

## Dear Families:

Welcome back to church! This was the first Sunday in our 2024-2025 Sunday School year! It was great to see everyone this morning at our Welcome Back Breakfast and have you in class again this morning.

Our first lesson of the year dealt with a passage in the book of James. The book of James is a letter written by the brother of Jesus who was also a leader in the early days of the Christian church. James reminds us that one of Jesus' big commandments was to love our neighbor as ourselves. James points out, though, that we don't always do this equally. When God says to love our neighbor, he means EVERY neighbor- no matter their station in life. James reminds us that we are all God's children, and that Jesus came especially to tell the poor and destitute that they were welcome in the kingdom of Heaven. We are commanded by Jesus to do the same.

I am so glad you were able to join us today. Next week (September 15) is Welcome Back to Church Sunday- a day in which we encourage our friends and neighbors to return to God by returning to church. So many go years without hearing the word of God! Help them come home- invite a friend to church with you next week.

Have a great week!

Carol McClellan, CE Director