

THIS WEEK AT PEACE

MODERATORS NOTES

DECEMBER 27, 2020

Reflecting on 2020

What a week we had at Peace UCC! Reverend David Pattee, with much help from Luke Shepard and our Church Community, produced three stunning worship services for Christmas; the service on December 27th, the Christmas Eve Luminaria Walk, and the streaming service on Thursday. All were wonderful expressions of faith, love, peace and hope. The fact Reverend Pattee was able to organize all three events was a testament to his vision, creativity, and organizing skills and also a direct reflection of the depth of supportive talent we have in this Church. We are profoundly thankful for all the gifts we have received and are able to deploy to enable services such as these. Thank you all.

This week we bid adieu to 2020; as some have said, “Good Riddance”. I found a more charitable but equally applicable message: “Goodbye 2020 - don’t ever do that to us again.” Hard to disagree. The pandemic upset all of our plans in nearly every area of life as we knew it. Primarily because of the common public health interest in not gathering and socializing, those most human of daily behaviors. Work and leisure activities were all suspended or modified to such an extent as to be nearly unrecognizable.

We were also exposed to the additional stress of a wildfire season that was violently aggressive and frightfully persistent. Many in our Church community were adversely affected by displacement and/or loss, and all of us were startled at the overwhelming and pervasive environmental effects, the likes of which most of us had not previously experienced.

The calendar year began with the formation of a committee to search for a settled minister (yes, that was only in January of this year.) Deepest thanks for the dedication, persistence, and good work done by Mary Male, Lote Sanderson, Lisa Hoelsing, Nancy Abrams, Natalie Blackburn, Karen Cozza, Kathy Fahl, Bonnie Lange, Suzanne McLean, Ken Thomas, and Tony Augimeri. They made a wonderful choice in Reverend David Pattee and this Church has been blessed by his acceptance of its Call.

So, in this year of historic pandemic and terrible fire destruction; this Community has cause to celebrate our survival through the challenges and our receipt of blessings recently delivered. I don't much care for the way we got here, but I surely am grateful for the condition in which we find ourselves as 2020 draws to a close. Sending you wishes for Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love in this Season, throughout the New Year, and for many new year's yet to come.

Bob Lange, Moderator, Peace UCC.