



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*Rev. Patricia Cleary*

## Pastor's Page –August 2015

### God Is Crazy In Love With You

*"Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands!" – Isaiah 49:15-16a*

I read recently that tattoos are becoming so popular nowadays that even people in their 50s, 60s and 70s are getting them. Not me. I do not have a tattoo and I do not intend to get one. That's because I grew up with the idea that tattoos were not something 'nice people' have.

I may need to rethink that, however, in light of these verses from Isaiah. Verse 16 says that God has me tattooed on his hands. On his palms, in fact! That must have hurt. What was God thinking?!

This is an expression of God's strong feelings for his children. It lets us know that ours is a passionate God. God is like a young mother whose maternal instincts have kicked in big time. He loves you fiercely. God cares about you deeply 24/7/365. You can be sure he'll go to the mat for you because he already went to the cross for you. Accept it or not, God is crazy in love with you and with me. But that's not something I think about very often. Do you?

What do you do with the realization that you are inscribed on God's hands? What difference does it make in your life that God is your mother who would do anything -even die- for you? It's Monday as I am writing this. If I keep God's crazy love in the forefront of my mind this week, what impact might that have on me? Will I be more confident of my acceptance by God and therefore more willing to accept others? Will I feel more motivated to want to please God?

Speaking of passion, I have noticed that the servants of God whom I admire most have this same strong passion born of love. I am thinking of Randy Datsko and his passion for ministry to the incarcerated, of Tina Whitehead and her passion for the Palestinian people, of Bishop Bickerton and his passion to save the children of Africa from the scourge of malaria – to name a few passionate folk here in Western PA.

Do you have a strong passion born of love? Tell me about it. If you haven't found your passion yet, ask God to give you one. I'm sure he will because he's crazy in love with you. He even has you tattooed on his hands!

*To God be the glory!*

*Pastor Pat*



*IT WAS A YEAR AGO THAT I MOVED FROM JOHNSTOWN TO ELLWOOD CITY. BUT WHERE I CAME FROM ORIGINALLY WAS THE NORTH WOODS OF PENNSYLVANIA, NEAR KANE. I WAS PRACTICALLY GROWN WHEN I SHOWED UP ONE DAY AT THE OLMSTED MANOR ADULT RETREAT CENTER. I HUNG AROUND ALL SUMMER AND MADE FRIENDS WITH THE PEOPLE WHO VISITED THERE AND WITH THE STAFF. THEY FED ME BUT DIDN'T LET ME INSIDE. BY OCTOBER IT WAS GETTING CHILLY. A MAN WAS THERE TO LEAD A RETREAT. (BY THE WAY, THEY HAD NAMED ME "RETREAT.") THE PEOPLE WERE WORRIED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME WHEN IT GOT REALLY COLD. THE MAN SAID HIS WIFE WANTED A CAT AND THAT HE'D TAKE ME HOME WITH HIM. HE PUT ME IN HIS TRUCK AND TOOK ME TO HIS HOUSE IN TURTLE CREEK. THAT WAS IN 2005. THEY RENAMED ME "GEORGE" FOR GEORGE OLMSTED WHO GAVE HIS ESTATE TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. SINCE THEN I'VE LIVED IN WAYNE AND PAT'S PARSONAGE AND I'VE ALLOWED THEM TO BE MY PEOPLE. IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, I AM WHITE WITH GREY TIGER PATCHES.*

*- GEORGE, THE PARSONAGE CAT*

