

Shinning as Stars

Scripture: Philippians 2:12-18 (NIV)

Date: March 26, 2021

Message:

*Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure,
“children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”
Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky*

Philippians 2:14-15

Do you remember the Star Chart from Elementary School? Many classrooms had the brightly colored chart with all of the students' names along the left side and a variety of best behaviors and tasks across the top. A star was placed by your name when the task/behavior was successfully completed. The goal was to get a star in all of the spaces after your name. It was a special day when you finally filled all of the spaces with the shiny stars.

I smile as I imagine God our Father with his children's behavior chart, adding stars as we go through the day without complaining, or arguing with one another, or doing a kind act toward someone we normally would not notice. And how many stars did I get today? OR did I get ANY stars?

We are living in very difficult and dark days. I admit there are days when it is hard to not complain. I also have realized the pandemic isolation has finally impacted me so that I tend to be quicker to be argumentative. I am even more aware there are days when I have allowed fear to creep into the corners of my soul. It is at that time that I stop and once again reset my faith compass. This directs me back to God our Father for guidance and direction and assurance that regardless of my behavior, He loves me and forgives me. He knows I try. He knows I will try a little bit harder tomorrow, not necessarily to receive another star but because I want to please him because He loves me.

And maybe tomorrow I will at least get a glimmer of stardust so that eventually I can become a star that will light the path to our God for those who have not yet met Him.

Prayer: *Dear God, I give you the thanks, praise, and glory for the light You shine on the cloudy days and the dark nights within my heart. Help me see the opportunity and share your light with those who do not know you. Amen.*

Deborah Shaffer
First (Parkersburg) United Methodist Church
Little Kanawha District
dshaffer@suddenlink.net
Certified Lay Servant, District Lay Servant Ministries Director