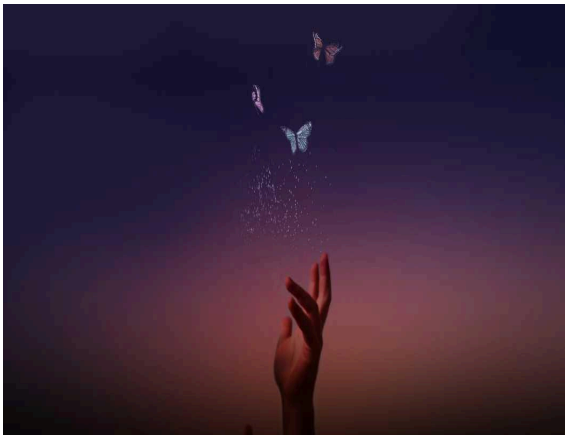
From the desk of Pastor Sunil

(Continued….)



So what does “Love your neighbor as yourself” mean in practical terms? I believe there are two parts to this and again, one is dependent on the other, with “loving yourself” necessarily preceding “loving your neighbor.” Loving yourself does not mean being narcissistic (being obsessed with oneself), nor does it mean pandering to your own desires/pleasures. What it does mean is knowing, accepting, forgiving and being kind to yourself – as God is/does to you. And this cannot happen unless we discover how beloved we are to God, until we have experienced the fullness of his underserved and unconditional love (=grace). Something happens when we love ourselves the way God loves us, we are not only able to love *him* more, loving our “neighbor” comes naturally; even when that neighbor may despise us (as the Samaritans were despised by the Jews. See how that’s an integral part of Jesus’ story in Luke 10:25-37).

So may you grow in loving yourself (God’s way) and simultaneously loving your “neighbors” (again, God’s way). We hope that you will find more ways of doing just that through DUMC as you get (re)engaged in our Kingdom building ministries this Fall after what was hopefully a wonderful summer.

As mentioned last month, I would love to hear your thoughts on this, the preaching, and anything else. I look forward to receiving your email, or call, and especially meeting with you.

Pastor Sunil