

Hope Church News February 2013

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm Friday Closed

Hope Church, RCA 77 West 11th Street Holland, MI 49423 (616) 392-7947 www.hopechurchrca.org

The Season of Lent at Hope Church

Sunday Worship Themes

As we explore the lectionary texts in Lent, we will be guided by the theme of "Provisions for the Journey"

February 17	Word
February 24	Trust
March 3	Feast
March 10	Forgiveness
March 17	Extravagance

Five Week Wednesday Worship Services, 7:00pm February 13, 20 & 27, March 6 & 13 Each worship service will begin at 7:00 pm and will incorporate Taizé style music and prayer, candlelight, scripture, silent meditation, and either a ritual or sacrament. Each evening a member will share a brief meditation on the Psalm of the week. (The only Wednesday that includes dinner is Ash Wednesday, February 13.)

Healing Prayer Service Sunday, March 3, 10:00 am There will also be a Healing Prayer Service in the sanctuary.

Lent Devotionals

Lent devotionals for adults and families will be available in the gathering area beginning on Sunday, February 10th. A children's devotional booklet and sticker activity will also be given to each family. Your family's copy will be available in the Gathering Area if you do not receive one that morning.

Continued on page 4

Ash Wednesday Dinner & Worship Service Wednesday, February 13 We will begin the season of Lent with a simple supper for all ages at

6:00pm. After the meal, we will enter into a worship service of scripture, prayer, and meditation at 7:00pm. The imposition of ashes is an ancient symbol that calls us into this season of reflection. This service begins our five week Lenten Worship Series.

Lent Activities for Children led by Jocelyn Van Heest The children will attend the Ash Wednesday service with their families on February 13. Nursery care will be provided in Commons II. Children ages 3 through those in 5th grade will meet together on the next four Wednesday evenings. Through a variety of activities we will discuss prayer: why, when, how, and where do we pray. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if your children will be attending. This is to help with the planning for the evening.

Adult Education

Health Ministry Series: Becoming Aware of ...

"Becoming Aware" is our Health Ministry theme and ardent purpose in the upcoming six week Christian Education series. To "become aware" means to know, to be informed of, to be alert to be on guard against. "Becoming Aware" chases ignorance and illusion, creates effort and action, and boosts hope and togetherness.



Becoming Aware of... | Sundays | 9:40am | Commons

February 10	"Becoming Aware of Autism Part I" with Dr. David Laman, Psychologist
February 17	"Becoming Aware of Autism Part II" with Dr. David Laman, Psychologist
February 24	"Becoming Aware of Autism Part III" with Krista Mason, Executive Director of Benjamin's Hope
March 10	"Becoming Aware of Anxiety" with Dr. Jim Dumerauf, MD, Director of Behavioral Health Sciences at Holland Hospital
March 17	"Becoming Aware of Depression" with Thomas Mullens, LMSW, CAADC -Grand Haven Outpatient Clinical Director
March 24	"Becoming Aware of Alzheimer's" with Donita Robards, RN, Hope Church Nurse

The first three sessions throw the big spotlight on "Becoming Aware...of Autism", which is occurring with such increased frequency as to be called a national epidemic. It has been a daunting mystery, now being embraced with great effort. It is being dealt with as a spectrum affecting different people in different ways.

Two persons in the forefront of involvement and treatment will help us "become aware":

Psychologist, Dr. David Laman

Dr. Laman has worked 25 years with assessment and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder; 15 years training and supervising professionals on ASD; 15 years of consultation on assessment/treatment for organizations, state and community Departments of Mental Health, Pine Rest, and schools; 9 years as founding president of Developmental Enhancement, which trains and establishes treatment centers in Michigan and beyond. He has given more than 100 presentations and workshops addressing ASD regionally, nationally and internationally. He's been a partner in the dream of Benjamin's Hope. On Sundays, February 10 and 17, he will give PowerPoint presentations with intervals for questions and discussion.

