

Pastor's Greeting July 2026

God's Love of Life and Care for all of Creation

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. . . .The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night."

Psalm 121 verses 1-2 and 6

Biblical interpreters suggest that the 121st Psalm was often recited by pilgrims traveling to the Promised Land--particularly as faithful Jewish people returning to Jerusalem for festival. Traveling by foot across desert lands or through canyons possibly inhabited by robbers and vandals could strike fear into any normal person. So this Psalm served as comfort to the faithful in that way.

I have read this Psalm often and used it with friends and fellow church members who face genuine uncertainty. Recently I watched a science documentary about the place and function of the moon in modern mythology and recent scientific discoveries. The documentary began with discussion of ideas that if a person became "moonstruck," affected by patterns of the moon's monthly phases, that the moon could be a bad thing. But it continued to explain the relation of the moon, the sun and the earth, how they all function in unity to make life on earth possible.

So I reached for two books recently purchased regarding scientific studies of the Universe. Apparently the sun provides light and power to promote life, but also sends forth powerful solar winds that could destroy us. So the articles went on to explain that the particular placement of the moon, affecting our place in the universe and shading us from the most powerful radiation of the sun allows a perfect balance that allows us to live.

The Creation story in the first chapter of Genesis witnesses to our experience. We live in a time when "The Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters" and took what was chaos and gave us a beautiful place to live in. The rest of Holy Scripture is the testimony of God calling for the nations of the world to live in peace and harmony in this world. The book of Revelation ends with promises of an eternity of full life uninterrupted by sin, hatred or chaos.

Psalm 121 invites us to live by faith that God intends our daily journey to be filled confidence that God gives us strength day by day--like the strength we acquire as we look to beautiful mountains that surround us. Jesus, "God's most perfectly pronounced 'Word of God' urged all people to love ourselves and our neighbors. Either we embrace our neighbors with love or there is chaos.

Yes, Peace and Joy

Charles R. Bade