

Devotion, Week of June 1, 2025

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

You have to find the humor. You just have to, or you'll go crazy. After spending 11 hours in the ER Saturday because Jim had gotten "combative" and "injured" a staff member at his new memory care facility, he was finally returned to his new residence at 2 am Sunday morning. I later asked him to explain to me what he did exactly to this staff member. He claimed he pinched her, because "all good-looking women deserve a good pinch." He had quite a twinkle in his eye. Now I don't think he really pinched her – I think he either kicked her or whacked her with his arm – but in his mind, it was a sexy pinch. Lord, help me in these troubled days, as we navigate a new reality of behavior here.

I met his next door neighbors – two ladies in wheel chairs who were fighting for space in the hallway to figure out who went through their suite door first. I introduced myself and asked one lady's name, and asked about the other lady who had gotten through first and entered her bedroom. She said there wasn't another lady with her, and she had no suite mate. Then, suddenly, the suite mate reappeared. So I introduced myself and asked her name, and mentioned that she and the other lady must be suite mates. "Nope – I have no idea who that woman is," the lady responded. So these two women share a suite, but they don't know or acknowledge that they do! As I walked down the hall from this encounter, I found another woman attempting to open the supply closet door, insisting it was her room.

I had earlier given the Sunday paper to one of the aides, thinking someone might be interested, and I discovered that the sections had been distributed around the common room. Some were actually reading, one woman had the comics section upside down, and another woman had stuffed four sections up under her shirt. Jim suddenly seemed so remarkably sane, after these encounters!

So I have to smile at how these folks deal with altered brains, remembering that as cherished children of God, they help us all love our brothers and sisters in Christ, in all the ways they reflect God's image.

Jeanne