Executive Director of Benjamin's Hope, Krista Mason

Krista is a local mother of Ben and the founding spirit and now Executive Director of Benjamin's Hope. She will share with us her family's story with autism. She will use some visuals to present the unfolding, redemptive story of how Benjamin's Hope, now nearing its opening, will give future hope for hundreds of families in our community. "Benjamin's Hope is called to create an innovative work, live, play and worship model for persons and families living with autism and other developmental differences." Krista will share with us on Sunday, February 24.

Job and the Life of Faith

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Carol M. Bechtel, Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary

Series Summary: Believers often look to the Bible's book of Job when they're wrestling with the question: "Why do bad things happen to good people?" The character Job, after all, is very good man who suffers in some of the very worst ways. In this class we'll explore what his story does—and does not—teach about the problem of suffering. We'll also look at ways we can be faithful Christians even when we don't have all the answers.

	Job and Jonah Sundays 9:40am Room 106
February 10	"What Did I Do to Deserve This?" Job and his wife lose everything even though they've done nothing to deserve such a devastating loss. In this session we'll introduce the issues, challenges, and opportunities in the book of Job for people of faith.
February 17	"The Limits of Human Wisdom" Job's friends "encourage" him by suggesting that his suffering is the result of some secret sin. This section of the book gives us permission to ask, "Why?" but cautions us against claiming to know more than we do.
February 24	"Faith in the Face of Limited Information" Job gets a reality check when God speaks to him from the center of a mysterious whirlwind. Job's response is instructive for all of us who seek to keep the faith in the face of limited information.
The Jonah Series will meet on Sundays, March 10, 17 & 24	

Jonah, The Reluctant and Rebellious Missionary

Presenter: Marlin Vander Wilt

Series Summary: Contrary to common belief, the Old Testament Book is not about a whale. It is about a reconciling God, a selfish man and a wicked city. It is an astounding parable about God's unlimited grace and love which infuriates those of us who think we have earned it.

During the last part of Lent, we will be exploring this little book. We will open our eyes and hearts to see and get to know the God who is concerned about all persons and living creatures. We are called to share that love of God with all, even those we do not like but must learn to love.

Curtis Gruenler and Jon Jerow will present the short serio-drama entitled, "It Should Happen to a Dog," in three parts. Marlin Vander Wilt will lead the class to consider whether we are jealous followers of Jesus, or among those who rejoice in the triumph of Jesus who draws all people to himself without condemnation.

Please look for more information on this series in the March Newsletter.

The Season of Lent at Hope Church

Continued from page 1

Lenten Carbon Fast

Fasting is a well established Christian practice. It represents the voluntary withdrawal from some part of one's routine life pattern. The dissonance which this choice produces, in turn, creates spiritual space. Here is the place where one hears God's call anew. The Caring for Creation Ministry is this year again offering a unique form of fasting, a carbon fast. The format comes to us from Michigan Interfaith Power & Light and calls out energy related items. If you enter into this space you will encounter the deep questions of faith: Who is my neighbor? How much is enough? And In whom do I trust? Printed copies of the fast will be available in the Gathering Area or by download from the Hope Church website. Our prayer is that you experience the joy which comes from hearing and responding to God's call.

For more information on the Season of Lent at Hope Church, please visit the Hope Church website

www.hopechurchrca.org

Worship Planning Is a Team Effort

The church staff meets weekly to flesh out the details of that Sunday's service, but the Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry also meets periodically to plan worship for the upcoming season of the church year. Cindi Veldheer DeYoung chairs the ministry which currently consists of the pastors, music director, organist, two artists and two choir members.

On a Wednesday evening in January these nine people sat around a table in Commons II. We had all read the upcoming lectionary passages and were now gathered to plan worship for the season of Lent. For opening devotions we listened to Mendelssohn's "If with all your hearts you seek me," and then the conversation began.

As the group talked about the passages, we began to build consensus in the following areas:

- Themes what struck us in individual passages? What overarching themes emerged as we looked at all the passages? How could those themes be developed in worship from week to week? This year, we decided that part of our mission statement provisions for the journey formed a nice structure for the discipleship themes we identified in the passages.
- Music The group relies on our church musicians with their knowledge of applicable music, but others also suggest songs or anthems. We discuss service music that could be used throughout the season as well as music related to the specific passages for a given Sunday.
- Environment Here we rely on the artists in the group who suggest visuals which would work well with the themes, from banners or other art forms to bulletin covers.
- Mid-week Services Hope Church will offer Wednesday evening worship from Ash Wednesday on Feb. 13 through Mar. 13. We decided to focus on the lectionary Psalms at those worship times and suggested names of people who would be asked to lead short devotionals.

