

Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

Covenant is a word throughout the Bible. The first one happens after the Flood when God makes a covenant with not just humans, but all flesh, never to flood and destroy life on Earth again. The rainbow is there to remind God of this covenant and a sign of hope for us. The last one in the Bible is when Jesus, during the Last Supper, broke bread and poured the cup making a new covenant so, "That whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do it in remembrance of me."

The United Church of Christ is a covenantal church. It is the relationship that holds us together, not what we believe or what we do or how we do it. Our local churches have much in common, and yet are very diverse as we have over 4,000 congregations all over the United States.

Covenant is present in the covenant of marriage and the relationships of family members. It is present when our youth gather with other youth to go to DC to lobby for things important to them with the help of our national staff and office in our nation's capital. Our covenant is present when we gather on Wednesday nights to sing, Thursday to do Tai Chi, and on Sunday to worship and when we study and pray.

More and more our church and the national church are finding this covenant is based upon love, love for God and love for the world which is working for justice. God is love, so the Bible and people since have proclaimed and affirmed. It is a self-giving, healing, and affirming love that invites everyone to join in giving, healing, and affirming all life.

As we continue to move forward in this church and through our denomination, let us deepen the love that is patient, kind, not envious, boastful, arrogant, or rude. Not insisting on our own way but rejoicing in the truth. Let us carry and share the love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. For love never ends.

Peace