

Listening and Talking . . .

The Holy, Sacred, Connected to God

I wonder about a time in your life when you felt close to God – a holy moment, a mountaintop experience. In these times, God seems most alive, noticeable and “real” to us – we have a connection with God, a sense of Presence, a relationship perhaps.

In Celtic spirituality, there is a phrase – “Thin places,” which is more of an experience than a location. This is when we experience a thin veil between heaven and earth.

For many of the youth and adults who go to Camp Walter Scott, they say they feel a relationship with God; they feel a closeness to God during that week than ever before. They often sense the Presence of God in nature – away from technology, judgement, negativity, and expectations. Some of them say they feel more loved and accepted at camp than anywhere else, than any other time of the year. Every day at camp offers experiences to discuss how others live life with God, and learn how to build a deeper relationship with God. There is so much to savor that many campers shed tears of sorrow when they say good-bye to their friends at the end of camp. They don’t want the experience to end.

The Holy in Everyday Life

But we can’t live our whole lives at

EVERYDAY HOLY

church camp or Rippling Hope in Detroit or attend a special retreat. **What can we do as a church to follow up on these experiences?**

Let’s talk to our youth and adults when they get back from Camp Walter Scott or Rippling Hope. Let’s listen to their experiences and offer to be with them during our journey together in the days ahead. Let’s talk to one another about the times we feel closest to God and work together to create more of those events in our surroundings. For many of us, this means changing our habits and perhaps changing our conversations.

We don’t have to wait until church camp or mission trip next summer. I’m not sure we need to travel to Dietrich, IL or Detroit, MI or Scotland to get that experience. All we need is an awareness of what is holy in our everyday life – the sacred in the mundane – the stuff we’re already doing that could hold a spiritual connection to God.

We can say a prayer for each person we greet, blessing them, and asking God to build a deep relationship with them. We can listen and talk to God (with our eyes open) as we paint the house (ours or someone else’s). We can look out the window as we travel the streets and countryside, and be grateful for God’s creation. Put others in God’s heart.

Every day, we have an opportunity to bring holy experience to our walking-around life. What will you do to draw near to God, to turn your heart and mind to God more often? I’m praying for you and with you!

Blessings on all as we Journey together,
Pastor Tom Cici