

From the Pulpit

The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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**“Psalm 27: 1, 5, 6, 9; Isaiah 9:1-4;
Corinthians 1:10-18;
Matthew 4:12-23”**

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By Katie Gies

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“Psalm 27: 1, 5, 6, 9; Isaiah 9:1-4; Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23”dsa

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In this jar, I have some of the best memories and biggest blessings from 2013. My best friend and I found this idea on the internet at the end of 2012 and decided to give it a try. We decorated our little jars and whenever something good happened we would put it in the jar. I would always get so excited while I was writing something to put in my jar because it was so nice to sit and think about whatever the blessing was. Now let me tell you, New Years Eve 2013 did not go as expected. It looked like I was going to be watching the ball drop on the TV in my bedroom with my family. Don't get me wrong, family is nice but that was not my original plan for the night. I was in a really bad mood until I realized it was time to open my jar! Reading all the things I had written in my jar helped me realize how lucky I am to be blessed with so many great people and experiences in my life and it really improved my mood that night.

There are so many different blessings in here, from having a great day with my mom decorating her boss' office to going to the fair and holding a monkey with Steven. Things like sitting in Steak N Shake during the mission trip to getting accepted to college. Blessings happen all the time and sometimes we forget to take the time to really notice and appreciate them. This jar is my way of taking the time to think about all the blessings God has put in my life.

How do you take the time to realize the blessings around you and think of all the ways God has blessed you? I want you to do something for me right now. Sit here and think of blessings. How are you blessed? You can think of 1, you could think of 10, as many as you want. Write them in your bulletin, you hand, or just in your mind. Whatever works for you, just take this time to think of the blessings God has put in your life.

That time spent just thinking about blessings, is a blessing in itself. Remember that we are all blessed because God is always there. Take the time to think about your blessings, be a blessing to others, and be a part of the crowd.

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