

Partnership Sunday at AHCC

Each year the Asylum Hill Congregational Church dedicates one special Sunday to calling attention to all of the partners in the community that they work with in their mission to help those in need. AHNA is one of those partners. We along with all of the others who benefit from the Church's support are truly grateful to be called Partners.

In his brief remarks, Rev. Gary DeLong, Chair of their Outreach

Committee spoke of the Partners as having invited them (the Church) "to partner ... in doing God's work of love and justice." And that the intent is "to make the playing field level for every one..."

because too many of our neighbors are still playing on fields that are far from even." We in the neighborhood who have

been invited into this church so often and consistently over the years for countless meetings and other assistance in our efforts can only be humbled to hear that they also feel invited. Rev. Mia Douglas' sermon began with the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus who did not recognize the Risen Jesus as they walked with him, but only after He had broken bread and given it to them. She then pointed out that this Sunday, April 15th was also the beginning of National Volunteer week. She even mentioned the some of the physical, mental, health and emotional benefits of volunteering to help others before going into the spiritual benefits.

In talking about helping others, especially those less fortunate, she said "It's really not about what we're doing, though that is important... but about our ability to see ourselves in kinship ... it's an illusion that we are separate, we are all magnificent creations of the Divine ... the truth is we need each other."

After quoting both Fr. Greg Boyle, founder of Home Boy Industries and Mother Theresa, She concluded by singing a song by Hezekiah Walker *I Need You to Survive*.

I think I can speak for the neighborhood when I say "we couldn't agree more!"

Audio of the sermon is available at <https://www.ahcc.org/media/moving-toward-the-margins>
Photos from the service and reception are at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/n1UCft3mlzI0cuKR2>

