In the Spirit

A very incomplete list, but just some of the things I am grateful for this Thanksgiving –

The quiet of the sanctuary while I sort the candles that have burned down low, representing hope, healing and unspoken prayers;

Coming into church and finding the decor done, the flowers placed, starter candles lit and the hymnals stacked, because the people love their church;

A child seeing me in the wild and saying with wonder, "it's the church lady!"

Being able to get into the ICU when even the patient's best friend can't get in, but the clergy has that privilege;

Frantic texts with Kenneth when we were running worship services online, and everything went perfectly smoothly only because he fixed a tech error or mistake in a split second "behind the scenes;"

Messages with Mary every week, "You got something for the Ups?" and reminding me that once again I have forgotten to include the Candles in the order of service;

Uproarious laughter at staff meetings in the spirit of "If it's not life and death (because sometimes it literally is), it's not life and death" ;

Clem's poetry for every special occasion;

The look on everyone's faces during "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve;

Watching people walk the Labyrinth;

Being so proud that UUCGL is represented so well at ECCO gatherings;

Marching in the North Shore Pride parade and having a busy and welcoming booth;

The way our leaders prepared for the vote to become a Sanctuary Congregation;

The time Michael found the hedgehog abandoned in the woods and brought it to the board meeting and Rebecca rescued it;

Walking into My Brother's Table to see a group of busy church members cooking for a crowd of hundreds;

Carrying church children around the sanctuary to receive the blessing of the congregation during their Dedication;

Morning coffees, midday confabs and late night long conversations with board presidents, all the caring and worrying and holding and strategizing complex situations we did together;

Wrestling with the Word every week of worship and sermon preparation because of my deep respect for the congregation and desire to bring them the best possible effort;

Every occasion when there was evidence of grace, spiritual growth, and hospitality;

Kids carving pumpkins, energy, joy and creativity.

Have a blessed harvest celebration, everyone. "God is great, God is good," Amen.

In faith, hope and love,
Rev. Vicki

Remember, we will be worshiping with the Marblehead UUs on Sunday! Their service is in person and online at 10:30am. Visit them at uumarblehead.org for directions and more information.