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Speaking Hope

"My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust." Psalm 91:2 OR a scripture of their choice

Friends,

This will be my last Letter of Hope for a wee while. Who could have foreseen that my decision on March 15, 2020 to reach out to the congregation through what was then a daily letter would unfold as such a precious ministry for us all.

At first it was my voice. And then Rev. Elise Feltrin, our Community Wellness Program Coordinator and David Kai, one of our Voluntary Associate Ministers added their voices. And then members of Council stepped in... and now there is a chorus of voices. Like a choir. All singing of Hope.

It turns out that there is a lot to say about Hope!

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." Desmond Tutu

That's the best thing about Hope, I think. That, it defeats the very thing that makes us need it. As light defeats darkness, so Hope defeats despair. Even the tiniest little bit. Even a mustard seed. Even a grain as small as yeast. *A little dab'll do ya.*

As I venture into my unknown territory on sabbatical, I know that the congregation also enters the unknown. My greatest hope is that my own time of rest will encourage rest among our leaders. And that my own time of restoration will bring restoration to us all. That my absence will not leave a vacuum, but create an open space – a freedom – a place for growth.

And that when we reunite on August 29 you will have as many amazing stories about the four months as I will.

Thank you for this gift! I promise to use it faithfully. And I promise again, as I did on Sunday during our glorious farewell service: "to pray for your rest and restoration, ... for focused study, reflection and devotion, ... even as I pray for my own return refreshed, renewed and recommitted to ministry."

Grace to you and peace,

Kate

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

