

Thoughts on getting back...

“Get Back” was the theme for this year’s Stewardship Campaign. Wasn’t it fun to watch the personalized version of the Beatles’ song performed by musicians Anam and Janice and singers Leslie and Annie? Susan and Allen worked their magic and it led to a very successful pledge drive. Thank you to all who participated!!!



Now as we approach the summer months, we are in a sometimes dizzying period of shifting guidelines, with hopes and expectations for “opening back up” our lives and spaces. I have been thinking about what I am looking forward to being able to do again as we “Get Back,” but also wondering about what I have now that I don’t wish to lose.

As a community we have the same challenges and opportunities confronting us. At home I have benefitted from learning how to be in closer contact with my sons and their families, through a running group text on our phones and scheduled electronic family visits. Of course, I am very much looking forward to having in person visits with them as soon as possible! But I hope we can continue to do the former while we add the sporadic trips back into our lives.

Here at Restoration/UUofMt.Airy, I’m wondering, too. What are we looking forward to being able to do again in our community and what have we established that we want or need to continue to do? Are there also conditions in our community/state/nation/world that require some adjustments in our ways of being together? Obviously, we will be a multiplatform community in lots of ways going forward. Along with our worship services, other gatherings such as the CommUUnity Potluck Gatherings, Black Lives Matter vigils, seminars and adult ed classes, committee meetings, and socializing such as “coffee hours” should all be available online.

But our Pandemic life together is more than just the ZOOM stuff. Numerous members and friends have extended themselves to make and keep connections with our community through weekly or monthly phone calls. Folks are sending more cards and written notes to each other too. I don’t want to lose these connections either.

What else comes to mind that you hope will be sustained after the doors of the sanctuary and Hale are unlocked?

I know we will be adjusting our By-Laws in the year ahead, but even before that we may need to make some adjustments for our life together. One area that we should look to right away is coping with the fluctuations in USPS mail delivery. For example, after pledging, I hope you received my short thank you note on the brightly colored copy paper. Did you get one? That was sent with regular first class mail. We currently mail notices about congregational meetings 10 days before the event, but some of us are receiving some mail weeks and even months late... can we trust that folks are getting the information they need from us when they need it? How else might we accommodate the variety of ways that people need to be contacted?

Although we are celebrating the number of folks who are vaccinated or will be soon and the children who will be vaccinated, the Pandemic as a worldwide struggle will not be over for at least another year if everything goes really well... so we must remain aware and prepared for future issues. Another area of concern that I am beginning to confront is that although we are excited and happy to be coming out of the isolation, there will be new worries and anxieties to acknowledge. How can we support each other through this transitional time?

We welcome your involvement in the shaping of our communal lives going forward; please share your thoughts and concerns with any member of the Board.

Sincerely, your Moderator, Fern