

Joyful in Hope – 68 – June 6, 2020

(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Romans 12:12

Happy Saturday, Heritage!

The first order of business is to assure you all that I have not lost it. As I was getting ready to post yesterday's, Joyful in Hope, I realized that it was quite late in the day, so I assumed that people would not see it until today. Originally, I wrote on bottom, "Here's your preview of Sunday", but decided to change it to, "Join Us Tomorrow", thinking that you would see it today. That all makes sense, right? And the reason you received two emails is that I sent it out, but forgot to change the date and number at the top, so . . . because the last thing I want to do is confuse anyone, I changed the date and the number, and resent it.

Is it all clear now? Anyways, I hope you will join us for worship tomorrow. The worship video will be available on Youtube by 9 AM. It's entitled,

HERITAGE CHURCH CLAWSON, HOPE HAS A NAME.

Today, June 6, is my mom's birthday. She would have been 93. When she turned 17, the allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. Her older brother, Al was on Omaha Beach that morning. On that same day, another young soldier name John parachuted behind enemy lines. He would later marry my mom's sister, Eloise. From that day on, Mom would always pause on her birthday to give thanks for the life of her brother, her brother-in-law, and for the thousands of young men who lived and died that day, fighting alongside my uncle Al and my uncle John.

After my mom died when I was 15, the memory of her birthday was always a combination of bittersweet memories. Even today, this day is one of reflection. A month or so ago, my sister, Mindy received a letter from a family friend that included memories of my mom. Shirley Dennis Anderson grew up in Bozeman, where my parents moved before I was born. They moved to Bozeman to help grow the church. Shirley was a teenager when my parents moved there, and she became a helper for my mom, and babysitter for my older siblings.

The words Shirley uses to describe my mom include; calm, straightforward, organized, hospitable to strangers, accepting and caring. Shirley's final statement was, Faye Brazle was a winner!

I have always wished that Janine, and our children could have met my mom. I was thinking about that the other day, when someone commented that the children of George Floyd would never get to experience the joy of having him in their lives. And I think my biggest take away's are these;

- Make every day count.
- Appreciate and cherish the moments you have with the ones you love.
- Be sure to tell them how much you care.

- Don't take things for granted.
- Recognize the good in everyone.
- Be kind to, and respectful of everyone.

Happy Birthday, Mom. You are missed.