

## Pastor Tim's January Message



Recently, I heard this song called “Seasons of Love” which begins: “525,600 minutes in a year, 525,600 moments so dear, 525,600 minutes—how do you measure, measure a year?” As we begin another year, those words got me thinking about how we spend the minutes we are given each year to do whatever it is that we do. Most of us treat those “moments so dear” like we have an unlimited number of them. There is always tomorrow to do what we didn’t accomplish today, right? No...wrong! We don’t get to carry over to the next day or the next year the minutes we did not use.

It seems that a fair number of those 525,600 minutes are spent doing necessary things like eating, bathing and sleeping. Then there is working, caring for our families—all those day-in, day-out responsibilities that we all seem to have. So, the real question for us to consider is: how do we spend those minutes that are left?

Have you ever said, “If only I had taken the time to...,” or “If only I’d spent more time with...?” You can fill in your own blanks...we all have them. How do YOU measure a year of minutes? Will your future moments be filled with regret and if only? My hope for all of us in this new year before us is that we will take the time to thank God for each minute we have and use each moment to its fullest.

We all know that life is fragile and the number of minutes is not guaranteed. So let’s all make the most of it. Let’s not spend any of our precious moments wishing we had told someone how much we love or appreciate them. Do it...right now!

So as you think about the minutes ahead of you in this new year, I want to encourage you to use this gift of time to find more meaning in life as we let Jesus’ words to, “Love God with all our heart and soul and mind and love our neighbor as we love ourselves” be our guide. So, perhaps some of our minutes could be spent in mission to those in need around us. There are so many opportunities through the church for being a part of our ministries like Family Promise, volunteering at our daycare center, Sonlight, helping with one of our Outreach ministries, or you might even want to listen for ways that God is calling you to begin a new ministry to meet a need in our area. Some of our minutes could be spent deepening our prayer and devotional life by reading the Upper Room each day or coming to one of the prayer breakfasts, Lunch Bunch or the other small groups. Maybe this is even the year when you would like to begin a small group. I hope you are beginning to see there are so many ways to use our minutes to make God’s love real.

We have all been given this great gift of time, so let’s think about how we can create a legacy of love through all the precious minutes we have been given. May God bless our new year ahead of us and all our 525,600 minutes.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Tim