



Trail Guide – September 7, 2020:

All Things New

I can still see it in my mind and feel it in my soul: the sense of awe and wonder I experienced when entering the Sistine Chapel in 2006. I saw for the first time the ancient, yet timeless, panorama of redemptive biblical history pictured on the ceiling of this sacred space through the vision and talent of Michelangelo, an artist long-dead. It was brand new to me. Awe, wonder, appreciation.

I remember vividly a years-earlier retelling of redemptive biblical history, this time through the vision and words of my swimming coach, who shared with me and members of our high school team his experience of believing in Christ for the first time. I had never heard anyone talk about faith, Jesus, forgiveness this way. Faith came to life in the telling of his story. He wasn't trying to convince or persuade; he was simply telling. It was refreshing and I wanted to know more. By the way – we listened voluntarily and with interest because the longer Coach spoke, the less we had to swim... It wasn't long after this experience that the story of Jesus came to life in me as I consciously responded to a gracious invitation to open my heart to grace. Once again, what was ancient became new as I was made new. This is the reality of the gospel – good news that makes people new, who then go out to change the world.

Mon, 09/07 – [John 1:12](#) – How would you describe your experience of first being aware that you were a child of God? There are many ways in which this happens – sometimes we feel that if we don't experience this in dramatic fashion, that "it" hasn't happened. Or, if we cannot remember "when" that it isn't real. Not true. Just like falling in love, it happens differently in each of us. This too, is grace.

Tues, 09/08 – [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) – To be a "new person" implies something is different, that something has changed. What do you think changes? What is the "old" that is no longer?

Wed, 09/09 – [Isaiah 43:19](#) – Sometimes change happens so gradually that it is hard to see. Or, we are so accustomed to seeing/thinking/believing a certain way that we are closed to change. Where and how might God be inviting you to see something new; to see differently?

Thur, 09/10 – [Revelation 2:17](#) – Do names have meaning in your family? What about your name? Were you named after someone in your family? Why did your parents choose your name?

Fri, 09/11 – [Hebrews 10:20](#) – If you have time, do some research on the "Most Holy Place" to which this passage refers. Who could enter this place? How? What was required?

Sat, 09/12 – [Colossians 3:1, 10-11](#) – God's work of redemption, forgiveness, reconciliation calls for a response from us... How is God calling you to respond?

Each day this week, take note of something "new": a new experience; a new way of doing something you are used to doing; a new insight; a new or renewed relationship... what is something new that you need, or hope for from God? Write it down. At the end of the month, we can look back and see ways in which God has been at work. jim@leesburgumc.org. Looking forward to next Sunday!