed Christmas season, time with family and friends, and may we ring in the New Year with some hope and anticipation of the longer days of sun.

Peace,
Pastor Enno