

Pastor Report: May 2020

Church life has continued to be an ongoing learning journey for me! These past 8 weeks of virtual worship have been an opportunity to reach out and worship with people around the world. We've welcomed one another into each other's lives and homes through pictures, videos, songs and stories, learning to know each other in new ways. The Spirit of God continues to move in our midst - I see signs of it all the time. I pray you do as well.

I see the Spirit of God not only in the abundance shared, but also in the lament - the honest sharing of how difficult it is to not be with those we love, the challenges of working from our basements and kitchen tables, the inability to pursue opportunities, the unknowns of what the future holds. And yet, God is here. God is in the light as well as the dark spaces. Lament is an honest way of encountering the living God.

Learning how to worship virtually has taken quite a bit of my time these past 2 months. Zoom meetings, checking in both as groups and with individuals is a priority. In addition to Sunday worship we've started a Wednesday sharing and prayer time, which typically has 8-12 screens. Along with Tim Derstine, I've just begun experimenting with a virtual meditation practice twice a week.

I wonder how this time of being a community outside of our church building will shape us and offer us new ways to be Christ's hands and feet in this world.

As I continue to work my way through *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* (Bolsinger, 2015), I find myself wondering, what is the defining work (mission) of UMC in this time and place? That is the larger work I hope we can continue to engage in as we move through this uncharted time.

I pray for each of you, am grateful for each of you and welcome each of you to let me know how to continue to walk this journey of life together.

In Christ,
Kate