

Pastor's Page – February 2017

The light has changed in the morning; the days last a bit longer; some of the chill has left the air. February is here and we begin our transitional month culminating in the beginning of Lent on March 1. February seems to be a month set aside for catching up on unfinished business, hunkering down and reading a book that has been sitting in your pile for weeks or perhaps planting those first seeds in the dirt to be ready for spring. The holidays that fall in February don't require travel or preparation. A simple valentine card or a box of chocolates is all that is needed to tell someone that you love them on the 14th. President's Day has no requirements at all, just that you take a day off from getting the mail or worrying about the stock market.

Here in Salisbury, February brings us the Ski Jumps – a celebration of community, winter and sports all in one weekend. In addition, we will be hosting our third *Peace Through Understanding* event on Sunday, February 12. We will be welcoming our Jewish friends, celebrating with music, art, poetry and dialogue. We also celebrate our young musicians at the end of the month with the annual recital.

My hope for us in this shortest month is that we will all take a deep breath and relax just a bit. Last year's election season, coupled with the early days of the new administration has brought much change to our world. Let's use this month to discern what is important to us as a church and as a community. Let's celebrate the adoption of our new welcome statement and start living into the beloved community we envisioned.

My prayer is that February will be a month when we reorient ourselves back to God, worrying less about events and more about evangelism. This is the month to invite someone new to church; to commit to serving on a committee; to volunteer in Sunday school or to lead the youth discussion group. Let's make February 'Church Month' as we work together to bring the spirit of God's love and grace to all we meet.

Blessings on your journey,
Pastor Diane