



A Message from Pastor Karyn
October 21, 2020

I love the Fall. I love the changing colors of the leaves, sitting by a fire, and finally getting into sweater weather. I didn't grow up with significant color change in the trees of West Texas. We basically had winter and summer. We had green trees then brown trees. When I was younger, we lived in a county that had a historical marker honoring the site of the first tree planted in the county. Seriously!

When I moved to Kansas City, Missouri to attend seminary I saw a whole hillside of brilliant fall colors and I literally screamed with delight and pulled the car over to sit in wonder. It was the first time I had ever seen trees that spectacular that weren't in the movies or a magazine.

So I never take the fall colors for granted. We have been blessed to spend some time in the Poconos over the past few falls and it just makes my heart glad to see the changing of the trees. And we don't have to go there – the trees in the parking lot of the church and around the city are changing now, too.

I find myself driving around just to get out of the house and see the fall colors. I think my favorites are yellow and bright orange, but I'll take a red or purple as well. Each tree is unique and each year I see different patterns of the trees changing in our yard. The colors are so beautiful. I am often overwhelmed by the ways God paints the world around us.

Fall trees remind me of the amazing diversity of our world. We're all different. We all show diverse patterns of change depending on the world around us. We all have ups and downs, good days and bad days. We all have complex relationships and interesting family dynamics. And we've all been tested over the last months.

But the amazing colors have come out in all of us, too. We've supported one another. We've learned new things. We've completed book series and 1000 piece puzzles. We've knitted new baby blankets and scarves. We've tried new recipes and worked in our gardens. We've sung long loved hymns and created new art projects. We've gathered on Zoom and worshipped by livestream. We've been the church in ways we never thought about before.

We will soon be sending out the notice about the reopening procedures for indoor, in-person worship starting on November 1st. Each of us is different and each of us have different concerns or needs. Each person has unique circumstances in their health and wellness needs. I invite you to think and pray about what is the best for you and for your family.

I do love the beauty of creation and the ways we are invited to look deeply into what God has been, is, and will be showing us if we just open our eyes and see. I thank God for the seasons of the year that help us connect to the earth and sky. I thank God for the colors of the trees and the sky. I thank God for you and for the differences and gifts of each and every one of you.

God is painting something new for us. We may not see it yet, but someday we're going to see it, scream with delight, and pull over to praise God as we sit in wonder.

Grace and Peace –

PK