

June 28, 2024



Dear Friends –

The youth arrive back from their service trip to Philadelphia *tonight!* All reports indicate the trip was a success – all work, and absolutely no funny business. ([Kidding, look at this picture of Ken, Jason and Ava at the Museum of the American Revolution.](#))

If you want to do a little bit more service yourself – or learn how to do it better, I hope you have signed up for Peace Camp. The camp starts NEXT WEEK (well... the 8th...so pretty close). It runs in the evenings after work, Monday through Thursday. As always, it is full of fun intergenerational activities, and brings to life the stories of scripture. This year, however, for the adults, there is an intentional focus on training. Yes, training. How do we do this church thing – this Christian thing – better? Why do we do certain things? Are they important? How do we meet people where they are? How do we actually welcome folks like we want to? How do we support one another better? We'll be talking specifics here – so come ready to take notes!

We are especially asking folks who do some of our front-line work to sign up – Ushers, Welcomers, Poss Shop folks, Deacons, Trustees, and Outreach teams. If you're on the "Friends at First" list to provide help when needed (or if you didn't know there WAS a "Friends at First" list!), this is for you. If you're new and looking to make connections – this is for you. If you have been here forever and are energized - or tired – this is for you! If you are looking to understand the biblical basis for much of what we do – this is for you! In other words, it's for you. *And* it comes with dinner, music, and good people having a good time (what could be better than that?). [**SIGN UP HERE!**](#)

The day we launch peace camp – in worship, on the 7th – we will also be having a celebration after worship, to give thanks for Jason, our Director of Youth Ministries, Chris, our Interim Director of Music, and Caroline, our Office Administrator, as they move on to their next adventures. For Caroline and Chris, this is not a goodbye – Caroline will remain local, and Chris promises to visit from Williamstown. But it is our opportunity to show them how much we appreciate the ways they have shaped our community and our faith. Let's shower each of them with cards and letters - write and bring a card with you on the 7th (or before) - we'll also have cards available at church for you starting this Sunday the 30th. Let's celebrate Caroline, Chris and Jason on the 7th!

Not everything is happening *next* Sunday however. *This* Sunday, not only will we take time to pray for the country on this fourth of July week, we also have **two** special treats to help us worship. The first is a guest organist, Kenneth Vigne, Associate Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church who is visiting us from Minneapolis. The second is that we will have the opportunity to hear from Tegan Bushey about her time in Philadelphia. It promises to be a worship that will inspire us for Peace Camp, remind us of who we are, and most importantly - who we can be *together*.

In faith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elissa".

[The Rev. Elissa Johnk](#), Lead Minister