

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

Bird Watching

Blacktop road concrete bike path old dirt trail progressively narrowing softer on feet

loud chatter laughter cut by animated smile and silent shush. Quietude!

cultivate
a quiet mind
watch and
pin your ears
back to protect
waterfowl.

What is not said is often crucial in express group soul washing

awe unifies Creator Spirit and release remembrance of being any age at all.

Holiness immersing us in love senses heightened kneeling in the wildness

O pelicans, Cameron, shoveler duck, Canada goose, ring-necked duck, great egret, blue-winged teal, ibis, red-winged blackbird, double crested cormorant, drake mallard duck, ground thrush, brown thrasher, eagle, osprey, eastern toey, mourning dove, yellow toey, and bald eagle

April 26, 2023

we are thrilled to see you flap your wings sit on nests and share abundant resources.

Dirt paths lead to progressively softer hearts and cues that life truly is good!

Acts 2: 42-47 Community of Believers

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

From the Desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler April 26, 2023

This scripture from Acts describes a utopian community in which they held all things in common. The people are praying, eating, laughing, and crying together. Their entire lives are a witness to their faith. Although we do not spend all our time together, we are still called to be committed to God in all of life. Part of acting wisely and good is sharing what we've been given so that everyone has enough. We often consider, how do I live out my faith by demonstrating God's goodness to everyone?

This past Sunday a group of us walked at Lake Cunningham. Eleven-year-old Paul

read Psalm 150 and we were off to observe nature. We felt good to play a part in helping him achieve his Scouting Bird Study merit badge. We truly appreciate that Tom, our fearless leader, had scouted the trail a few days prior and studied up on the birds. Because he knew the trail, we wisely did not turn around when I suggested we do so. Just around the bend, we identified a bald eagle soaring overhead! Then on the lake we stood in awe of hundreds of beautiful, white feathered pelicans with large black tipped wings. It turns out that this was our best view yet! It truly was a Holy Listening experience.

In our affluent society today, and especially since the pandemic caused us to isolate, loneliness is a huge mental crisis. When we take the opportunity to join small groups, we feel more connected to one another and to God. Archbishop Desmond Tutu is quoted as saying,

My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.

We need one another and find the best part of ourselves when sharing the love and hope instilled in us by Jesus Christ.

May wonder and peace fill your soul!



Rev. Marta Wheeler