

## WIDOWS ROW

Years ago, in church we had a row where a group of women sat together. They were all widows. We dubbed the row, "Widows Row." They were all older but clung together. I was shocked the first time someone referred to me as a widow. I had not thought of that designation for myself. Today, as I write this, is the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our marriage and I have been a widow for three months. I have not had a chance since last year to adjust to sitting in church alone but somehow it seems more foreign to me now. I was used to sitting by myself for many years while my husband sang in the choir. It was not unusual for me to attend dinners by myself as he worked in the kitchen. But then even though I was alone I knew he was nearby and that I was part of a two. Now my Son goes to church with me and that is a comfort and special to me. I have received phone calls and messages from so many in the church. Good friends who care. Their calls and notes are appreciated, and their words of comfort show caring and understanding hearts. Christ tells we are not alone, that he walks with us and will not desert us. Sometimes he uses friends who call and talk and understand. This is how we show we are the church. I look forward to the time when we can all be together again, gathered in the Sanctuary or in Fellowship Hall. Able again to hug and offer words of comfort to each other. Some who have passed away during this pandemic will be absent in body but will be with us in spirit. There will be an empty seat in the pew.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times.

Lord, thank you for the church, it binds us together. Thank you for the services we have where we can gather on the grass and in our cars. We are blessed by your love and the love of each other. Be with those who grieve, those who are ill, those who are hurting and alone, the hungry and the lost. Be with those in our Military as they serve our country. Be with our Pastor and his family. Bless his ministry, give him strength for each day as we continue to go through this time of Covid 19. Be with our leaders and our staff, encourage them, give them strength for the day and faith for tomorrow. Be with our country as we go through these difficult times. Lord may we seek to obey the commandment of Christ in Mark to love our neighbor as yourself. In Jesus name, Amen

Grace Epperson