Reflection for Monday,

February 12, 2024



Something strange is happening this week. Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day are on the same day. It feels pretty incongruous, but when I think about it, all religious practice returns us to love, including Ash Wednesday. Whether or not you decide to give up chocolate (or anything) for Lent, Lent is a good time to very consciously work to let go of distractions and practice walking more deeply into God’s love.

With that in mind, you are invited to join us on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. for our Ash Wednesday service.

Thanks to Kurt, and Lee, for offering meaningful worship while I was home sick. In a way, this bout with Covid felt like the beginning of my Lenten journey. I had to give up going to the conference I was supposed to attend, but it was so nice that I didn’t have to worry about the Sunday service and could just take an endless series of naps while I recovered. Mitch Breitwieser wrote to me (and I hope he won’t mind my citing him!), “Sickness is mandatory vacation for over-achievers.” I found this enormously amusing, and here I am on the couch, slipping a few tortilla chips to my dog and feeling my eyelids grow heavy even as I write. I see this episode of sickness as a message that making it to every meeting isn’t that important as long as I am pacing myself to walk in God’s care.

Here are a few things to note for the coming two weeks: the church council meeting is actually on February 21. And on Sunday, February 25, we will be hosting Rev. Niels Teunis in a “neutral pulpit” visit. That means that Rev. Teunis is under consideration for a position with a local church. We are honored that we can host him and the search committee and thereby support the regional community of the United Church of Christ.

Already, we see the rituals of past years repeated, at the same time new ideas and people are coming our way. Thank you for all the ways you come together as community while we move through this special season together.

In faith,

Elizabeth