

Dear Theophilus,

Much is happening at LCPC during this season of Lent!

The Creating Community Initiative that I wrote you about last month will begin, not as some big campaign, but as a manageable process that will rely on the energy and resources of interested members and friends of the congregation as well as past members and the community. Session prioritized the seven components and authorized the first four: **The Mission Fund** (for specific projects as they arise), **a new piano for the sanctuary**, the first phase of the **garden park** in front of the church, and a **welcome center** in the Bigelow Foyer. The remaining three projects—renovation of the lower level, landscaping the parking lot, and panels to cover the wall pipes in Bloomfield Hall—will be done later. We will be using creative ways to raise money for these projects and hope that you will be willing to participate in some way. More details will follow.

The Rev. Susan Holderness began March 1st as parish associate who is available for **pastoral counseling on Thursdays**. Call for an appointment if you feel a need to talk with a qualified and very compassionate person. Susan sees people on a sliding scale fee basis.

On **March 11th** we are pleased to welcome Sam Rizk and his wife May Elian, coming to us from the Middle East via Washington DC. Sam will give the message at both services and both he and May will give a talk to the community the day before, **Saturday, March 10th**, at 3:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Each Wednesday morning in Lent we gather in the sanctuary for worship (using liturgy from the Iona Community) at 7:30 am followed by breakfast at 8:00 am. I invite you to come if you are able to this time of peace and fellowship.

If you are interested in the future of the Church then join me and the Rev. David Loar on **Friday, March 16th**, anytime between 10 am and 4 pm at **Arabica Coffee House on 185th St.** just north of Route 90. Dave is a friend and colleague of mine from the Lilly Group who is pastor of the Fairlawn-West United Church of Christ in Akron. His congregation has undergone great change in the past five years in order to be alive to the mission of Jesus Christ in their community. Come and talk with Dave about this and hear some of the new and emerging ideas about what church can be.

Peacejam is alive and well! This year the Noble Road Presbyterian Church has joined us in preparing for our trip to Kalamazoo to meet Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchu Tum from Guatemala who won the prize in 1992. We have three adults and nine students going from LCPC (more than double the number we took last year). This year the event takes place on Palm Sunday weekend (unfortunately for the churches involved) but after much thought I have decided to stay the entire weekend with the students. I will miss the Palm Sunday service

but have asked my father to preach that day and lead communion. Our project this year is spreading the word about Fair Trade items such as coffee and chocolate. Group members are going to coffee houses, schools and churches to encourage them to use these products which help the farmers who grow the coffee and cocoa beans receive a fair wage for their work.

I told you there was a lot going on! May you find peace and meaning on your Lenten journey.

Harry