It’s hard to believe that August is already here. Is it just me? Summer is coming closer to an end, while another season will be here before we know it. And such is life; seasons go and seasons change, even at times being unpredictable. Our world is becoming more and more the same — changing and unpredictable, and at times - scary. But our God remains our constant. He is unchanging — the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8 tells us so: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” God is the provider of our Peace in a tumultuous world. Peace, at times, seems to be a fleeting hope in light of our current troubles facing the world. We have struggles within both the democratic and republican parties. We have Black lives matter, Blue lives matter, All lives matter etc. We have the current horror that our Law Enforcement is facing of being, ultimately, hunted because of the uniform and badge they wear; and these are just to name a few. The good news is that despite these current events, despite the terror and turmoil, there is a peace that surpasses all understanding. Philippians 4:6-7 says: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Paul, the author which God used to write Philippians, is trying to teach us that true peace comes not from ourselves, coming and going with the current circumstances, but is found, and comes from a source, like the verse says, “beyond our comprehension”. In John 14:27 Jesus Christ says: “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” It can be very easy, especially today to become fearful or maybe even angry. We can struggle with feelings of revenge, or even giving up. So what do we do with that fear, that hurt, that anger? God says we can give it to Him and receive peace in its place. Ephesians 2:14a says: “For He Himself is our Peace.” and in John 16:33 Jesus Christ adds: “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” What a promise that is, and such an applicable one to today’s current issues. What is that you fear most today? What concerns could you give over to God? One of the many reasons our Chaplaincy exists is to reach out and to work through concerns, fears and even failures with you. Please remember, if you ever would like to reach out to one of our Chaplains we would be happy to assist in any way possible, with the utmost respect and confidentiality. We are here for you.

Chaplain Mark Smith