

Pastor's Note

Dear friends,

I write this letter on All Saints Day, a day that we stop to remember all those who have gone before us, loving us, teaching us, modeling faith for us. While our understanding of "All Saints" certainly differs from that of Pope Boniface in 609, we honor our connection and interconnectedness with our lives through our faith.

Many of us have lost friends and family and we remember them with love and thanksgiving, as we also remember the members of this faith community and the broader community. I feel incredibly blessed to have been touched by so many saints, both living and dead. I am grateful to be surrounded by the "great cloud of witnesses" as the author of the Letter to the Hebrews puts it (Heb. 12:1).

November is a time for expressing our gratitude and sharing our joy. We begin with All Saints Day and the gratitude we have for those who have gone before us. We end with Thanksgiving, a day where we celebrate and give thanks for the Harvest and for all other blessings that we have.

We also give thanks that we follow the Prince of Peace as we gather at our Peace Pole to pray on the first Monday. On Veteran's Day, we give thanks for the willingness to sacrifice their lives and health when our nation asked them to do so. We also honor those whose convictions led them to serve as conscientious objectors.

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Monday, 04 November 2013 16:50 -

God has blessed us all in ways large and small. During this season of giving thanks, we are invited to reflect on how we respond to God. There is a Venezuelan song: "Va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar (God himself walks on our own path)." The words translate as:

The one who gives for God will shine like the sun. Give and it will be given to you with joy, with joy that which is given for God, with joy that which is for God.

God has called each of us into this community of faith, and has invited each of us to allow God's Spirit to be active within and among us in ways that are transformative both for us personally and for our neighbors near and far. Friends and members of Congregational UCC have generously and joyfully given of time, treasure and talent and we are all grateful. It is exciting to see how God transforms even our relationship with money in ways that move us toward more fully embracing the joy of giving as people created in the image of the One whose giving knows no end.

The ministry we all so cherish at this church is only possible through the mutual investment and commitment of all of us! Thank you for all that you have done! Thank you for all that you will do!

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Lynn