

Celebration Sunday – September 11, 2022

Beloved Friends in Faith,

We've come to call this Sunday, "Celebration Sunday." Different churches call it different things: "Rally Day," or "Homecoming Sunday," or "Kick-off Sunday." The thought behind all these titles is that after we've been scattered over the summer we're coming back together in full force. We're rallying together, we're kicking off the new program year, we're coming home after being away. For these reasons, and many others, we have much to celebrate--

We celebrate the friendship, fellowship, and love that we share with each other. We celebrate God's unconditional love for each one of us and for all humanity, indeed, all creation! We celebrate that amid very difficult and challenging times, God's love gives us hope.

We celebrate our children and youth...this Sunday they'll participate in the full service! We celebrate our Outreach Ministry...we'll bless Church World Service School Kits. We celebrate our music ministry...this Sunday the Choir will be back!

There is much to celebrate. At the same time, there is much to mourn, to lament. This Sunday will be "9/11." For those of us old enough to remember, "9/11" is seared in our memory as the date of a horrific terror attack. We mourn that now, twenty-one years later, it seems the greatest threat to our country is not from outside our country, but within. The power and blessing of worship is that we can bring everything to God...our celebrations and concerns, the beautiful and the ugly, our joy and our grief.

In person or online, I hope you'll join us for Celebration Sunday!

Blessings and love,

Pastor Vern