



## ***Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast September 6, 2020***

This Sunday's Chapel worship is the last of the season. Truly this has been a special summer for us, thanks to the hard work of the Chapel membership to keep us safely in community during the COVID-19 pandemic! Thank you!

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***Sunday Reflection References:*** Leviticus 25:1-7, 18-19, 23; The entire Torah Portion for *Behar* ("On the Mountain) Leviticus 25:1-26:2; Additional supportive scripture - Exodus 23:1-12.

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### ***Last (short) summer reflection...***

Lev. 25 has been in and out of my mind all summer. See if you can guess why from this short section:

*3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; 4 but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the land, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. 5 You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. 6 You may eat what the land yields during its sabbath...*

We did not plan to take a COVID sabbath year! Our country was terribly unprepared. Food stored? Medical equipment, personal necessities plenteous? Money saved up for when people were furloughed from work or lost jobs? Or when business couldn't open because of quarantine, and customers had no money?

Some will think this is a stretch: what if we followed the sabbath injunction? What if we saved every year knowing that we would have time off, maybe planned, maybe not, maybe a whole year. Would we live differently day to day?

More from Leviticus 25:

18 ... you may live on the land securely. 19 The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live on it securely...23 ...the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants.

Do we trust that we may live on the land securely? Do we trust that we will help each other? Do we believe that God owns the land and we are but aliens and tenants? To trust the Almighty is a natural consequence of believing in Him. If there is an Infinite Being Who loves us and wants the best for us, then it follows we should trust Him. The more convinced we are of the truth of God's existence, His infiniteness, and His love for us, the more trust and faith we'll have in God and God working through each of us.

May the peace which passes all understanding be with you this day and forever. Amen – Vance

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***Prayers for*** many of our friends and family: Ron, Debbi, Richard, Ann, Cynthia, Chris, John and Debbie. We pray for those who have died from COVID-19 and their families and for those who have the disease. We give thanks for first responders. We pray for relief from the California fires, for a safe opening of schools, and the end of the violent divisiveness in our country. May it be so. Amen.