The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon
November 4, 2026
"Ringing of the Bells"

I once preached a homecoming at Smith's Grove United Methodist Church in Burkesville, Kentucky. Jewel Davis, a lifelong member, told me that the church had been rebuilt twice, and each time they kept the same 700 pound church bell.

Because the church sits high on a hill, the sound of that bell can be heard for over five miles. Generations have rung it in celebration and in times of sorrow - calling the community together to pause, pray, and to remember that God is present.

Today, St. Paul tower bells will join that sacred calling.

At 5:14 p.m., we will ring our tower bells for one minute as part of Louisville Remembers Together, a citywide observance marking one year since the crash of UPS Flight 2976. Alongside churches, places of worship, and other institutions across Louisville, we will honor the 15 lives lost and hold in prayer their families, loved ones, and all who continue to carry the weight of this tragedy.

The ringing of church bells is a powerful sign of God's faithfulness in the midst of heartbreak. Through the prophet Isaiah, God promises, *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."* Just as that old bell in Burkesville endured through rebuilding, God's promise gives hope as we walk through grief and stand beside our neighbors.

Wherever you are at 5:14 p.m. today, I invite you to pause and remember the lives lost. Pray for those who grieve, those who responded, and those whose lives remain changed. Let the sound of the bells remind us all that we are never alone.

Grace and Peace,

Darren