

Devotion, Sixth Week of Eastertide, 2023
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

We had a very scary incident in the parking lot on Sunday, with someone's purse being snatched. This has been traumatic for her, the other two folks who were there, and for our entire church. Please know that we are taking steps to harden the security at the church, but please also be mindful when you are in our parking lot. If you see something strange, make yourself secure – get back in the car and leave, or go back in the church. Unfortunately, nowhere seems to be entirely safe these days, and the sanctity of a church appears to be meaningless. We love to socialize after church, but now we probably need to do that inside, where the ushers are monitoring all activity. And a reminder, once the service starts, the ushers lock all doors and monitor entry ways and the parking lot. If you have other suggestions, let me know. The session will be addressing this issue in the next few days.

As I reflect on the recent Midtown shootings, our incident, and the events in Texas, I pray urgently for our communities to come together and look for solutions to these angry outbursts where guns are too easily available and used against us. Please pray for our church and our community, and speak up so that our leaders will understand the harm that this type of violence brings to us. We must all be as vigilant as we can to stay safe and to continually be aware of our surroundings.

On a happier note, this coming Sunday is Mother's Day. Please come and worship as we honor them and share memories. We will have a covered dish luncheon on May 28 to celebrate this day, Pentecost, and Father's Day.

I pray for your safety and sense of security wherever you go.

Jeanne