

Pastor Rich Savage United Methodist Church, Grant

Yesterday I was working at my kitchen table when I noticed my neighbor was out mowing his yard again. He was working steadily at it. He keeps his lawn in beautiful shape. He works at it, doing all those things that make it grow, stay nice and green, and free of weeds.

I couldn't help but think that we need to be more like that in our spiritual lives. I don't know about you, but my spiritual life isn't always as tidy and nice as it should be. All too often, the weeds creep in.

Life gets busy, and then I don't read the Bible or spend much time with God. Pretty soon, it can become a pattern, and I find that I have lost some of the closeness to God that I want and need.

Guess what? It wasn't God who moved! It was me. God is always offering us the relationship that He wants with us. It is ours to accept or reject, and letting it slide is rejecting it.

So when I come to my senses again, I have to step back and refocus. I have to re-prioritize my time and commitment. Then I find myself feeling better as my time with God becomes more what it should be.

God has provided many ways for that to happen (many ways for us to take care of our yard, so to speak).

These ways are called the Means of Grace. They include reading the Bible, prayer, fasting, regular worship, taking communion regularly, fellowship with other believers (serious Christian conversation and study in small groups), and many others.

When we are using these Means of Grace, then our life shows it in how we relate to others.

Jesus tells this in the parable of the judgment when both the unjust and just were told, "Truly I

tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Our faith shows!! Who is watching you? What kind of influence are you having? It is only as we are in a serious relationship with Jesus Christ that we can be the person and example we want to be, that God wants us to be.

We are all at different places on our journey to God. The important thing is to keep on the journey with other Christians.

May God bless you on your journey today.

Your fellow traveler on the WAY.