We closed our meeting by watching a beautiful multi-media presentation on the "Flight into Egypt" used by Rachelle Oppenhuizen in an adult education presentation.

As the congregation continues to affirm worship as an important part of Hope Church's overall ministry, these planning sessions are one way to help design meaningful worship experiences. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

-Judith Boogaart for the Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry

Health Ministry

Health Hint: "ICE"

Imagine this scenario: Joe is walking downtown, when suddenly he falls to the sidewalk for no



HEALTH MINISTRY

apparent reason. A passerby stops to give first-aid and calls 911. The First Responders arrive quickly, put Joe into an ambulance and take him off to the hospital for a full evaluation. The First Responders also find Joe's cellular telephone and decided to contact his family so they can meet Joe at the hospital. Fortunately, Joe has programed an "ICE" number in his cellular telephone. "ICE" is the recognized abbreviation for "In Case of Emergency" and is the first number that all trained First Responders will look for when attempting to contact next of kin or the designated care-person. Simply make an entry into your "Contacts" which reads "ICE" followed by the name of your contact person and the best telephone number to reach them. It only takes two minutes to program an ICE number into your cellular telephone and will alert First Responders whom they should contact in the event of an emergency."

Thomas Mullens, LMSW, CAADC Grand Haven Outpatient Clinical Director

Walk for Warmth: Saturday, February 9

It is warm hearts, warm boots and warm home time again! Caring for Creation and Health Ministries are supporting this



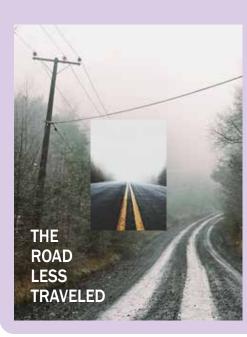
invitation to walk and/or support the Walk for Warmth to help area families who have received a utility shutoff notice. Funding for Community Action Agency, the sponsor for this event, is the lowest currently that it has been in 10 years; this despite need that does remain in Ottawa County and has remained about the same for the past five years. Because of support last year, more than 250 families did receive help.

There are two ways you may help:

- 1. The walk is Saturday, February 9, with registration and coffee at 8:30 am. The Walk for Warmth begins and ends at City On A Hill (100 Pine St at the intersection of Lawrence and Pine Streets) in Zeeland. It is a two mile walk. His Harvest Stand will collect clothing and food donations also at the City On A Hill location. Come and join in this walk if you are able.
- If you are unable to walk, there will be a sign-up sheet, both for walkers and pledge donations, in the Gathering Area on Sunday, February 3. Please stop by. If you have questions, please talk to Norma Killilea.

The Road Less Traveled

A New Hope College Initiative from the Young Adult Ministry Task Force



Our first meeting with Dr. David Myers went very well. We look forward to the rest of the semester as we continue to explore the intersection of faith and life with open hearts and minds with good food and conversation, with the wisdom of experience and the challenge of new perspectives.

Complete Schedule of Guests

r	
February 14	Michelle Bombe, Professor of Theatre
February 28	Dr. Daina Robins, Professor of Theatre
March 7	Dr. Dede Johnston, Professor of Communications
March 28	Seder Dinner and Tenebrae Service at Hope Church
April 11	Dr. Curtis Gruenler, Professor of English
April 25	Dr. Aaron Putzke, Professor of Biology

As of January 21st we still need help with volunteers to make and serve the meals on February 14 and 28, March 7, and April 11 and 25. If you are able to volunteer, please sign-up in the Gathering Area, or call the office at (616) 392-7947.

Thank you, Prayer Partners

In January we recognized the contributions of our mentors and substitute mentors. This month we wish to recognize the third essential component of our Kids Hope team: our prayer partners.

Currently we have 14 faithful prayer partners who are matched with a specific mentor and child. They support our mentors by praying for them and the child to whom they are assigned. We also have a group of 10 dedicated unassigned prayer partners who pray for the Hope Church Kids Hope program as a whole.



