



## Monday Musings from Pastor Brooke, July 13, 2020

Good Monday, Beloved!

I am back from vacation — or should I say “staycation”? It didn’t go exactly the way I would like, but then most things in life don’t. When we settle into the reality of what is and quit trying to manipulate things into the way we think they should be, life becomes far less complicated. Lest you think I always do the latter — think again.

Like some of you, I can spend an inordinate amount of time “wishing” away my days. I “wish” I had more hours in the day to get things done; never mind the amount of time I spend surfing on the internet. I “wish” I could have gone on that week-long vacation to the Cape; never mind that Lake Erie is beautiful and I discovered a new state park on my vacation. I “wish” I didn’t have to spend so much energy thinking about whether spending time with this person is safe based upon who they have been in contact with; never mind that I have plenty of people with whom I can associate safely.

All of that “wishing” takes energy away from what is. The psalmist reminds us:

*You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)*

In God’s presence there is fullness of joy. I do not need to manipulate it; merely by being in the presence of God, there is joy. And since I keep reminding you (and myself) that God is present no matter where we are, then there is joy wherever we are. We might need to look hard for it sometimes, but it is there. There is enough time to get done what I need to in a day. I had a beautiful day at Mosquito Lake State Park, just north of Warren. I have a beautiful, big front porch where I have already spent lovely time with friends, and there are still many evenings and many friends with whom I would feel comfortable entertaining.

It is all about perspective. Will I allow myself to experience the fullness of joy in God’s presence, or will I continue to try to manipulate things into the way I think they should be? I will keep you posted — and you keep me posted, too.

Blessings,

*Pastor Brooke*