

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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WATER. "The people quarreled with Moses, and said, 'Give us WATER to drink.'" (Exodus 17:2). "A Samaritan woman came to draw WATER, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'" (John 4:7). WATER is so essential to living for it makes up 60 to 75% of human body weight for adults. About 71% of the Earth's surface is WATER covered and the oceans hold about 96.5% of all Earth's WATER. Climate change is altering the WATER supply, for example Lake Mead is only 27 percent of its usual capacity, limiting WATER for farming and drinking supply, and in some places has caused environmental damage in many western states.

The Bible is full of *WATER* stories beginning with the importance of *WATER* in the Creation story. The forty-year journey for the Israelites often involved complaints, discouragement, and anger at God and Moses. *"Give us water to drink."* Lisa M. Wolfe, professor of Hebrew Bible at Oklahoma City University, describes Moses' encounter with those thirsty people: *"After moving from the obedient river to the desolate desert...they camp at a place called Support (Rephidim). Once there, God helps Moses find WATER for the complaining community, so that place is named Test (Massah) and Strife (Meribah).* (Please note the importance of the names.) The people remembered times of God's abundance and in this case where bringing *"legal charges"* against God for neglecting them.

In the passage from John, Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman, considered an outcaste because of her scandalous reputation, at the well at a time when she would not encounter anyone else. Jesus was there and said, *"Give me a drink."* Jesus recognized in her a person of worth as a child of God, affirming in her *"God is well-pleased."* Jesus KNEW who she was and she saw in Jesus WHO HE WAS. AND she went back into her city and was one of the first witnesses—an evangelist—for the "Jesus Movement." John writes of her transformation that she was changed and many from her city were changed *"because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.'" (vs. 39)."*

At our baptisms, *WATER* is the symbol of God's love that embraces, accepts, changes, and remind us that in us *"God is well pleased."* Draw from God's everlasting well of love. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*