

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
July 24, 2019

SCATTERED STORMS

Yesterday Kay and I spent the bulk of the day at the church. We had Bible study, choir rehearsal, and then prep work for this Sunday's worship along with the following two Sundays as we will be "On The Road to Michigan (didn't Bob Hope and Jerry Lewis star in that one?). During our time here we witnessed no less than 4 different thunderstorms pass overhead, each one a little more intense than the one before. I wish that I had a rain gauge here at the church, but then again, I'd have to be here every day to read it and dump out what has fallen into it (that includes water, bugs and other organic debris) if I did. With the help of a rain gauge located to our west in Englewood...the direction from which these storms were coming...I can estimate 2 ½ to 3 inches of rain fell. That sure filled up the swales around the property. While all of this was going on my home (where I do have a rain gauge) was almost completely missed. I measured all of .04 inches. The point that I'm taking so long to get to here is that while storms are affecting some, others are experiencing calm conditions. Such is the way of our lives in general. All of us can expect storms to come, and they will vary in their intensity and impact, but for each of us they will be different; occurring at different times. In the final chapter of the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Churches in Galatia God exhorts us to "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*" (Galatians 6:2) What is this "Law of Christ" you ask? That is made clear in John 13:34; "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*" Now keep in mind that the love that Christ has shown us is sacrificial, so He calls us not just to help others as far as it is convenient for us...as long as it doesn't cost us too much in terms of time, effort and resources...but rather sacrificially. Jesus sacrificed everything He had, even His very life, for our help and out of love for us. Being a disciple of Christ means learning from Him and using Him as a model for our behavior; our actions. When we see our brothers and sisters in the midst of one of these severe storms of life those of us who are experiencing a period of relative calm are called, not out of compulsion but out of love, to come to their aid and help them to "bear the burden". On the flip side, when the storms hit us, we should lovingly allow others to do the same for us. For someone to be a servant there must be someone who will be served. Caring for one another and sharing in carrying the loads that life dumps on us shows that we are growing in the grace of God and becoming more like Jesus every day. A look at the prayer list below offers us an indication of where the storms are today, and where our love and support are most needed right now.