



May 26, 2022

**A message from Pastor Jon:**

I along with so many of you continue to grieve the senseless mass murder of children in Texas on Tuesday afternoon. I think it important for you to be aware that as a pastor who is often looked to for appropriate words, today I don't have words, but I have feelings. My feelings are of grief and anger as yet again our country bears witness to mass murder by a person with a gun.

In two weeks, we have collectively witnessed the murder of 10 black women and men who were shopping for groceries and 19 children and 2 teachers who were enjoying their last week of the school year.

**Please know that I am praying alongside each of you.** At the same time, I am asking God to lead me into my response to do what I can do and to use my voice to prevent these mass murders from happening again.

**Peace be upon each of you as collectively we grieve again.**



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A Note from Beth Latella

**Dear Friends,**

I'm writing this late on Tuesday evening, after spending a few hours at the Hilliard Farm Market (<https://hilliardfarmmarket.com/>). I love the market, and it's been my privilege to be a volunteer here for the past (I think) seven years.

Today, the first market of 2022, was filled with greeting returning vendors and meeting new ones, rekindling friendships and anticipating developing new relationships.

I make a point of thanking the vendors for being here and for bringing their wonderful products. They always say they're grateful to be included.

Amanda Nofzinger, our Farm Market Manager (<https://hilliardumc.org/people/amanda-nofzinger/>), introduced me to some new market volunteers, a family who recently joined our church fellowship. I hope they have as much fun as I do as a team member.

Then, I spent an hour welcoming customers at the entrance tent — sometimes we strike up conversations and I forget to click the counter to keep track of our attendance.

It seems a lot of people know me by face if not by name. They ask about their favorite vendors and wonder what's new. Some remember that I was ill last summer and are glad I'm recovered.

Later, I get my turn to be a customer, buying salad veggies for this week's Wednesday Supper (our last one until Fall), and for myself, some jam, a home-baked cake, stuffed grape leaves, and a hand-embroidered purse. Where else could I encounter an Amish farmer and a Jordanian home cook?



**As I returned home I was thinking about how the market reminds me of the seasons of life — the growing and harvesting times, the seasons of creativity and productivity, the rituals of community and sharing.**

The Hilliard Farm Market is a ministry of Hilliard United Methodist Church, and I am always touched by the sense that I am ministering to the community and yet receiving such support and encouragement in return. I feel renewed, coming into a personal season of healing, recovery and growth, and at the market I experience all of this, in the warm sun and in the warm smiles of people all around.



This summer, I hope you'll find yourself at the market, on any Tuesday from now through mid-September. Come enjoy the sights, smells, sounds, and tastes. Come enjoy the people. Consider trying out a volunteer role, becoming part of a team serving our community (details and signup link here: <https://hilliardfarmmarket.com/volunteer-sign-up>).

**And never forget that, in this and all seasons, God loves you — no matter what.**

Beth



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