## Pastor's Letter

Our church is a unique blend of people with many strengths including special gifts, talents, experiences and viewpoints. Our church is also a group of people with many struggles - struggles not so different from any other group of people: we contend with physical and mental illness; we grieve our losses; we search for meaning and purpose; we long for companionship; we have moments of doubt alongside moments of deep certainty; we hunger, we hurt and we cry.

In times of both strength and weakness, we are a body of Christ that gathers – for worship and learning and fellowship and joy because our souls require such things in order to thrive.

As your pastor, I continue to try to respond to the deep hungers I discern among us - with a listening ear, perhaps a word of hope, a little patience, some humor, a measure of stillness, a prayer or two, and an occasional bit of music. Through visits, notes, phone calls, e-mails, and quiet moments of prayer, I offer what I can.

In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to gathering in small groups, to grow in our understanding of our faith, to come to know one another better, to pray, to reach out to others, and to see the face of Christ in our midst. I encourage everyone to keep eyes and hearts open for these opportunities when they present themselves. I believe they will be deeply enriching.

I am profoundly indebted to everyone in this Body who serve in Christ's name so beautifully, so steadfastly, so creatively. And I am thankful to be standing beside you all as we seek and celebrate the risen Christ, both within us and around us. I continue as your grateful partner in ministry.

In Christ, Tim