Algood UMC Reflections

**November, 2026**

**"Pastor's Ponderings"**

Happy November Everyone,

There's an old saying that many of us are familiar with; a saying many of us have voiced during times of hardship; a saying that states: "*In each life, some rain must fall."* This saying, when equated with life's hardships, denotes that rain is bad. But I have to ask: Have you ever pondered the benefits and goodness of rain? Although rain may sometimes seem like a disruption it does, however, have profound spiritual significance.

Rain has a purpose. It cleanses, refreshes, and nurtures life. Without rain, the earth would become barren, incapable of producing growth, and sustaining life. Similarly, in our lives, we experience seasons of difficulty, challenges, and trials-our own personal rainstorms. These moments may feel inconvenient, even painful, but they serve a higher purpose.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." This includes seasons of rain in our lives. These are moments where God waters the soil of our hearts to bring forth new growth and prepare us for His blessings. What we often perceive as an interruption might actually be God's provision. Think about this: God says in Isaiah 55:10-11: "*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty."*

Just as rain serves to bring life to the earth, God's Word and His work in our lives, through trials, yield a harvest of righteousness and faith. When the rains of life fall, they are not meant to destroy us but to refine us, to prepare us, to grow us, and to draw us closer to God's purpose. Do not be discouraged by the rain!

The good news, dear friends, is that rain does not last forever. After the storm, the sun shines again, and the rainbow of God's promise appears. Even in the darkest storm, God's faithfulness is our anchor. He promises that we will not be consumed by the rains of life. Instead, He walks with us through them, holding us up, leading us into brighter days, calming the storm. Take heart, for the rain is not your enemy-it is your teacher, your purifier, and your blessing. Trust in the One who sends the rain, knowing that He will surely provide the growth, the renewal, and the harvest that follows.

Allow me to encourage you with this: God is with you in the rain, and He is working all things together for your good. Let the rain refresh your soul, knowing that His blesssings will follow.

Grace and Peace!
Pastor Tommy

## Member's Spotlight

This month we are shining our spotlight on Margie Waggoner. Attached is a little bit about her, her life and spiritual growth.

My name is Margaret Waggoner. I prefer to be called Margie. I've attended Algood United Methodist Church for 3 years now. I grew up in Nashville, Tn. and I have an older sister, brother, and younger sister. We grew up in a middle class neighborhood, where all the neighbors knew each other. Dad worked and mom stayed home. It was really an ideal childhood. I worked in IT for 40 years, starting as a Jr. Programmer and retiring in 2022 as the manager of three major systems. I love to travel by RV, reading, being outdoors and family visits.

I think one thing that may surprise people the most about me is the fact that I am a PADI certified Rescue Driver. I can no longer drive after a blood clot but I drove for about 6 years in the 1990s. One of my favorite meals is a grilled hamburger at home. I'm not sure I have one specific spot as a favorite, however, I am lucky to be able to travel. There are 64 National Parks and Rolen and I plan to visit all of them. We are currently at 39 and waiting!

One of my favorite memories would be, since I was about 8 years old, I have loved big cats, especially lions. In 2019 Rolen and I were able to visit Kenya, Africa for a photo Safari. I think I cried nearly every day at the beauty of the land, the animals, the people, and the feeling of God's Glory all around me.

I grew up attending a Methodist Church. I was compelled to go to the alter when I was 12 and was baptized then.

Rolen and I moved to Algood in 2023 from Smyrna. After visiting about 6 churches, we knew, Algood UMC was the one for us. So welcoming and spirit-filled!

What I love most about our church family is everyone cares and most are involved in some way. And there are many lifelong members and friendships.

I would say my favorite Bible Scripture is -1 Peter 4:8, Love is the answer! We all want to be loved, and we should love everyone. I like the simplicity of it.

I have been blessed to have several pastors in my teenage years and in college there was Dr. Brady Whitehead. He was such a compassionate Christian and teacher. I grew a lot during those years.

In 2009, my estranged husband took his own life. It was a dark and confusing time. I prayed for strength and answers. One night about a year later, I sat on my deck and talked out loud to my husband and to God for a long time. The next day, everything felt lighter. I know God sat with me that night, He comforted me and gave me hope.

We live in such an awesome and amazing world. I hope to see as much of our country and world as I can. God is everywhere if we look for him.

If I had one piece of wisdom or advice to share with others I would say start every day thanking God for what you have.

The one thing that always makes me smile and laugh is my husband, he is my best friend and I am so lucky to be married to him!

If I could spend some time with anyone alive or deceased it would be my dad. I lost him ten years ago and I miss him every day. I'd just like a hug.

I am thankful to God for the life I have, good or bad, I have an amazing life and it is all due to Him!

The one thing I would like for my fellow church family to know is, I love this church! I'm flawed, but I love you all very much.