

Devotion, Week 3 of Lent, 2023

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Thank you for your wonderful stories about your grandmothers for Gifts of Women Sunday. Thanks especially to Chris McCall, Dot Pearce's daughter, for having Dot's grandchildren send in tributes to her. I can remember when our youngest daughter was born, Jim's mother announced that she wanted to be called "Grandmother." That lasted for one attempt at correction as Catherine started talking. She became Granma and that was that. I love the names our children come up with for their grandmothers. They're true "love" names. Constant themes were food, flowers, and sewing.

Speaking of food, I hope you were able to eat some pie on Tuesday, March 14, "pi" day. And please remember to wear your green on Friday so you don't get pinched!

The Simpsons have spent the last several weeks with plumbers and electricians all over our house. Leaking commodes, leaking faucet, broken outside water pipe to the garden, upgrade to code for things like ground rods, GFIs, and smoke detectors, new outside motion detector lights, and the latest yesterday – a Ring outside motion detector light with camera, microphone, and siren. Holy moly – I thought I'd never figure out how to install the app on my phone, much less use the crazy thing. Thank goodness for tech savvy electricians. Freddy just kindly took my phone from me and did it. It's so cool, we're getting more! It gives me the weather, it gives me nearby neighbor alerts, like a group of men who went through neighborhoods about 5 miles away last night trying to get into cars and take the contents, and I feel safer. But a note of caution to you all – there is an epidemic of these drive arounds by two cars in neighborhoods in the middle of the night where one guy jumps out and tries car doors, takes whatever he finds if the car is unlocked, while the other car serves as look out. LOCK your car doors and your house! Sad that we live in times like this, but we need to be and feel safe.

I'm enjoying God's gracious gift of spring to us with all these wonderful flowers, shrubs, and trees beginning to bloom, but I wonder what God is trying to tell us when all the pollen aggravates our allergies! Our cardinals are back, and once again, the male is taking seeds from our bird feeder and feeding the female. A touching display. Unfortunately, our rufous sided towhee is also back, and he has forgotten that when he flies at the window or our car mirrors, there's no real bird on the other side. So we're constantly interrupted with his tapping and flapping, and all the mess he leaves behind. Some birds seem so smart, and some seem to be a little shy of a full deck, as they say. God loves them all, so I try to do the same, even as I put grocery bags over the car mirrors so I can see out of them the next time I need to drive! I hope you too are enjoying all the new things around you this spring.

Jeanne