My message today from John 16:16-33 deals with the sadness and confusion of the disciples as Jesus foretells his departure.  But his departure secures their eternal joy and the promise of answered prayer.  If you want, you can listen to it on our website.  This passage was fitting for our church family, as we face the sadness that Seth and Hannah Baker will be moving to Washington at the end of the summer.  We send them on their way to be closer to family and for Seth to finish seminary.  Seth and Hannah came to us 7 years ago this week.  Throughout the Bible, the number seven is a symbol of perfection or completion, as in the seven days of creation.  So now, in hindsight, we can see God at work in Baker's decision that they have completed their assignment here!  The Bakers arrived here with two little ones and now have their hands full with five wonderful children.
Hannah has longed for the support of her family and Seth has desired to finish his seminary degree.  In Tacoma, living in the missionary housing at Hannah's parent's church, they will be surrounded by family and able to pursue what the Lord has for them in this next season.  We are saddened at the loss of friendship, leadership, and partnership in ministry.  Yet we are expectant for what the Lord will do in and through the Bakers, and what He will do here in our church family as we look to hire a replacement for Seth.
Please be in prayer for both the Bakers and our church family during this transition.