***PJ’s Ponderings…*****July 2018**

***“…therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live,***

***Loving the Lord your God…” Deuteronomy 30:19***

The words above were spoken by Moses as God’s people wandered in the wilderness. The future was unknown to any of them. They had a promise of new land flowing with milk and honey; yet they could not see it and did not know the way.

Some among the group wanted to go back to Egypt, to the familiar. “No!” said others, “we shall not go back to the past. We have come too far to go back; we do not want to give up our God or freedom.”

Yet others declared that the people should remain where they were, in the wilderness. After all, God had provided water, manna and quail; this had been sufficient thus far. It was too dangerous to think of entering the Promised Land. Reports were that there were giants in the new land; it was safer to stay put.

“No!” said others. “We shall not linger in the present; for a generation has already died while we have been wandering in this wilderness.” Many agreed that it was time to cross the Jordan River. It was time to push past the barriers.

So God’s people left the wilderness, crossing the river Jordan. They placed stones in the river to remind them of the past as they forged

a new beginning. As God’s people journeyed, the cry was heard:

**“Today, we choose life.”**

So it is with God’s people today. **We have the promise of God’s presence in this life and in life everlasting,** even though we do not know the details regarding the days ahead. **We are in a time of unrest and uncertainty on many fronts,** including our personal lives and the lives of those in our country and world. At times we simply have to admit, we do not know the way.

 **Yet, in the midst of the journey**, we can, with the help of our Lord, proclaim: **“Today, we choose life.”**

***May God bless our journey! ~ Pastor Jane***