

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon
July 24, 2024
"Change and Chance"



The youth of St. Paul United Methodist recently returned from six days of traveling doing mission work. Their report on Sunday included stories of working in food pantries, singing in shelters, and more. It also included an important life lesson that Billy and Janet Sewell, co-directors of youth ministry, call Rule 1a, "Everything is subject to change." Rule 1a can be a helpful reminder to keep change in perspective and be flexible. It may be that the change led to some unexpected discovery or gift, as it did with the Fusion trip.

Change is all around us. We see it in the seasons and almost every part of our lives. The Bible says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;..."

Change is a natural part of life. Sometimes, it is a welcome change, and other times, it is unsettling. How can we embrace change, whether it hits us like a ripple or a 10-foot wave?

Accepting change is hard but not impossible. It's tempting to focus only on what is lost. When something changes, we can't control it, but we can choose our response to it. We get to create how we frame it. We could choose to ask the Lord for help. Ask, where do I see God in this? Maybe the change then becomes a chance to experience that God's grace is sufficient.

Blessings,

Darren