

PASTORAL LETTER OCTOBER 2016

Since I arrived in June, there has been so much activity. I think we're all aware that this has been a year where the Fellowship has stretched. In some places we are admittedly fractured, and in others we are healing. Some celebrate, some grieve, and I want you all to know that I will meet each of you wherever you are. Life is not simply one long, and boring straight line. Life is a path with grueling hills and deep valleys. As we turn toward a new calendar year, your spiritual, mental, and physical well-being are of the utmost importance. The changes of the past year are not those of an easy process. A beloved Pastor and Administrative Assistant retired, as well as the congregational welcoming, and working with, the interim staff. Throughout the transition, the Fellowship formed a diverse and balanced pastoral search committee who continue to challenge and affirm me in my ministry. They promised me that you were an incredible community of folks and I'm happy to say they were right!

For those that are unsettled with how things are, I am here for you. Send me a text, an email, make an appointment to drop by the office, or give me a call. I have been able to sit with some, but not everyone, yet. Let's make space in our calendars to visit. For those that have moved away from the Fellowship, cut their ties, or are simply finding room to breathe elsewhere, may you be at peace with an open heart wherever you are. Please know that the Fellowship is a community that will welcome you should you choose to return. I also want to encourage anyone who is not comfortable being a part of the Sunday crowd, that we are open to your stopping by a community event like the Bazaar and Soup Suppers.

For the newer folks who have arrived, a hearty "Welcome!" We are glad you are choosing to be with us be it regularly, or on occasion. This church is a place for all people, from all backgrounds, and we are a community that accepts a broad spectrum of theologies, including folks with no religious belief. We are interdenominational at our roots. The Fellowship was founded and built upon religious tolerance and community atmosphere. I feel that we are on a journey together to remember tradition, ponder sacred mystery, and explore the ancient archives of Wisdom and Spirit at work. Each week, we knit together the tapestry of our memories, our customs, and our desires to serve G-d and each other. I want to thank each of you for your time, your talent, and your resources as we continue co-creating this beloved Fellowship community.

- Karen.