

## **BLESSINGS ALWAYS**

July 27, 2022

Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

*INHERITANCE*. “Someone from the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the *INHERITANCE* with me.’” (Luke 12:13, CEB). Vintage show “Perry Mason” often has lawyer Perry Mason defending someone who is accused of killing a family member in order to *INHERIT* the wealth of the family and/or possessions. The District Attorney brings charges of greed, not wanting to wait for the *INHERITANCE*, and/or debt as reasons for the crime. (Of course, Perry always proves his client innocent in dramatic fashion, getting the killer to admit it while interrogating that person.)

For people of faith, what we have are blessings from God, entrusted to us as stewards and caretakers. If the blessings are not “*our or my*” possessions, they become love gifts to share with others, lifted up as both human and divine blessings. Our lives, too, are God’s creation to be shared with others as blessings and not curses. It is important to realize blessings are both an *INHERITANCE* to us from God and an *INHERITANCE* we can share with others, particularly as we do ministries and missions to make a difference in the lives of all God’s children. Time, talents, and treasures are gifts from God and they can be either blessings or afflictions, depending how they are received and distributed. Time is precious or wasted. Talents can be unpretentious for the benefit of others or arrogant with selfish intent. Jesus spoke against greed and said, “*One’s life isn’t determined by one’s possessions, even when someone is very wealthy.*” (Luke 12:15).

Faith is an *INHERITANCE* that can be shared with one another. Faith becomes an *INHERITANCE* by our words and deeds of love and care, shared without limitations attached to them. God blesses us graciously and generously with abundant life and unlimited blessings. Our response should be gratitude and thanks. Shirley Erena Murray wrote a hymn text of thanks: “*Give thanks for life, the measure of our days, mortal, we pass through beauty that decays, Yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise, Alleluia, Alleluia!...Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain that lies in darkness does its life retain in resurrection to grow green again, Alleluia, Alleluia!*” (NCH, 297). Receive and share God’s blessings as an *INHERITANCE* with thanks-living. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS*.