

from pastor karen's desk

Lent: A Time of Promise

We are hearing a lot about failed promises these days - homeowners unable to fulfill the commitment they made when they took out a mortgage, unscrupulous financiers making promises they never intended to keep in the first place, pension funds that can't come through on their assurance to support retirees. It is making people feel like it is too risky to make promises, or trust promises.

And yet, our relationship with God is made up of a whole constellation of promises - promises made by God, promises made by us. This Lenten season, we are going to explore those promises.

March 1 is the first Sunday in the season of Lent, the season leading up to Easter. We are going to be using our Sunday morning time together, and our Wednesday evening time together, to look at Christian promises.

On Wednesdays, we are exploring the promises that take the shape of covenants between God and the world. Each Wednesday evening at 6:15, we will gather in the Chapel to look at one of those covenants in a time of worship and reflection: God's covenant with the creation through Noah; God's covenant with one particular people through Abraham; God's covenant with the people he freed through Moses and the law; God's covenant with David and his descendants through the throne; God's covenant with us through Jesus Christ.

On Sundays, we are exploring the promises we made when we joined the church, and which we renew every time someone else joins the church. Membership vows might seem a little perfunctory if you look at them like the contract you sign when you join the country club. But when you look at them as covenant promises between you, God, and each other, they take on new depth. Each Sunday we will look at a different part of that vow to be in ministry with the church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. This last one - witness - was likely not part of your membership vows, but the United Methodist Church recently decided we need to make that part of our response and promise to God as well.

Come, look seriously at the promises that connect you with God.