**PASTOR’S PONDER**



Wishing you all a happy summer, filled with respite and activities that fill your soul with joy and raise your spirits!

I frequently preach a series that departs from the revised common lectionary in the summer months, but this year I’ll be following the Old Testament readings from the lectionary in Genesis and Exodus. I haven’t preached on many of them in all my years of ministry, and I find they have new intrigue for me—and I hope for you as well. We will be rediscovering “old familiar” stories remembered from Sunday School—back in the Dark Ages—as an adult…or hearing them afresh for the first time. There is much more to them now than I ever imagined as a child, and I look forward to challenging us and sharing newfound meanings over the next couple of months. I hope you enjoy visiting—or revisiting them—as much as I! Looking forward to seeing you in church!

 -- In faith, *Pastor Susan*

Summer Old Testament Foundational Stories of Faith Readings—A summer of DRAMA and deceit, fate and faithfulness, anger and exultation, anticipation, frustration, and fulfillment!

 July 2 Genesis 22:1-14 The Command to Sacrifice Isaac

 July 9 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

 July 16 Genesis 25:19-34 The Birth and Youth of Esau and Jacob

 July 23 Genesis 28:10-19a Jacob’s Dream at Bethel (Jacob’s Ladder)

 July 30 Genesis 29:15-28 Jacob Marries Laban’s Daughters

August 6 Genesis 32:22-31 Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

August 13 [Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=154) Joseph Dreams of Greatness

August 20 Genesis 45:1-15 Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

August 27 [Exodus 1:8-2:10](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=156) The Israelites are Oppressed/Birth and Youth of Moses