Prayer Partners who are assigned to a specific mentor and child are Ann Anderson, Suzanne Buteyn, Jan Fike, Shannon Kalmink, Norma Killilea, Judy Mastenbrook, Kari Miller-Fenwood, Rachelle Oppenhuizen, Stan Rock, Jane Schuyler, Dorothy Sherburne, Jan Smith, Eloise Van Heest and Gordon Wiersma.

Prayer Partners who pray for this ministry as a whole are Randy Braaksma, Joanne Brooks, Ruth Hoekstra-Telgenhof, Stephanie Krom, Char Laman, Earl Laman, Karen Mulder, Nancy Rock, Jill Russell and Nancy VandeWater.

If this sounds like a way in which you might like to become involved with Hope Church Kids Hope, please contact Anne Duinkerken or Barbara Joldersma.



December and January Update

On behalf of Washington School Neighbors, I want to thank you for all of your efforts towards our Neighborhood Holiday Party on December 15th. We especially appreciated all of the cookies you made and donated to our party. You all truly are a gift to our neighborhood! It was a fun night spent getting to know each other while decorating cookies together.

We also discussed the results of this past summer's Neighborhood Connections neighborhood survey, organized by Hope College's Frost Center. The top concern in our neighborhood, according to they survey,

is that neighbors do not know each other as much as they'd hoped. In January, we had an informal Community Cafe with neighbors.

One last big change to mention: Shannon and I, Catie, are nearing the end of our AmeriCorps/Neighborhood Connections service term. I will finish the end of January and Shannon the end of February. This year has been exciting, filled with many rewards as well as challenges. We have been blessed to get to know many of you and look forward to continuing to see you all around the neighborhood as we're out and about! Thank you very much for the support you've given to Washington School Neighbors. We hope that you'll continue your care and support for the next Community Connectors filling our places in the coming months.

> With many thanks, Catie Hauch Your Community Connector

Children's Ministry

Lenten Traditions Old and New

Families with children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to come together on Sunday, February 10 and participate in activities you may have heard about but never experienced and to learn how and why this traditions started. Why are we having some fun with pancakes? Why do some people decide to make specific changes in their lives during Lent? Does your family have some Lenten traditions of your own? We will meet in Room 204 from 9:45-10:45am for your family to spend some time together sharing in some faith-filled activities including making a small treat. Come and find ways make this a meaningful Lenten season as a family.

Youth Ministry

We gathered on the evening of January 5 at Grace Episcopal Church to share in an Epiphany retreat with First Presbyterian. The focus was on dreams and what they can tell us of ourselves and our faith. We enjoyed games, roller-skating, movies, devotions, an early worship service on Sunday, and an inter-generational Sunday school before heading home. We are looking forward to participating in a Teen Summit at Maple Avenue Ministries on Monday, January 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. day. A group of teens will meet together to share stories around ethnicity, class, access and exclusion. This will give youth a place to be heard, but also to learn who they perceive their allies are and what they expect of their allies in regards to voiced concerns.

High Hopes

The High Hopes Cran Hill retreat took place on January 25-27. In February we look forward to Laser Tag and another "Unplugged".

Fish Club

The Fish Club Cran Hill Retreat took place on January 18-20. Our devotions were centered on Provisions for our Journey and the season of Reconciliation.





Parents' Night Out Thursday, February 14 6:00 - 9:00pm

Due to the failure of the apple crop last fall, Fish Club was not able to make apple pies for the first time in a very long time. This has always been our best fundraiser, both in terms of money brought in and the fun we have making pies.

We are trying something new this winter. On Thursday, February 14 (Valentine's Day), Fish Club youth and sponsors will be hosting a Parents' Night Out. Bring your little ones, any age, to church between 6:00 and 9:00 pm. We will entertain them with games, stories, and snacks, while their parents have a special night out together. Donations will be accepted.

