

PASTOR SCOTT'S

MONTHLY MESSAGE



Here Comes the Sun

Pulling from George Harrison, *Little darling[s], it's been a long cold lonely winter*. Being a weak La Nina winter, it was forecast to be warmer and dryer winter than usual - but around mid-January Mother Nature elected to make weather forecasters eat a little crow. Much more snow and a long spell of sub-zero temperatures dominated the rest of winter. And the snow just kept coming into spring.

Unless you are a cross-country skier or a snow shoeing fan you likely spent most of this year indoors — when you weren't outside shoveling snow, of course. But, *Here comes the sun, and the smiles are returning to the faces!* The snow did turn to rain (but was still colder than usual). Yet, finally the sun is out. With this shift haven't you noticed more people out and about: walking their dogs (particularly little dogs that would have faced a difficult time navigating the snow), pushing strollers, on their bikes for exercise or transportation, hiking the trails, planting annuals and landscaping, etc.

After a long indoor hibernation, let's break the outdoor hiatus and spend time outside in God's creation. Take a walk. Eat lunch or dinner outdoors (at your place or visit a restaurant with outdoor dining). Go for a hike (the next *Lost Soles* hike switched to June 16 from June 23 due to the Glacier Presbytery Retreat weekend). Pull out the bicycle and pump up the tires. Go out to a nearby lake. Visit a park (*National* or otherwise).

And while outdoors, be present to God's creation. Listen to the birds; how many different calls do you hear? Notice which trees are just starting to leaf out, and which ones began this much earlier. Observe what is blooming. What scents are in the air, and how would you characterize the breeze? Any animals present (I saw the first skunk — a large skunk — strolling through my yard the other evening). Be attentive to what is happening around you as you walk, eat, or just sit and enjoy God's dance going on around you.

Mary Oliver was an award winning American poet (1935 - 2019). Much of Mary Oliver's poetry has to do with walks she has taken in the woods (or the "wild" she encounters around the street), but there is always something else underneath—the idea that it is important to look at the world we live in to get an idea of who we are as humans within an ecosystem. Nature is central to Oliver's idea of God.

As humans, we tend not to appreciate what we are not familiar with. I think appreciating God's creation is a sound spiritual discipline. And the greater we develop this discipline of appreciating creation the better stewards we will be of it, both in our personal lives and our expectations of corporations and public institutions.

It has been a long cold lonely winter. But, here comes the sun! Practice the spiritual discipline of appreciating and caring for God's creation.

Peace,

Pastor Scott