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## Gifts of God

"Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.'" Genesis 1:29

On or by our farm are four asparagus plantings. Three have grown on their own by the edge of the road or fence row for longer than I can remember. They are just there, reappearing each spring. God's gift as we do nothing to nurture them. The fourth my husband planted and adds to each year and weeds and cares for them. It takes up to seven years for an asparagus plant to mature and become large enough to eat.

As I walk about the property picking asparagus, "the gifts of God" for my table I realize that I have done nothing to nurture or deserve them. All I do is look for shoots as they break through the earth, then wait patiently and pick them.

"The gifts off God for the people of God!" (words from Communion)

I am amazed how plants have an affinity to grow. In placing a new driveway into his home my son inadvertently moved some rhubarb plants. This spring on the mound of earth those plants sprouted forth - a miracle as they had been forgotten and willed their own rebirth. My daughter-in-law rescued them and placed them in pots. They looked very sad and I wondered if they would survive, however, with a little water and loving care they are sprouting new growth and we are giving them as gifts to family and friends. God created these miraculous plants for our use and gave them the will to live and flourish. He provides for them with rain and soil and our care.

Due to isolation because of COVID 19, coupled with the bountiful rhubarb God has blessed us with, I have returned to pie making and thus pie giving. My mother-in-law's rhubarb pie recipe has not only been revived but also changed to become rhubarb apple and rhubarb bumble berry pies. My loved ones have reaped the treasures of the harvest. I have reconnected to baking and the delight of God's bountiful gifts. Will Williamson in his interview for the Festival of Homiletics stated that it is a "glorious time" when we are "as a family noticing God's gifts". In the isolation caused by COVID I am having a glorious time as I reconnect and learn a new appreciation of "God's gifts."

Delivering pies has changed. I leave them and walk away and wait for them to be retrieved by my loved ones. Gone are the hugs, although the love and thank you's continue. In this time of COVID 19 let us be thankful for God's gifts to us. In our thankfulness let us share our bounty with others ... using social distancing but still showing our love.

Grace and Peace to all,  
**Ruth Ann**

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.  
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*