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Editor's note: we thank Lynda Holmes for submitting this week's Letter of Hope. While going through some old papers she found this Prayer from when Rev. Harry Disher was in Grand Bend. Please consider sharing your story. You can send us a letter for publication or even just a few of your thoughts to our email Hyatt.le.rc@gmail.com

Pastoral Prayers

Remind us, O God, that persons are gifts You have sent to us. Some of them are wrapped quite attractively and some seem more ordinary. Others have been mishandled in the mail and once in a while some are "special delivery". Some persons come very loosely wrapped; others very tightly. But let us not mistake the wrapping for the gift.

Some gifts are easy to open up, others take patience and time. Is it because they are afraid? Have they been hurt? Perhaps they have been opened up before and thrown away. Fill us with the kind of love and caring that makes others feel safe in our presence and supported by our interest in them.

Each of us is a person. Each of us is a gift. Help us appreciate first of all, the gift that we are to ourselves. Help us look inside our own wrappings and accept the person we find. Is there more than we believe to be there? Help us to see it. Let us be gifts to others, gifts of God, gifts that others can enjoy and to which they can relate. Let us be gifts to Your church, to our community, to Your world so that righteousness may be known, justice experienced and peace made possible.

Persons are gifts, gifts received and gifts given, like Jesus, Your son, the greatest gift of all who called everyone into Your Kingdom where all creation finds fullness of life, the kingdom for which he taught us to pray together as we sing this day...

*"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."*

