

PASTOR'S PAGE

With the New Year just beginning, we face it with a multitude of uncertainty. The stock market is tumbling down and then sky-rocketing up randomly. The trade wars are just beginning to show their effects on the wallet of everyday people. The “Brexit” strategies of Great Britain to leave the European Union have economists worldwide very nervous. Russia has developed (so they say) a missile impervious to any defense system. While American consumers spent a lot this Christmas season, consumer confidence in the economy is down. Immigration to “safe” countries is increasing as authoritarian regimes, corrupted governments, and drug crime seem to be on the rise in certain other countries. We start the New Year here in America with a government shutdown because of budget impasses.

The listing of uncertainties can go on and on. The fact is, uncertainty is always and will always be a part of life’s experience. For humans, though, uncertainty is anxiety producing. We try and we try mightily, to make our lives controllable and certain. We save for the rainy day. We exercise and eat properly to ward off illness and disease. We develop routines to tease ourselves into thinking that we know how a day will go. None of these things are bad and in fact, they can be very beneficial for living life in healthy responsible ways. But still, we all know that life can change on a dime. The old saying, “*you never know what a day will bring*”, is always true and fosters a certain respect within us for the randomness life’s hit or miss travails. Though we begin 2019 with many concrete uncertainties that may have us more anxious than usual ... really, the uncertainty factor in life is fairly constant. We can be no more certain about most things going into 2019 than we were in previous years where we may have felt a little more secure. The point for us as people of faith is that our constancy of mind and spirit rests solely in God and in our relationship of love and caring one for another. I will grant you, there still can be anxious times in our lives. But amid the anxiety and uncertainty, our faith in the constancy of God’s presence and how that presence is made real in our love and caring for one another ... this is the best medicine to assuage the unpleasant and debilitating effects of anxiety that uncertainty can bring.

My prescription for 2019 ... be kind to one another,
love and serve each other,
listen to each other,
forgive each other
try to see the “other” in our lives and in the world as one of us.
be prayerful always for the world

There is probably more that can be added to this prescription, but working on those fronts in how we live our lives will make the world a less anxious place amid the uncertainties we all must endure.

Blessings to you all in 2019.

Pastor Rick