

Devotion, Week of March 22, 2026—Lent 5
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. – *1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

These verses remind me of last Sunday, when Xavier was running late and I had to sit down and play the piano. I took piano for 10 years (and organ for 3), so I should be able to play fairly competently. But it has been many years since I sat down at the piano. But as the morning wore on and I got a little better with each hymn, I remembered that God had given me this gift, and by golly, I should use it.

It is up to us to accept the gifts we are offered, and to work toward perfecting them, whether that is playing the piano, singing, teaching, preaching, sewing, cooking, landscaping, or just being a treasured friend who listens to those in pain. God expects us to use our gifts, not let them sit in the closet in storage. I look out at our congregation and see so many gifts that you all have, and I am so grateful that you contribute your time and talents to our church.

I don't know about you, but I'm going to start practicing my gift more. Each week, I'm going to play the piano and reacquaint myself with the joy that used to bring me. I hope this spring and Lenten season you are re-energized to use your gifts as well. And as William Dawson wrote in the gospel anthem we sang Sunday, "Ain'a That Good News!"

Jeanne