

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

For 5/23/20

As we enter the Memorial Day weekend I am reminded of a military expression, “Hurry up and wait.” Often in the military, there is a rush to get people and materials to a certain place at a certain time, and then they wait. The mass of personnel waits, for reasons they don’t know about. The need for their earlier rush becomes less clear.

During this pandemic, there are those who are rushing to get materials, procedures, and people to certain places at certain times. For many, the wait time is unclear. What is happening? Anything?

Like many churches in counties that are beginning to open up (yellow phase), we at Balls Mills are putting a plan in place to reopen safely. This takes time.

In the meantime, there are things we can all do. We can continue to connect with brothers and sisters from Balls Mills, through our calls, messages, and on-line and in-home worship. We can spend some time outside connecting with God’s wonderful creation. We can take a moment to thank God for those persons who have made the sacrifice of life for freedom.

In *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*, a meditation for May 20th encourages us to not hurry along “business as usual.”

Twentieth-century Presbyterian theologian and writer Frederick Buechner has written, “Who know how the awareness of God’s love first hits people? Every person has his own tale to tell, including the person who would not believe in God if you paid him. Some moment happens in your life that makes you say Yes right up to the roots of your hair, that makes it worth having been born just to have happen. Laughing with somebody til the tears run down your cheeks. Waking up to the first snow. Being in bed with somebody you love. Whether you thank God for such a moment or thank your lucky stars, it is a moment that is trying to open up your whole life. If you try to turn your back on such a moment and hurry along to Business as Usual, it may lose you the whole ball game. If you throw your arms around such a moment and hug it like crazy, it may save your soul. How about the person you know who as far as you can possibly tell has never had such a moment? Maybe for that person the moment that has to happen is you.”

May your weekend and week be a moment beyond and above the usual!

May God bless you, and through you, the world.

Peace and blessings,  
Pastor Chris