

**July 2016**

**From the Desk of Rev. Chuck**

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Dear Friends,

During the month of July we celebrate our independence and freedom. Families take vacations and undertake all sorts of activities that bring love, joy and happiness into their lives during this month.

Spending time with my grandson this past month reminder me of all the children everywhere and how each of us is a child to someone. To God, we are all His children, the world over.

How does God share Himself with us? He does it through us to our children. With that in mind I'd like to share the following insights on the spiritual gifts we can share with, not only our children, but all God's children. It was written by Anne Lee Kreml in her book, Guidelines for Parents (Unity Books, 1967).

*We have love to share with our children. Love that guides them in paths of the good and true; Love that openly forgives their mistakes and helps them along the path of developing as children of God; Love that frees them to develop the highest potential God has given them.*

*We have joy to share with our children. Joy that discovers the hidden happiness in daily life; Joy that helps to surmount difficulties and live life triumphantly; Joy that finds delight and wonder in the commonplace.*

*We have life to share with our children. Life that creates health in body and mind; Life that finds meaning and purpose in the adventure we all share with God; Life that is a co-creator with God to bring forth all-good, beauty, and harmony.*

*We have strength to share with our children. Strength that guides rather than governs; Strength that is of firm fiber to meet the challenges of life unafraid; Strength that develops its greatest power when linked with love.*

*We have peace to share with our children. Peace that has the patience to nurture the beauty of their souls; Peace that creates harmony in their day-to-day life; Peace that maintains serenity in the midst of a changing, growing life.*

*We have the Christ self to share with children. A Christ self that listens as the child's soul grows and shares; A Christ self that looks with compassion on their attempts to grow and learn; A Christ self that sees the Child of God within the child we love.*

*We have honesty to share with our children. Honesty that permits questions and doubts, knowing Truth can withstand all investigation; Honesty that can admit human wrongs and errors and live to overcome them; Honesty that teaches that the path to full Christhood demands our best in all areas of life.*

*We have faith to share with our children. Faith that God is good and His will is always triumphant; Faith that the Spirit of God stands ready to help and guide them; Faith that knows they can accomplish all their good potentials within the freedom of a life lived with God.*

*We have the living, loving Presence of God to share with our children. The Presence of God that constantly guides them in paths of good; The Presence of God that loves them and frees them to be their best; The Presence of God that is their source of inspiration and encouragement.*

Then the little children were brought to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them; and the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:13-14)

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3-4)

May the child in you be blessed with a safe and joyous summer of love, peace, order, and harmony.