

# New Beginnings

By Red Miller

*Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness, And rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (No. 140 UMH)

As Easter brings new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus, spring brings new life in nature. The long gloomy days of winter gives way to renewing of life in the color and beauty of green grass, of trees, and flowers. A few days ago Anita and I took a ride through Willow Metro Park and the redbud trees was in full bloom and was a gorgeous sight to see, especially after such a long winter.

Back when my family was young we vacationed on Sutherland Lake near Harrison MI. Sometimes we would get a dreary day of dark clouds and rain, but the next day when the sun came out, in the middle of the afternoon, there would be a slight breeze that would make little ripples on the water. The sun would glisten on the ripples and make it look like a million diamonds bouncing on the water, such a beautiful sight. God does paint beautiful pictures as He brings new life.

Our Church is 182 years old. There have been gloomy days and bright days during those years, There have been many ups and downs, good times and bad times and there have been many changes. We have weathered them all. The only reason to look back is to profit from our past experience as we move forward. Some of life's changes we welcome, and others break our heart. In the midst of all of them, God sustains us, strengthens us, and brings us new hope with new opportunities.

In July we welcome Rev. Carter Corteltyou as our new Pastor. God has provided another time of renewal and new life as we look forward to the future. And Jesus provides us with our mission and promise of His manifestation as we move forward.

Jesus came and said to them, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Psalms 107:1*

**In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philip. 1:4**