## A Message from The Pastor



Many years ago, I learned that change is hard, whether the change is positive and welcome or negative and definitely unwelcome. Change is hard because we need to become someone different. We will not be who we are now. The difference may be small or huge. We may kind of know what to expect, or it may be a total surprise. That can be scary. Sometimes, we are ready to be made different, like when we are trying to lose weight. Sometimes, we absolutely don't want to change, like when we are injured.

All change involves loss. We lose the way things were; we lose the way we were before. Loss will cause grief. Even the smallest of changes will cause a little grief. We need to let go of what we lose and be open to accepting the new that is coming. Following Jesus is a life of constant change. God asks us to change every day, to examine ourselves and repent, to seek for and to grant forgiveness, to grow in our understanding and our actions as we strive to become more Christ-like. Does that mean we live in constant grief? No, of course not! The change of becoming the person God created us to be is a source of joy and peace and fulfillment. There may be times when we do feel some anxiety or grief, but the joy of growing as disciples and growing closer to God is worth the difficulty of change.

## I offer this prayer:

Loving and almighty God, thank you for being with us in all of life's changes. Please grant us the strength, patience, peace and joy that we need as we grow more and more into the person you have created us to be. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Margery