

**OCTOBER**  
**COUNTRY CHURCH COMMUNICATOR**

*A cooperative ministry of:*

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**Open Hearts**  
**Open Minds**  
**Open Doors**

**The people of the  
United Methodist Church**

***A message from Pastor Hae Seon Lee:***

*For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold  
of your right hand and says to you,  
"Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13*

Dear Church Family,

Recently, I have noticed that the weather has changed: the days have become cooler and drier, almost into the autumn season. We are a step closer to winter and to the end of the year. Thus, I not only look forward to the festivities that are associated with the end of a year, but also ways we can end well.

In Korea, there is a saying, "Head of a dragon, but tail of a snake". It is a saying about starting strong, but the efforts have been lost on the way. We have started this year in uncertainty, but we have started the year best we could with the best tools we have at hand. We need to always look at ourselves and see that we have not lost that along the way.

There is also a story of an old man and a young man crossing the river. The night before, due to the heavy rain, the bridge had been swept down the river. A young man travelling had to cross the river to get to his destination. When he was about to cross the river, an old man sitting under the tree by the river called out to him and scolded the young man for not taking care of the elderly. The young man carried the old man across, but the old man was angry at him saying why did he not bring his baggage with him. The young man looked across the river and saw the baggage next to where the old man was sitting. The young man crossed the river again and brought the old man his baggage. The old man was still angry. The old man scolded the young man for not bringing his staff, saying that he would not be able to get to his destination without it. The young man looked across the river and saw the staff leaning on the tree where the old man sat. The young man once again crossed the river and brought the old man's staff. The old man asked the young man, he could have left anytime, but why did he cross the river two more times. The young man answered, if he left without bringing the old man's baggage or staff, his early good deed would have become nothing.

So, we as the church needs to consider how we can not only continue with the passion we started, but also how to finish the year with the enthusiasm we started with. We not only need to continue the various ministry of the church, but also keeping in mind how we started each ministry, remembering how we first felt the love of God and how we first fell in love with God.

Peace and Grace in Christ,

이해선

*Pastor Hae Seon Lee*

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