

These have been a full 3 months. Lent, including our 2 Lenten Suppers, Holy Week and Easter were filled with meaningful services as a community of faith. Focusing on confession as both a time of naming our sin as well as our belief seemed to resonate with many, with opportunities to give voice to the fullness of that idea and how it plays out in our lives.

I continue to learn to get to know the congregation, having several opportunities recently to be present in times of illness and hospitalizations. I am grateful for the time to be present and available during these life events which can cause us to question and live into our faith in new ways.

We will celebrate baby dedications this week, and I continue to look for ways to engage with all ages of the congregation, occasionally doing children's time as a way to be with our youngest generation in ways that foster relationships and help everyone who attends UMC to feel known and cared for by their pastor. I hope to find ways over the summer months to engage with young families more intentionally.

The elders and I are planning a church-wide discussion on communion in mid-June, hoping this will be a forum for looking at who we are and what this practice can help us learn about who we are as an Anabaptist faith community.

I continue to look for ways to engage - providing support, leading book studies and meditation groups - meeting over coffee and meals. Preaching, supporting and encouraging each one to find their own way of living into Howard Thurman's words: "Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." continues to give shape to my work here at UMC with you all.

I welcome feedback and continued ways to walk this journey of faith with you.

With gratitude,
Kate