

A Lesson in Patience
Wednesday, March 25, 2009

It is cloudy and cold, again. It is nothing unusual for this time of year, to be sure. But I was just getting used to riding on my motorcycle last week, with that stretch of five days in a row that it was nice enough to ride.

Since then, well, you know, it has been cold, wet and rainy. It is nice to see the green grass beginning to peak through. I know that the rain is washing away the sand and the salt left over from winter. I know that these cool spring days will eventually lead to warm spring days. I know it is coming.

But the taste of the ride that I experienced last week is in my blood. The motorcycle is parked at the front of the garage, gently calling my name as I walk by it. I am working at learning patience. However, it just isn't easy.

Have you ever struggled to have patience? What did you do? How did you do it?

Heinz Ketchup reminded us, several years ago in a commercial that good things come to those who wait. Their commercial was a reminder that patience can be rewarded.

However, patience is not something many of us are good at. When we want something, we typically want it right now. We tend to not be good at waiting.

But waiting can have its advantages too. Waiting (and not forcing a solution) can allow new ideas to be born. Waiting (and not forcing a solution) can allow us to catch our breath. Waiting (and not forcing a solution) can help us appreciate when we can finally enjoy what we had been longing for.

In Romans chapter 8, Paul says at one point, "Everything works together for good for those who love the Lord." While patience is not necessarily easy, it often provides the space that allows God to work on my soul.

If you find that you are having a hard time waiting for something, ask yourself, what is God trying to teach me today? How can I learn from this time of forced patience? What do my desires say about me? What do they say about my willingness to be faithful?

May we be open to the lessons life offers us as we seek to grow in faith.

In the hope Jesus offers us,
Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.

