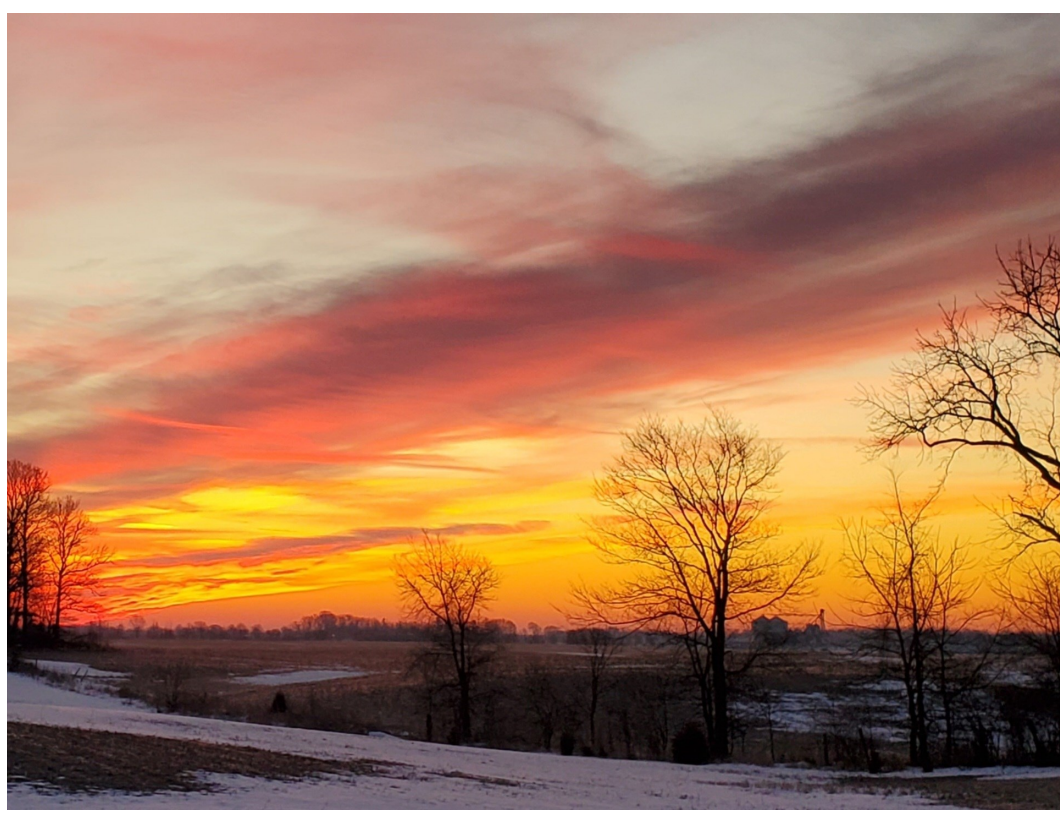


Spiritual Care Message:



I am sure that many of you do not know that my co-worker, Amy Ladas, in nursing home ministry is a skilled photographer. This morning I am sharing that information along with one of her photos. Aren't you moved by the beauty of what you are seeing? Quite recently Amy shared that as she anticipated what was to happen quickly, very early morning, she grabbed her car keys (in housecoat and slippers), headed for her car and in it moved down some country roads she has travelled these past years for a photo of beauty! When later that morning, she emailed me a copy of what she discovered, I responded with an email something like this: 'Amy, surely God smiled as He saw you move quickly to your car for this early journey to watch Him do His work as He lifted the sun to rise this morning, making a grand entrance for our planet to bless her view.' Later, I thought these thoughts I would like to share:

- 1. As morning began, so did her thoughts about a sunrise.
God can be the central focus of our thoughts, even when we have a day's work ahead of us.*
- 2. She had a plan of action or would have missed it.
God never disappoints us when we move into obedience to Him. Sunrises pass quickly. So do our opportunities...it is why the Bible says to be 'instant in season.'*
- 3. She had her camera ready to use, or would have missed the shot.
God tells us to keep our lamps lit, to bury His Word in our heart, to let His mind be in us...all this is readiness for His blessing, ours and to share with others.*
- 4. She went 'just as she was', or the scene would have vanished.
God wants us to come to Him for all our needs and every human being has needs... forgiveness for sins, steadiness in temptation, strength in our weaknesses, light in our darkness, joy in our sorrow, healing in our brokenness, peace in our distress, courage in our fear, wisdom in our ignorance, health in our sicknesses...no pretense, no polishing, no dishonesty in our condition of needs. And when we do, we will see His handiwork. His heart and hand is in His plan and He orders our day and He orders us and life becomes a thing of beauty only He can do.*

~Lois

Prayer: Father, help me to understand this and quickly come to you for all I am feeling right now...help me not to miss your handwork of grace. Amen.