

Monday - March 16

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Mathew 6:25-26 (NRSV)

When my twin brother, Jacob, and I were 11 years old we moved for the first time. My mom had just been re-appointed to serve at a two point UMC charge in Brunswick, Maryland, about an hour away from Laurel, where our home roots were. Jacob and I were pretty much raised at Emmanuel UMC, where our mom previously served. That congregation was the first to show us "church family" love. Moving to Brunswick which was known for its hills, the railroad, and slippery pot pie, kind of threw us for a loop. Everything was different. That church experience eventually introduced us to the good, the bad, and the ugly of the church. Yet it was at Brunswick that I began to develop my own understanding of faith and acted on what I only understood as a passion to be involved in the church, which for me included singing in the praise band, going on mission trips every year and being a youth leader. But that church family didn't share the same love of Emmanuel. The six years that mom served there were incredibly challenging for her as a woman pastor, for Jacob & me as preacher's kids, and for our dad as mom's biggest supporter while serving as a local school administrator. I'm not sure we always felt God's presence in that place. Over dinner and prayerful conversations we asked ourselves, "Where is God?" I found myself clinging onto hope in the phrase, "this too shall pass." It wasn't until I went to college that I gained the ability to articulate that experience, to put words, emotion, frustration, thanks and glory for that environment. God was so very present in the midst of the good, the bad, the ugly and was playing a vital role in my own growth as a woman of God.

Hannah

Prayer: God, make Your presence known to us even when You feel out of reach. Remind us to be still and find comfort and peace knowing that "this too shall pass." May we be encouraged to live in the moment and find glory in the work of Your hand in our lives. May we learn not to worry over the little things, but see the grace in all things. Amen.