

Message from Amy

*Thus says the Lord; stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16*

We are already starting to see it. We look around the congregation on a Sunday morning, and a familiar face is missing from his or her regular spot. The next week, he or she shows up again, but two or three others are absent. The next week, they are back, but another is gone.

Since schools let out a several weeks ago, we have embarked on that time of year when members of our congregation come and go with various vacations, summer camps, cruises, stints at the lake, band trips, and a host of other activities that take us away from one another. My family is getting ready for a week's travel to New Mexico (starting July 9), where Bruce and I will introduce the kids to the outdoor chapel where we got married.

As we think about activities that will be both refreshing for us and interesting to the kids, it's my hope that all of us at First Christian will consider our summer travel plans at least partially as pilgrimage. That is, recognizing a spiritual dimension to travel that takes us beyond simply seeing the sites, buying souvenirs, or doing the same old things in a different place. Whether our travel takes us across the ocean, or into a neighboring county, what we glean from our travels has a lot to do with the attitude we start with. If we begin with a positive expectation, a spirit of seeking, and an openness to whatever comes our way, our travels can be enriching and enlightening, wherever we go, especially as we remember that God is always with us.

On July 8, we will embark on our summer sermon series, Sacred Journeys: Gospel for Travelers. Please invite friends, visitors, co-workers, and neighbors to join you in worship as we journey with those intrepid travelers in the Bible, from the Queen of Sheba to the Apostle Paul.

- July 8: "Jacob and Sacred Journeys" (Gen. 28:10-22)
- July 15: "Go" (Matthew 28:16-20) Rev. Dustin Morris preaching
- July 22: "A Guarantee" (1 Cor 15:1-8) Raymond Hankins, preaching
- July 29: "Trouble in Travel" (Acts 27, selections)
- Aug. 5: "Practicing Hospitality" (Acts 28:1-6)
- Aug. 12: "There and Back" (1 Kings 10:1-13)
- Aug. 19: "Home by Another Road" (Matthew 2:12)

Blessings for safe travels and safe returns,

Rev. Amy Lignitz Harken