

“It's time to reconnect to the natural world for the sake of the animals, and our collective conscience. Because without spiritual health there can be no physical health.” --Gary Yourofsky

This September we continue our practice to celebrate The Seasons of Creation. We join other Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist and Unitarian congregations. We join Jewish synagogues and Islamic temples. This ecumenical, interfaith movement to celebrate God's creation and our place and responsibility within it. Connects us in a world wide web of gathering people striving to live into God's commandment to “till it and keep it.”

We will celebrate the Forest, the Land, the Wilderness and the River each Sunday until we gather on Saturday, October 7th to celebrate St. Francis' legacy and to bless our animals. Throughout this month, I invite you to consider the world around us. See the greenery and the flowers. See the birds and the squirrels. See the bees and the ants. See the beauty. But also consider where there is injury, disease, blight and neglect. Judeo-Christian teaching has long believed that God gave us creation to live abundantly. Over time and for long periods we have not remembered that God commanded us to keep it.

Humanity is called to be stewards of creation. We are charged to protect and nurture all of God's wonder and abundance, not just take our fill and exploit the richness we find. It is all too easy to forget that we are connected to the earth and all of creation. To forget that our own health is dependent on the health of our world. As the climate teeters and responds to our demands, we are becoming more clearly affected by our actions.

United in Faith is in a unique position to see the intersections of industry, forest preserve, and commercial and residential spaces. We live at this intersection. This month we will have opportunities to walk in the grasses of Reed-Dunning Nature Preserve, the pavements along Ir-

ving Park Road and Narragansett Avenue, in the quiet lanes of Mount Olive Cemetery, and through Merrimac Park. We will speak to our commercial neighbors

and the folks living along Dakin Street. We will ask how they are and introduce ourselves perhaps for the first time. We will listen and experience the human and natural worlds through the questioning lenses of our mutual health.

Please join us on Sunday morning and for weekday walks.

Additionally, a team has gathered to share hospitality with the patrons of the Food Pantry. On August 28th, we shared cookies, lemonade and smiles. We have agreed to continue this once a month through the rest of the year, assessing as we go. If

you are interested in joining us, please contact me, Bonnie, Harold E. or Carolyn. Our spiritual and physical health are vital to our shared life together. Sharing our gifts and reaching out to our neighbors is essential to our communal health. I hope that during this season as you consider your personal and our mutual health, you can reach out if you are in need and extend a hand if you are able. As Christ's body on Earth, we are indeed blessed to be God's hands, feet and voice in the world.

Pr. Jeanie