

## GIFTS OF TIME

Scripture: Malachi 3:16-4:6

December 16, 2020

Message: **“But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.”**

### Malachi 4:2

I have basically always tried to be a good person. Lending a helping hand, serving where I can, remembering the sick and shut ins and visiting seniors. Several years ago, a friend and I adopted a group of senior citizens that were either alone or did not get out much. We would visit with them on special holidays, take them gifts to enjoy and send them cards throughout the entire year. Each senior would get so excited to hear that we were coming to visit. You could tell that they were because the tone of their voices would change when we would call to let them know what day we would be dropping by. When we arrived at their houses, they would answer the door with the biggest, brightest smiles on their faces. Some would have refreshments for us and others would just enjoy the company. We could tell that the gifts were appreciated but more than that, they appreciated the fact that someone was taking time out of their day to spend some time with them.

What was not realized was that the biggest gift was actually their love and affection for us. Something that started so small and minute grew into something that would last until our next visit. It was not the gifts that they looked forward to, but the time that we spent talking and visiting with them. It will never be known if we helped to extend a life, or even restored life in someone that had given up hope and were just going through the motions of existing, but I would like to think so. Knowing that I was a part of that leaves me with a feeling of being full and satisfied. Paraphrasing John 21:16 **“Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”** It also gives me the belief that because of our acts of kindness the Lord will remember this on Judgement Day and I will be one of the calves leaping with joy.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to continue trying to be a good person and to remember that I must try to help others, to continue to visit family, friends and lonely people. Amen.

---

Name: Susan Dodson  
Church: John Stewart United Methodist Church  
District: Southern  
Church Location: Bluefield  
Email: [susandodson4@gmail.com](mailto:susandodson4@gmail.com)  
Position: Trustee Chairperson