

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR JEANINE

Candles, singing and writing are the vehicles of our Advent reflection this year. Advent is the beginning of the church year. As the world around us races toward frenetic preparations and holiday vacations we as the Church are invited into 28 days of reflection.

Each Sunday we will light a candle signifying our focus for that week. Each candle has a name: Hope (the Prophecy Candle), Peace (The Bethlehem Candle), Joy (The Shepherd's Candle) and Love (the Angel's Candle).

Each Wednesday we will gather at 7pm for Holden Evening Prayer inviting Christ to light our way and remind us of the blessings we have been given.

There are many ways to practice reflection: the settling in for serious thought and deep consideration. Additionally, this season United in Faith is preparing for our next challenges, our next steps in our life on Irving Park Road. As part of this season of reflection, I would like you to use the next weeks to write a letter to the church. Most particularly a love letter. Would you please sit and reflect on what you are thankful about being part of United in Faith. Then using one of the templates below capture the answers to these questions.

In what ways has belonging to United in Faith inspired you?
What would you miss if United in Faith disappeared tomorrow?
Then write one of these letters:

Dear United in Faith,
I love you because...
If you disappeared tomorrow, I would...
With love,

Dear United in Faith,
I am writing a letter to you to let you know about the things that inspire me and that I love about you....

I am very thankful to have you in my life, and if tomorrow you would disappear from existence this is the impact it would have on me...
With love,

You can email your letters to me at pastor@unitedinfaith.org, put a copy in the offering plate, or snail mail it to the office: United in Faith, 6525 West Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL 60634. We will gather them through this advent season and compile them into a book to share.

Taking the time to do this will be a blessing to us all. Thank you for considering it. Thank you for being part of this congregation. Thank you for being the church in a frantic and frenetic world.

You make a difference by simply being here and I am grateful for you,

Pastor Jeanine