

Thoughts from Pastor Paul – June 2019

After my article last month, several have asked how many pairs of jeans I've been willing to get rid of. I must admit, it is a slow process. There are a couple pair that need just one more rip to push them over the edge and into the trash. I'll keep you posted.

I'd like to stay in the jean theme this month and talk about why I like certain pairs of my jeans. Some look good and I can wear them in public. Some are simply comfortable and I'm okay if they don't look as good as others. A couple pairs of my jeans are my wife's doing. She thinks they look good and so I wear them for her, though they may not be as comfortable. I have a couple of pairs of jeans that are not even blue. These I wear if I need to dress it up a notch. We all have different styles of clothes for different occasions and how we may want to appear. Some are more comfortable than others, but all serve a purpose.

We also have preferences in the things we enjoy. Some of us prefer to sit quietly by ourselves, while others prefer to be social butterflies. Some of us enjoy working with our hands, and others enjoy sitting down with a good book. There are many of us who love to sing or listen to music, but others might prefer drawing or painting. And there are some who don't care much for any of the above but could spend hours with sudoku puzzles. All are appropriate and all have their place.

We can talk similarly in terms of worship. We all know there are different styles of worship. Here at St. John, we have a blended worship service and a traditional Divine service. Some churches have contemporary services that some of us would simply not be comfortable in. Just like my jeans, all serve a purpose, and all can be appreciated.

I want to ask you to be open to trying some new experiences in our worship services over the next seven weeks. We are going to embark on a sermon series I have titled "Worship Styles". The services will still be blended and traditional, but we are going to change, or at least take a closer look at the way we do a few things in each of our services. Some of these may not initially feel comfortable for everyone.

Just like I wear some of my jeans for my wife, I am asking that you try on these activities for a week at a time. I will not force you to do anything you do not want to do, but I am requesting that you have an open mind. I will also not insist that you enjoy each activity, but I am asking you for a willingness to try. When this sermon series is over, I would appreciate your honest feedback as to what you liked and what you did not care for as much.

God speaks to us in many ways and I believe that when we open ourselves up to ways he communicates, we might just hear him more clearly. I pray that the weeks ahead will be a blessing for all of us.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Paul