



Dear Faith Family

January 19, 2021

Letter #47

Texts for Sunday: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; Psalm 62: 5-12; I Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20.

Happy Birthday greetings to Laurie Reister & Christine Morgan on the 21st, Jim Haberberger on the 23rd, Rosaleen Dickinson on the 30th and Bill Moody on the 31st.

Yesterday our nation honored Martin Luther King, Jr. His "I Have A Dream" speech is still powerful and on target. Because of MLK Jr., much of the voting rights act of 1965 and the civil rights act of 1964 became laws. Martin was committed to accomplishing change through peaceful protests. So, I found it devastating to see white supremacists and racists use violence to force their way into the capitol and drag the Confederate flag through the building.

As I watched the disgusting videos on the news, I wondered—how could this be? Where have I been? I know that passing laws does not change hearts. What I have realized is the danger in being uninformed, or just not paying attention, and then remaining silent when made aware of injustice and prejudice. Silence empowers those who do harm.

This past week I have spent a lot of time wondering who the people were that invaded the capitol, and why, despite proof to the contrary, they had chosen to believe the litany of lies regarding the presidential election. They are neighbors, church goers, police officers, the military. Our country is in crisis and it is disheartening. Our focus cannot be on what others did or do—but what we will do and how we interact with them. I found a list of helpful tips on the internet. Here are a few: don't be judgmental, people's feelings are real; use a non-threatening tone of voice and non-threatening body language; keep your emotional brain in check; respect their personal space; and ignore challenging questions. NCW United, edition 203, has a great list of websites for handling stress and how to talk to children during these confusing times.

It has almost been a year since the doors of the church closed. February 17th is Ash Wednesday; we will have a virtual worship and time to place ashes on our foreheads. Amy and Reed will donate ashes which I will bless and place in baggies for pick up.

According to a recent poll on the Social Progress Index, the United States ranks #28 worldwide in the well-being of its citizens. One in seven children do not have enough food. It is clear, our neighbors need us.

In the midst of political, medical, and economic crises, let us move ahead with hope. If we lose hope, we are lost. Psalm 146: 5,6 reads, " Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord their God. who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. We are not alone.

God bless you all,  
Pastor Nancy