The Center of African American Art and History Presents A Benefit Dinner and Concert Featuring



February 9, 2013 • 6:00-9:00 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel • 650 East 24th Street • Holland, Michigan

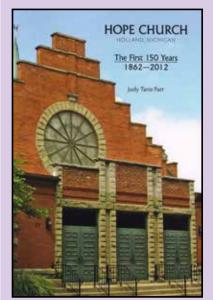
This Chicago native is known as one of the best jazz, vocals, R&B, blues, and soul artists to come along in quite a while.



Nick will perform a

benefit dinner/concert at the DoubleTree Hotel in Holland to help raise money for construction and computers to implement the Ancestry.com program at the Center of African American Art and History. Tickets are tax deductible.

Have you purchased the Hope Church 150th Anniversary history book by Judy Parr?



Books are available for purchase in the church office

\$15 each, please make checks payable to Hope Church

Makes a great gift for any occasion!

Self Defense and Karate for Adults

Fridays at 5:30pm Beginning February 8th Participants need to be over 16 years of age Class size is 20 persons maximum

Sign up by contacting the church office, (616) 392-7947 Cost: Donations of food or clothing for Community Action House will be accepted Class Instructor: Ric Beltran has 35 years of experience and is a 1st degree black belt Tai Kwon Do; 4th degree Japanese Karate; and 5th degree Sato Karate.

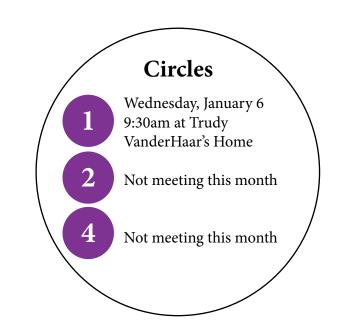
Flexibility and Balance

No classes on February 7 or 14 Classes Resume on February 21 and 28 at 1:30pm

Summer Camp Applications

Summer will come, sooner than you think! Applications are available outside the church office for Camp Geneva and Cran Hill Ranch. These Michigan RCA camps offer wonderful opportunities to meet new friends, have fun and adventure, and draw closer to God. Pick up your application soon to participate in the camp experience!

Attention families of 5th graders: Scholarships are available for your child. Contact Gordon Wiersma in the church office at (616) 392-7947.



Hope Church, Holland, MI: The First 150 Years 1862-2012 by Judy Tanis Parr

Brim Bunch

The February Brim Bunch meeting will begin with a Potluck dinner on Thursday, February 14 at 6:00pm. The program speaker will be Dr. Dale Dykema who will have just returned from a mission trip to Vietnam. Dr. Dykema will give a presentation of the work done by P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation) Program.

Preceding the speaker will be the potluck dinner that is always a wonderful buffet meal. Participants are asked to bring a casserole, salad or dessert ample enough for eight people. Those who have no cooking facilities or shopping access may contribute \$8.00.

The telephone committee will take reservations which need to be in by Monday, February 11. Everyone is invited and welcome to enjoy the evening.

Coffee Time at Warm Friend

The next Coffee Time will be at Warm Friend on Tuesday, February 12 at 10:30am. This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour of fellowship!

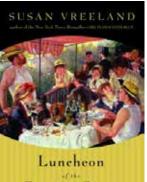
Taizé

All are invited to participate in this time of song, scripture, silence, and sacrament in the sanctuary on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 8:30am.

From the Fellowship Ministry

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, February 24. Pizza Sunday hosts are needed for 2013; please sign up on the Fellowship bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

We are also in need of salad suppliers. Also if you would like to donate a six pack of soda, please leave it in the church kitchen.



Boating Party

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, February 20th, at 1:00pm in the Commons. Deborah Schakel will be leading the discussion of *Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Susan Vreeland. Come be a part of a lively discussion.

February Birthdays

- 13 Kay MacKenzie Care Group 3
- 24 Ruth Donaldson Care Group 8
- 28 Jean Cook Care Group 8

If you are 75+ years old and would like to be listed in the birthday column, please contact the church office at (616) 392-7947 or office@hopechurchrca.org.



