



Chestnut Hill Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Dear Chestnut Hill Family,

As I sit at my desk writing my first newsletter for Chestnut Hill UCC, snow is lightly falling. I shiver and think about how much I dislike cold weather and winter, in general. But this winter has brought me much joy and happiness and lots for which to be thankful. As I began my official time with all of you on January 1, I must confess that there were days when I doubted my capability and wondered what in the world God was thinking.

I can't even begin to profess that I had any idea what God was thinking but I was reassured by the words we find in Jeramiah 29:11: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." And truly, His plans are greater than any I could have dreamed for myself. And so, first and foremost, I want to thank you all for inviting me to be a part of your family. Secondly, I want to thank you for your warmth, friendship and complete acceptance. I look forward to serving you and walking beside you for as long as God intends.

As we move into the season of Lent and Easter, I want to let you know what to expect.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. During Lent, many people choose to 'give up something' **as a sign of sacrifice and to test their self-discipline**. I would encourage you to think about this differently by considering adding something to your daily schedule. This can still indicate sacrifice as you will have to let go of something to add something. In addition, adding something to your day may very well be an act of self-discipline.

I will be offering a weekly Wednesday evening Lenten study via Zoom at 7:00pm beginning February 22 through April 5. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

As we approach Easter, please mark your calendar for our Good Friday service and, of course, Easter Sunday as we celebrate our Risen Savior with joy and thanksgiving and Holy Communion.

At some point in the future, I hope that I will have met most or all of you and may even have remembered your names. I am excited about the future as we enter 2023 together: side-by-side, hand-in-hand and heart-to-heart – learning, growing and serving. I am honored and grateful to be among you all.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Linda

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