Thank you Ginny. There were some tongue twisters in that reading.

Today’s reading is a continuation of the series of scripture that Pastor Bryce has been using over the last month. Without going back to what we have heard before, this scripture seems that the Lord said “buy some land, he did, all was good, It’s a short reading and this will be a short message but it’s not quite that simple, In fact, Pastor Bryce told me Wednesday afternoon that he was glad that I was tackling this passage and not him.

The part of previous scripture we need to remember is that Jeremiah’s people and the Babylonians have been fighting over land for quite some time. The Babylonians have mostly been successful up until the time of today’s lesson, It was a common custom of the time that when someone died or especially was killed in war that the relatives had a right to the property first. However, up until this time, the Lord had been telling people not to do it. Not to buy the land because there was no hope that they could keep it. This made it a very desolate time. There was no hope for a happy future, a full life, a continuation of family farms.

When Jeremiah realized that he had been told the word of the Lord, he bought the land from his cousin. He made two deeds. One was sealed, witnessed, and the money paid. The second deed was an open deed which could have historical additions added to it as to how the land was transferred thereafter. The two deeds were put in an earthen jar which was the manner of keeping things for a long time. Sort of our way of using a metal box. The Lord of hosts, God of Israel stated: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

Hope. The feeling of being able to look forward to goodness and mercy. In our world events lately we have had trouble seeing hope. Devastating floods, Tornadoes political discourse have been the norm; and yet, the people of our country have risen above to help the hurting, offer aid of food and clothing to those in need. Our small town of Madrid is amazing the amount of help they offer. Some would say that “those people” are unchurched. I however firmly believe that while they may not be attending an organized house of worship at this time they have been raised to believe in God and his teachings and that someday they may return to join us or help us to understand how we can all gather together. That is our Hope

Amen.