

## ***PJ's Ponderings...***

**July 2016**

*"I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love.  
Ephesians 3: 17-18 TEV*

As I reflect on the past 30 years of ordained ministry, the above scripture seems to speak to the heart of my experience. I have had the joy of being surrounded by a cloud of faithful witnesses who have loved in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Together, as pastor and congregation, we are about the task of nurturing the roots of love among the Faith Family.** In today's world, it is challenging work, establishing a 'love root system'. The anger and self-centered nature of the world often forms a hard crust on the soil of our spiritual lives. It is a struggle to help people learn to trust and love when the world continues to teach us to be suspicious and give little love to others.

**Yet, the church has been the foundation of love.** Together, we continue to give ourselves for the sake of others. Over the years, I have seen this love come to full bloom in the eyes of children, youth, adults and our seniors. I have watched people pour out love offerings for a variety of missions near and far, and for those known and unknown.



Our mutual ministry has said to the world: **"There is hope even for those in despair. There is comfort for those in grief. There is new life for those who face the reality of death."** Through Christ's love all things are made new; we are forgiven so that we might love one another.

I am thankful for all those who have taken seriously their call to a ministry of planting roots of love. Over the years, communities of believers have come together to declare that their lives are built on the foundation of Christ's love. This declaration has sustained me in my pastoral journey; for this I give God praise.

May each of us be renewed by the love of God, known most fully in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Grace & Peace ~ Pastor Jane*