

## LIFE'S BLESSINGS

We find such joy in the blessings of life. The birth of a child is among life's biggest blessings. A friend and I upon seeing a small child hugging its mother, were talking about the wonderful, trusting hugs we had received from our own children. The way those little arms fit around your neck and held on to you. Unfortunately, the time passes so swiftly and before you know it, those hugs are gone and are replaced with other hugs, just as welcomed, and comforting but not the baby hugs you treasured. But if we are lucky, we receive those hugs once again from Grandchildren and if we are super blessed, Great Grandchildren. We were having this discussion at Comerica Park while watching the Tigers win a ball game, sitting in the sunshine, eating a Hot Dog, with an iced cold lemonade, cheering for our Baseball Team, relaxing, and just enjoying being there in the company of each other, another one of life's blessings. I attended my first Tiger Baseball game 79 years ago, on my 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and Baseball has always held a special place in my heart. The Safety Patrol Boys were going, and my brother was going. It was at Briggs Stadium. My Mother was an escort and took me too since it was my Birthday. To go on my 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday was a thrill, but to go to celebrate my 86<sup>th</sup> birthday is a blessing. We could not go to baseball games last year, so we had not gone since September 2019. And I confess that during last Summer, with the isolation in a Pandemic, I feared that I might never know this joy again. The Pandemic has given us an appreciation for those things we took for granted before. The family gatherings, the weddings, the graduation ceremonies, the proms, the parties, the baseball games. Sitting at that Baseball game with a friend, feeling the warm sun on my face, the cooling breeze that gently blew, singing the National Anthem, the crowd, although a little sparse, just over 9,000, yelling and cheering, the sound of the bat hitting the ball, the moan as a fly ball is caught by the other team, the laughter and joy at just being there and sharing something we both love was a special blessing to treasure.

This was God's promise to us:

Ezekiel 34:26,31 I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down flowers in season; there will be showers of blessings. You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign Lord.

Lord, thank you for the blessing of this day. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve, may they be comforted by your love. Be with those who seek you, may they find their way. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, grant him safety and your protection. Be with his family, bless his Son-in-law and family as they begin a new chapter in a new church. Be with our church help us to be the hands and feet of Christ here in this place. Be with our Staff and Leaders, lead and guide them. We thank you Lord for the easing of the pandemic, may we remain vigilant. Lord may we be faithful servants and may we do your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Grace Epperson