

## **FRIENDS...**

October is a month full of changes. The leaves will turn, the air will chill, the rain will fall and the Halloween costumes will pop up at Target. There is a lot going on.

Here at United in Faith, we will prepare for Reformation Sunday and give thanks for Martin Luther's 95 Theses. We will do so with a Festival! We will sing, our musicians are gearing up and we are calling all singers to join the pickup choir. We will rejoice in worship our **25th Reformation** as a congregation and then join for a celebratory lunch (see more on page #6). Please join us.

United in Faith is stretching out into the neighborhood. We are meeting the patron of the food pantry, the Friends of the Dunning Read Natural Area and reconnecting with the groups that use our building. The cooler weather opens some great opportunities as our neighbors are also stepping out more.

That is our planned work and play for this month. But certainly not all that is going on for us as individuals. So many of us meet well the challenges we are given at work, at school, at home. So many of us do it quietly and all too often alone. I have been recently reminded that as part of the family of Christ we can rely on each other. The reminder was offered so lovingly and gently, it made me cry. I needed to hear those words and to share my need. I also need to share it briefly with you. In early September I was diagnosed with Endometrial Cancer. I will have laparoscopic surgery on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and need to be away through October 16<sup>th</sup>. During this time Rev. Julie Boleyn will be covering for me. If all goes as planned, I should expect to be well recovered by November 1<sup>st</sup>. The largest impact of cancer on me has been a distinct drag on my energy level. I have been growing increasingly tired. My surgeon is optimistic that there will be limited interventions after the surgery, due to early detection and slow growth. I am relying on my faith and true belief that God has plenty for me to do before advent this year.

I deeply covet your prayers and am grateful for all of your support. I look forward to our gathering October 29<sup>th</sup> in celebration of our life together as a church and as a community.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Jeanie*