

Dear Friends:

As we typically do at this time of year, this Sunday we will pause to give thanks for the life and witness of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As I reflect on Dr. King's life and work, I find it helpful to remember that the Civil Rights movement was fundamentally a Gospel movement. The convictions and imagery were ripped from the pages of the prophets, and the soundtrack consisted of many old hymns and Spirituals. It was the truth of the Gospel that we have come to know in Jesus Christ that empowered Dr. King and others who tirelessly worked for Civil Rights despite the enormous barriers that stood in the way of justice.

As we reflect on Dr. King's legacy and witness, I want to share this prayer from the PC(USA)'s book of Common Worship:

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace and peace,  
Kyle

## Announcements

Here's what's happening in our congregation.

*The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.*

### Sunday School for Children—This Sunday

Sunday School for students in Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will take place Sunday from 11:15-12:30 in the Youth Room. Come and join us for faith, fun, and friends!

### Come Sing with Us!

After such a wonderful Christmas Cantata in December, come sing with us in 2024! We're doing some amazing music by some of our favorite composers: Elaine Hagenberg, Dan Forrest, Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, and Dr. Scott AuCoin! Women's Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Palm-Passion-Easter Choir (SATB) rehearsals start February 8, at 7:30 pm. We'll also be joined by cellist Elina Lang, violinist Larisa Epps, plus brass quintet. Hope to see you there!

### Ladies' Tea—February 3, 2024

Join us on February 3, 2024 from 2:00—4:00 p.m. for an afternoon of tea and fellowship at the Ladies' Tea. While enjoying tea, finger sandwiches, and desserts, we will have activities to get to know one another better and learn more about Christ's love for us. Tickets are \$10 per person, and can be purchased after the service starting on January 7. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors for a special afternoon event. We are looking for a few volunteers to host a table – see Krystal Doeblner (krystal.keeley@gmail.com) for further information about being a hostess. A hostess would be responsible for decorating a table, bringing a teapot and teacups and saucers for the table. An information table will be available after service on Sundays, starting January 7. We're also looking for men to be servers at the Ladies' Tea. Servers arrive at 12:45 p.m. to help lay out food, then top up food on tables and fill and deliver teapots to the tables throughout the Tea. If you would like to be a server, please contact Catherine Deane (catherinescott31@gmail.com).

## Serve God by Serving Others

### Ginny's Pantry

The pantry needs full-sized boxes of breakfast cereal and canned tuna. Donation bins are located by the main entrance. Thank you for helping us serve our neighbors in need!

### Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

Last month at TASK the director related to me that they have seen a significant increase in the number of families who are regulars at TASK. In 2022 they had 100 families who attended regularly. In 2023 they have 600 families that attend regularly. So the need has grown. In addition to the items already donated he said they are in need of children's personal items like shampoo and toothpaste. In the winter there is a continuing need for socks, hats and gloves. Also welcome are sweatshirts or hoodies.

### Shine and Inspire—Donations Requested

We are continuing to assist Sunnybrae and Robinson Elementary Schools with their closets. They are requesting the following items: Pop Tarts, shelf-stable mini muffins, Breakfast bars girls' clothing size 12 pants and shirts. Please place items in the marked bins in the foyer. *Please, no peanut or peanut butter products due to allergies.*