



**Pastoral Update—October 23, 2020**

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,  
for he who has promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23*



We began this pandemic journey in March holding on to hope. Keep hanging on! We thought we'd only be apart a few weeks. We have come through 7 months of separation together holding fast to hope and clinging to faith. At times it has felt like an impossible journey, but here we are doing new things, communicating in new ways, and finding hope in many places.

One place I find hope is monarch butterflies! The fall season means migration for the monarchs. These amazing little creatures accomplish impossible feats with grace. They also represent our Easter hope and new life with their transformation from grounded caterpillar, to bound up chrysalis, to sky bound butterfly! Some monarchs migrate up to 3000 miles flapping their delicate wings until they reach a few mountains in central Mexico and back again in spring. They are the epitome of hope.



Another essence of hope are my grandsons, Remington and Xander. Their eternal giggles, questions, and belly laughs fill me with hope for tomorrow. This is Remington posing as a monarch butterfly. What could be more hopeful? I can't help but smile with his obvious delight. Rem started school this fall and struggles being home instead of in the classroom. It's really hard for a 5 year old! Yet he always finds a chance to be silly, play, and share a laugh.

I hope that we each continue to look for hope. To find hope. To hang onto hope in these difficult days. It's hopeful that our COVID numbers are low enough to gather for in-person worship. I am looking forward to seeing some of your faces in person again even if from a distance.

Surely this too shall pass like a storm and hope is our anchor. We are on a very long journey like the monarchs, full of challenge, yet we will continue to flap our wings, look for hope, and reach out in love. Our hope is in Christ, and he is faithful. He accompanies us throughout the journey. If you will continue to worship at home, Christ is with you. If you come to worship in person, Christ is with you. When you go out and when you stay in, Christ is with you.

In hope,

*Pastor Andrea*