A TIME TO LAUGH –

This will be a short five-session study since I'll be on Sabbatical starting the end of June. Given the somberness tat many of our traditions have pressed us to bring to all matters religious, the notion of laughing *with* the Bible makes some people uncomfortable. Many people generally think of God as angry and ill-tempered, therefore humorless. In this study we will explore some passages in the Bible that were intended to be humorous. God knows we need a laugh every now and then!

SCHEDULE – All classes including "Field Trip" on March 12 will begin at 7:00 in person (Room 6) or on Zoom.

May 11 – Session One - "Page Obstetrics to the Geriatric Ward!" Genesis 17:1-7; 18:1-15.

May 18 – Session Two – "Who Laughs Last? Jesus' Love of the Absurd" Matthew 5:29; 7:3-5; 19:24.

May 25 – Session Three – "Piety and Pouting" 1 Kings 19:1-12.

June 8 – Session Four – "Out of the Mouths of …Asses" Numbers 22:15-25

June 15 – Session Five – "The Dangers of Boring Sermons" Acts 20:7-12

Questions to consider this week –

1. What was funny about Abraham's name? How is his name change from Abram and Abraham a setup for a laugh?

2. What caused Abraham to laugh in 17:17? Does it seem like an odd thing to laugh at?

3. How was Sarah's laughter in 18:12 different than Abraham's? What did she think was so funny?

4. What is the takeaway from this story? How does this story portray God, and what are we to learn of this?

5. What kind of humor is typically associated with older people? What are some of the stereotypes of older people that you typically see in literature and entertainment?