



Reflecting God's Love A Note from Pastor Karyn August 24, 2020

Last week, Cindy and I were blessed to go to the Poconos for a week. We went on walks, hiked to a beautiful waterfall, rode ATVs through the mountain trails, went to see a field of stones which resulted from glacier movement in the area, and did a bit of antique looking (small pocketbook and smaller car this year). We went to places we've never been before and spent quality time together (time not spent working at home).

We also slept late, took naps, and chilled on the front porch. We played Skip-Bo and watched some movies. It was amazing to be away and see four different walls in a

different place for a few days. But we could not escape the realities of our times. We ate in a few restaurants outside and we were masked anytime we were outside and around people. The virus still controlled much of our lives.

We all are holding our breath as we walk and work in the world no matter where we are – home or away. And we don't know when it will end. This constant waiting has been frustrating and way too long. But we're still called to be family to each other. We're still called to be the church. To love one another, to care for all, and to be supportive of each other.

Not everyone can get away right now. Not everyone can even leave their homes. Not everyone is healthy and safe. When we focus mainly on the struggles we are enduring, we can get a warped view of the issues our siblings are experiencing.

We can forget our siblings of color who deal with systemic racism on a regular basis. We can forget our friends and neighbors who are struggling to pay their bills and feed their families. We can forget our own family members and others who have lost their jobs or their businesses. We can forget those fighting this virus on the front lines every day. We can forget the bigger picture of the times we are facing.

So as we stood on a bridge in the Delaware Water Gap and I snapped the picture included with today's note, the reflections of the sky and clouds caught our attention. And we paused and reflected on the abundant blessings we have. I felt God's presence in the water, the clouds, and the mountains. And we paused to show gratitude and respect to others.

We reflected on those still working in dangerous situations. We reflected on those who have not been able to leave their homes or apartments since March. We reflected on the students and parents making tough decisions about their education. And we reflected on all of you and your amazing ways of being there for each other.

We're all still in this together. We're all making a way forward. We're all children of God called to be there for each other. And we're called to reflect the love of God to each other and to the world even in times when we just want some semblance of normalcy. Let us be the reflection we are called to be as God's beloved children.

God loves you and so do I.

PK