

Pastor's Greeting

Greetings to God's Children at AUMC!

March 2021

Christmas seems so long ago, as we now move through Lent. The fellowship and hugs of "normal" times seems even longer ago. And then I recall Jesus' command to "Go and make disciples of all nations." His command is not contingent on our situation—not even viruses! I repeat this reading from a Christmas benediction as a reminder that our work as Christians is never done. Christ never gives up on us, and so we must never give up on those around us.

When the carols have been stilled,

When the star-topped tree is taken down,

When family and friends are gone home,

When we are back to our schedules,

The work of Christmas begins:

To welcome the refugee,

To heal a broken planet,

To feed the hungry,

To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,

To share our gifts,

To seek justice and peace for all people,

To bring Christ's light to the world.

From Arise Shine, For Our Christmas Work Begins Now by Michael Dougherty in Prairie Messenger (December 23-30, 2015) page 11.

Lent—a time to give something up as a discipline to build our relationship with God. Perhaps it's a food, a habit, or a technology. Perhaps it's giving up something that wastes our time and keeps us from spending time with God—praying, reading the Bible, using a devotional, keeping a journal. Perhaps it's time to start something new—review a book from the church library, find a new way to volunteer, help a neighbor, collect trash that appears from under the snowbanks. Whatever course you choose this year, always remember that the Christ died to pay for your sins AND rose again to blaze the path to eternity with God in the perfect place he has prepared for us!

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Barre