

Dear Bereans,

I Peter 1:3

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."*

I so enjoy and often reflect on our worship together from week to week. Throughout this past week, I have whispered the words of the song we sang together recently, "Living Hope" by Phil Wickham. My heart is glad that, Lord willing, we will be able to worship together again in just a few days. There is nothing on earth that can replace or be substituted for in-person corporate worship. Our time together is precious, intentional, and commanded by our Lord. I pray we continue to enjoy this together until Jesus comes! As you might know, there are other venues to enjoy additional fellowship and look deeper into our living hope and its object Christ Jesus. These include Sunday School, Small Groups, Men's and Ladies fellowship, and more.

As the summer "slow-down" to the church calendar begins to occur, maybe it's time to consider additional ways to engage in "life on life" together? May I recommend Sunday School? If you have not attended Sunday School recently, or came back to it after it was re-started, there are two book studies underway for adults: Proverbs and James. There are also children's Sunday School classes and Jr. High/Teen classes running as well so the whole family can attend. As we will be studying in James 4 this week, our life is *"a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes"*. I encourage you to spend as much of it as you can with those of us whom you will spend eternity with! Would you consider being part of a "Summer Surge" in Sunday School attendance? You are certainly welcome!

With love and anticipation of our time together on Sunday.

Pastor Mark