

Tuesday - April 1

He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it. Proverbs 11: 26 KJV

As we head into our 200th year as a church, I am reminded of a phrase I heard my Grandfather recite multiple times over 50 years ago: “may the ropes of the past ring the bells of the future”.

As products of the great depression era who grew up around the harsh realities that Southeast Ohio Appalachians faced, I am still amazed in 2025 that my Grandparents lived a life filled with such a generous spirit and loving hearts.

Financial security was never part of their life but rather financial challenges. To that end, they were forced to sacrifice their independence and pride – and live with our family the last 15 years of their life. Bitterness, anger and resentment would have been understandable traits for those in that situation. However, I was blessed with daily examples of gratitude, optimism and hope.

I do not remember a birthday or Christmas without receiving a meaningful, and often times favorite, gift from them. As a young person, I was not acutely aware then of the sacrifices they must have made to be able to pay for those gifts, but as an adult I fully understand.

Yes Grandma and Grandpa, the ropes of the past do ring the bells of the future. As we head into year 200 at PUMC, I am grateful to be part of a congregation that lives and operates with a generous spirit and I pray that our collective spirit remains as strong as yours – no matter the sacrifice.

Dave & Jane Sprague

Prayer: Dear Lord, we are both thankful and grateful for those persons in our life who help shape and lead us on our spiritual journey. We pray that we can live a life filled with unwavering generosity, especially during times of great challenges and personal setbacks. We trust that this path will lead us to be the people you intended us to be.