**Don't Miss Being in the Picture**

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Have you ever picked up a picture with your family and then you realize someone’s missing? Maybe they didn’t make it home for that holiday or special event? Since our family has become scattered about the United States, our holidays don’t always include all our children. That has been difficult for me. When I look back at those pictures, my eyes always notice the one who isn’t there. The one who could not make it that time. There is joy for those who are there, but there is sadness for those who are not there as I remember the occasion. I remember particularly, when I was about to be ordained in Florida at my first church, my parents were no longer able to travel. All the wonderful pictures from that day did not include them. I am very thankful they were able to watch the service by the wonders of the internet and my sister and her computer but they were not “in the picture.”

This month during worship we have been remembering. We have remembered our early church inspired memories and added them to our memory boards. We remembered who made us and that we are created in God's image. We learned that remembering means acting on our memories and when God doesn't remember our sins, it doesn't mean God forgot them; but that God chooses *not* to act on them. We realized God never forgets us but we may forget God. God's steadfast love which informs God’s remembering keeps God from forgetting. We remembered that the bread and the cup are a memory maker meal – a picture of sorts- to help us remember Jesus death on the cross. This was the demonstration of God’s deep love. For in Jesus’ death and resurrection, we and our sins are passed over. Instead of punishment, we receive forgiveness in this new covenant in Jesus’ blood which fulfilled the Passover out of Egypt as the inauguration of God’s loving, healing, restoring will came to earth. What does this mean? That God in Christ forgives and heals our brokenness and pain of all types. God helps us see that the obstacles we face have already been overcome in Jesus. He will walk with us and work in us to move them out of the way and bring life where joy and love abound.

This Sunday we conclude this memory making time by remembering the Sabbath. What is Sabbath rest? This ancient practice is actually a picture of God's grace and life-giving love for us. However, we are not very good at getting in the picture of Sabbath or getting the picture of what it looks like in our lives. We will spend a little time discovering the gifts and benefits God has for us in a Sabbath rest.

Over the last few weeks, overwhelmingly the congregation’s way to remember has been to bring a picture, which we all have enjoyed seeing and sometimes guessing who some of these folks are. I think it’s safe to say that today we often do our remembering by taking a picture since so many of us carry phones that can double as our camera, at least that’s what I do! But the question becomes who is in our picture? Who will be in the future picture of the Church? How will new memories be made and who will make them?

This Sunday, September 24,th is our final week in our making memories series. To commemorate this we will take a picture of everyone present on this Lord's Day as our way to make a memory. Will you come? We don’t want anyone to miss being in the picture!