



Hello friends! Well, officially it is fall, but it sure doesn't feel like it! I can't wait for a little cooler weather (not cold, because I don't like to be cold)! When there is a bit of a nip in the air, it refreshes and reenergizes us, doesn't it?

The month of September was a pretty difficult month for myself personally, as well as for our church family. I want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, meals and donations of time and money for the benefit of my family after the death of my Mother. She was a wonderful woman and we will miss her dearly, but we have faith, and find joy in knowing that she has been completely renewed and restored, and living now with her God that she loved so much. Paul tells us *"Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength"* (1 Corinthians 15:43).

We also lost one of our own – Wayne Allen. I cannot imagine, as your pastor, how difficult this is for our church family, who loved him and will also miss him dearly as well. I pray you can find comfort in knowing that he is also living the new life he was meant to live as his love for the Lord continues to deepen throughout eternity.

The month of October will be a time of healing for us. This is an opportune time for all of us to draw ourselves closer to the Lord, who is mighty to save! The writer of Psalm 147:3 remind us: *"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."* This is the time for us to come to know God intimately and fully, and to experience His love, grace and mercy in new and fresh ways.

I encourage you to join a small group during our Experiencing God sermon series. There is a Sunday morning group that is meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. I am starting a new group on Wednesday mornings beginning October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. Or perhaps you would like to start a new group at your home in the evenings? Please contact me at 813-787-6198 to let me know of your interest in any of the above.

It is also a great time for us to do what is normal for us at this time of year. We will celebrate the fall weather through our Trunk or Treat event on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We have more trunks and community partners participating than ever before, which is over the top exciting news! It takes many hands to make an event like this successful. If you have not already signed up to volunteer somewhere on that day, please see Lauran Breeden and get connected!

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your pastor. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for all of us in the coming month.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Kathi