

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday January 20, 2025 - Psalm 119: 114

114 You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

Read Psalm 119 for meditation and inspiration.



A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

Fred Rogers, a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and an ordained Presbyterian minister is famously remembered not as a preacher but as the most important producer and presenter of children's moral and positive programming. In 2019, we were reminded of this much-beloved children's television personality, Mr. Rogers, in the movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." Starring Tom Hanks, the film offered a powerful message of acceptance and understanding for which the real-life Mr. Rogers was well known. A magazine interview conducted more than twenty years earlier by journalist Tom Junod inspired the hit movie. Junod continued to correspond with the television icon until he died in 2003. In a recent article spurred by the film, that same journalist said that no matter the audience -- from CEOs, doctors, celebrities, students, educators, and everyone else, Fred Rogers' message was always the same: "You were a child once too. He wanted us to remember what it was like to be a child so that he could talk to us. He wanted to talk to us so we would remember what it was like to be a child. And he believed that if you remembered what it was like to be a child, you would remember that you were a child of God."

As a child of God, you can make every day a beautiful day in the neighborhood because you are to minister to the world. Whatever your secular vocation -- doctor, celebrity, student, educator -- whatever neighborhood you live in -- country, city or suburban -- whatever your family situation is -- big or small, married or single -- while you are there, you are a full-time minister of Jesus Christ. You and I and every one of us is involved in the collective ministry

of the Church. And to realize our full potential -- to be in touch with our true identity -- we must think of ourselves and all others, as children of God!

By God's Grace you as His child will be the link for others to have a beautiful and even a saving day in any and every neighborhood.

In God's beauty,



Roger

