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Cc:
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*"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of home I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."
Simone Weil*

The role of children in Jesus' day was much different than the way we understand and value children today. Back then, the rates of infant and child mortality were extremely high and so it was crucial that children continue to be born and raised if the tribe were to survive. Children served both as their parent's "social security" and as the tribe's defenders. It was expected that children would be responsible for the care of their parents and other aging relatives and also grow up to be the tribe's warriors against threats from other nations and tribes. Also, in those days, children were considered "property" and could be sold to others in need. Children were critical to the survival of the tribe and nation, but also highly expendable.

This is why Jesus' teachings which affirm and value children were so radical and revolutionary. No one was expected to be as caring and considerate of children in those days. To hear his warnings of the great responsibility God calls us to regarding children was extreme.

Fast forward 2000+ years and it is a new day for many of us. While some of the ancient attitudes regarding children continue to be the norm in parts of the world, for most people, children have a different status as we faithfully seek to respond to God's call.

This Sunday is Children's Sunday, a day in our church year when we celebrate the end of our Sunday school studies for this program year. The children will be leading our worship on Sunday. On this Sunday, we will affirm their value to us, drawing inspiration as they demonstrate some of what has been learned over the past year and also by using their individual gifts and talents to inspire our time together.

The moral development of young people is a great responsibility for both parents and others. In some ways, we must again adopt the "tribal mentality" of looking out for our and other's children and always seeking to be supportive of parent's efforts to nurture and raise their family. It does indeed take a village to raise a child and this is a Sunday when we can all take part in that high calling.

The music for this week's service will be led by the Transformers, the Cherub Choir, the Little Bells Choir and several other soloists. As part of our 250th anniversary, Joan Apel will be giving us a Three Minutes of History lesson. And the Women's Fellowship will be awarding their annual scholarship to one of our youth.