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TELL ME ANOTHER!

—By Ann Schrooten

*Stories have to be told or they die,
And when they die,
we can't remember who we are
or why we are here.*

Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*

If we've learned anything about ourselves over the last ten months in our physical distancing from one another, it's that we've really missed those ordinary, in-person interactions with our wider circle of friends, neighbors, and colleagues. There are people whose smiles we haven't seen in person in over 300 days. The voices of those who speak our names with such glad welcome seem very faint and far away. We're running low on all the different perspectives that exist outside our pandemic safe pods. And new stories from young friends and old are in short supply. The vaccine will soon reintroduce us to one another again, but in the meantime, why not turn to what many cultures throughout history turned to during the long winter: Sharing stories! Stories create community, bind us together, and wake us up to our own imaginations. Listening to the life experiences of others can help us to see ourselves in a new way. Sharing a story from our own experience with another creates a deeper sense of belonging.

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.

Maya Angelou

Many of us have been holding on to this thought over the last year: that even as we keep a safe distance, we belong to one another; as part of our community of faith to be sure, but also as human beings. One of the most powerful ways in which we can truly know we belong is knowing that our own story is worthy of being shared and that the stories of others are lovingly welcomed wherever and whenever we gather. Right now, we're having to be a little more creative to find ways to connect with others, but we've seen that technology provides us with some amazing tools that have allowed us to see and hear one another; to be together.

Storytelling is our obligation to the next generation.
Laura Holloway, Founder of *The Storyteller Agency*

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BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29:
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAYS, 9:30 A.M.

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)
Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

To view the adult forum from Sunday, January 3, click <https://vimeo.com/496978680>

JANUARY 10 "Bridge of Reconciliation" Rev. Richard Coleman

The Rev. Richard Coleman, Pastor of Wayman AME Church in Minneapolis and Executive Director of Hope United Community Development Corporation (HUCDC) will share information about the Bridge of Reconciliation, a growing movement of racial healing in our cities.

JANUARY 17 "Proposal for Disbursing Money" Stepping Out in Faith Task Force

You are invited to participate in a discussion of the final recommendations made by the Stepping Out in Faith Task Force. The proposal was presented at a town-hall style meeting in December (you can view the meeting [here](#)), it was approved by Church Council, and it will come to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 31. If you have questions or feedback for the task force, you can send them by email to steppingout@htlcmpls.org.

COVID, WORSHIP, JUSTICE, AND LOVE

Theologian Cornel West says that "justice is what love looks like in public." Based on our understanding of love and justice, the Council recently decided to continue online worship through Easter (Sunday, April 4). At that time, church leadership will reassess the COVID situation in Minnesota and discern a plan for the late spring and early summer. We know this announcement comes as a disappointment for some and as a relief for others; however you receive this news, know that we are holding you in prayer and compassion. This is hard. We love you.

