

Devotion, Week of September 20, 2026

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Well, I am at the lake house this week as a substitute vacation for my Danube river trip, which was cancelled due to water levels being too low. The peace and quiet is restful, but I'm still sad that I can't go on that trip. It's been rescheduled for next spring, so I'm hopeful the Danube will recover!

We had an East-West Regional Connection fellowship this past Saturday at First Pres, Peachtree City, and about 20 of us had fun checking in with the churches around us. We talked about sharing missions, ideas, and fellowship, and we enjoyed our time together. Many of us are about the size of Philadelphia, so we talk about trying to do much with little.

One minister was just back from his 3 month sabbatical, and we talked about rest and renewal. We don't get a Sabbath rest, since we're leading worship, so we have to look for that needed rest in other ways. The hard part for ministers is being mindful about Sabbath rest. We tend to get all involved in planning for the next Sunday, checking on folks in the congregation, and not carving out time to do absolutely nothing. I hope to read more of Mary Oliver's poems this week in my hammock, after I get the sermon done.

I hope you will take some time from the business of autumn to have rest. Don't feel guilty about it – that's what God knows we all need to stay healthy and refreshed. I may even take a nap!

Jeanne