At Home With the Word

Daily Bible Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary

January 28-February 3

Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-8
Tuesday	Jeremiah 1:9-10
Wednesday	Psalm 71:1-6
Thursday	1 Corinthians 13:1-7
Friday	1 Corinthians 13:8-13
Saturday	Luke 4:21-30
Sunday	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4-10

Monday	Exodus 34:29-35
Tuesday	Psalm 99
Wednesday	I Corinthians 3:12-17
Thursday	I Corinthians 3:18-4:2
Friday	Luke 9:28-36
Saturday	Luke 9:37-43
Sunday	Transfiguration Sunday

February 11-17

Monday	Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-13
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday, Psalm 51:1-17
Thursday	Psalm 91:14-16
Friday	Romans 10:8b-13
Saturday	Luke 4:1-13
Sunday	First Sunday in Lent

February 18-24

Monday	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Tuesday	Psalm 27:1-6
Wednesday	Psalm 27:7-14
Thursday	Philippians 3:17-4:1
Friday	Luke 13:31-35
Saturday	Luke 9:28-43
Sunday	Second Sunday in Lent

February 25-March 3

MondayIsaiah 55:1-5TuesdayIsaiah 55:6-9WednesdayPsalm 63:1-8ThursdayI Corinthians 10:1-13FridayLuke 13:1-5SaturdayLuke 13:6-9SundayThird Sunday in Lent

Thank Yous

Dear Hope Church Members,

The lovely Christmas carol singing by church members, the beautiful poinsettia plant, the cookies and the wonderful bag of Christmas cards are all so appreciated. My most sincere thanks to you all!

I wish I could be with you on Sunday morning, but have you in my heart as I listen to the service over the radio.

I hope you all have a wonderful year.

With love, Winnie Hollenbach

Dear Hope Church,

I was surprised and very happy to see and hear the carolers here at Maple Woods. It truly made me happier, spiritually and mentally. I miss attending church, but I listen to the radio on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m.

~Mary Martin



www.facebook.com/hopechurchholland

View and print this newsletter in color by visiting the Hope Church website at www.hopechurchrca.org

The deadline for the March Newsletter is Friday, February 15

Sabbatical for Pastor Gordon Wiersma

July of 2013 will mark 14 years serving at Hope Church for Pastor Gordon. The Personnel Committee and Consistory have approved a sabbatical for Gordon this coming Fall of 2013. Watch for more details in the March Newsletter.

and finally...

As I write this article, we have just passed the half-way point in the worship services we will share together during what we now call the Season of Reconciliation. When I think about the expectations we bring into the Season of Epiphany –which is what our liturgical calendar calls this time after Epiphany Sunday and before the season of Lent begins – I am increasingly grateful for our Season of Reconciliation. Epiphany is a time when we look for the light of Christ coming into the world. We expect that light to be around us if we have "Epiphany eyes" to see it.

This is precisely how I experience one aspect of our worship service during this time: the Witness to Reconciliation shared by a member of our congregation testifying to a time in their life when they have experienced reconciliation of some kind. The first week, John Koch shared a stirring testimony about a time in his life when he felt isolated and depressed during a very difficult transition from army officer serving active duty in Iraq to civilian looking to reinvent himself professionally and personally in a new town. The second week, Jean Cook moved us by her profound reflections on her experience of reconciliation in the face of grief and loss after the deaths of her son and husband. We hope to share these and the remaining two Witness to Reconciliation testimonies on the church website. In each case, I was inspired and challenged to see where the light of Christ was on the move in people's lives. The inspiration comes from bearing witness to moments of illumination and clarity and healing in someone's life. I felt myself humbled to be invited into such an intimate experience.

The challenge comes as I recognize two things I didn't know before: how much pain a fellow congregant has endured and how much strength and wisdom and insight have come through that pain. I feel challenged to find ways to share those burdens better. I am aware that people share what they want to share when they are hurting. I respect those choices. I'm not looking to pry. I am looking, however, to make space for people to ask for and find support when they want it.

I also feel challenged to find ways to share more of that strength and wisdom and insight better too. I am regularly amazed at the depth of faith and insight members of our community have been given. And I wonder how we can offer more opportunities for that depth to be known and shared. These Witnesses to Reconciliation moments are one way. There must be more. I invite you into that inquiry with me and for now I simply breath a prayer of gratitude for the light of Christ that is active, alive and moving in the world.

Peace to you, Pastor Jill



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