



Pastor's e-Note

Morristown United Methodist Church (6/14/2018)

Dear Church Family and Friends,

The Trump-Kim Summit in Singapore captured the attention of millions of Americans and the world. It was the first meeting between an American President and a leader of North Korea, and thus it is considered historic. Achieving the denuclearization of North Korea and the sustainable peace in the Korean Peninsula will remain an arduous task, but this summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un provided an important initial step towards this goal.

I was born in 1955, two years after the end of the Korean War, which took place in 1950 through 1953. My father told me how he and his mother walked hundreds of miles away from the battle grounds to survive. My wife's father was raised by his loving family in North Korea. But, when the war broke out, his parents told him to run away from the hands of the Communist Army recruiters. He obeyed his parents and moved down to the South by himself.

That was the last time he saw his parents and family. Eventually, he moved to New York and was blessed with a good and fruitful life. And yet, he always talked about his parents and the older sisters he had left behind. Until the day he passed away, he dreamed of going back to his hometown in North Korea to see his loved ones. To help realize her dad's dream, Pastor Jennifer shared her plan to visit his hometown in North Korea during her pastoral renewal time. All of her family in NJ and I said to her "NO!" because there was no guarantee that she will return to us safely.

It has been 65 years since the armistice was signed ending the Korean conflict. To this day, millions of people in both North Korea and South Korea remain separated from their loved ones. It is really ironic because it would only take less than four hours to drive between the two capital cities (Seoul and Pyongyang) and less than a day to travel anywhere within the Korean Peninsula.

I pray for a peaceful reunification of the two Koreas sooner than later. I reflect on the words of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9) Thank you for praying with me for this.

I am looking forward to the ASP Variety Show on Friday at 7:00 p.m. Please come and join the fun. This coming Sunday is Youth Sunday and Father's Day. Our youth are leading the service. I am so proud of our youth who are growing in faith, grace and mission.

Have a blessed weekend and see you in Church.

**Blessings,
Pastor Brandon**