

August Pastor's Corner

I wasn't really expecting what happened. It just did! Our family, like so many of today's families, was scattered all over the map. We met up at holidays, if the stars were in perfect alignment, and the rest of the time was spent in phone calls, face time, texts and all the "modern" ways of keeping in touch. We managed to survive the restrictions that the global pandemic had shackled us with. Then the unexpected happened. Our daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren moved to Chino Valley.

Life changed. After the initial work of moving, we continued to be together. The most rewarding of these family connections happened when our grandson decided to start riding bicycles again. Each night my daughter's whole family would ride their bikes to our house. We now live a little over a mile apart. Things began to grow out of this nightly ride. We arranged a setting area in our front yard under the willow tree in the shade. We made sure we had water and refreshments ready for them to partake of before riding back home. Our time of family fellowship began to expand. We talk about the day behind us and the days to come. Sometimes a game is played.

I believe it opened in me the primal connection of family and friends. The worth that it brings into my life and into my family.

Interestingly enough, it brought my daily meditations on church life into focus. Maybe we don't have biological family close, but we do have a community of faith that becomes our family. I believe in many ways surviving the restraints that COVID placed on our church family has bound us together in ways that would not have happened without this uncomfortable experience.

As our fellowship opens up, I am reminded to pray for each other, fellowship together in the grace God has provided, be open to the movement of God's Spirit, and to always remember; God loves you, and so do I.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob