Reflection for Monday,

January 30, 2023



Let me try out this idea: learning is community.

Yes, we do learn things on our own. Much of my life as a poet has occurred over years of solitary practice at home. But even that has been constantly influenced and enlarged by what I read, my conversations with other poets, and—formatively—by my interactions with my teachers *and* my students.

I see the learning community as a dynamic organism burgeoning through tradition, experience, and innovation. And then I find myself asking, “What do I mean by ‘learning community?’”

A school is a learning community, but so is a church. Jesus was perhaps first recognized as a teacher: “Rabbi,” his followers called him. Following Jesus, his disciples also became teachers of the way. We know that the apostle Paul followed Jesus, but he had to rely on disciples of a previous generation to give him information about Jesus. In turn, he relied on younger followers to assist him; they too had something to teach and reveal about the nature of God.

I wonder if James’ scriptural assertion that “Faith is dead without works” is part of our whole process of learning and community. What we discover about God isn’t just to be stored away in our thoughts. It needs to be expressed, enacted and shared. To be the genuine good news of the gospel, we need to learn the good news together. Perhaps we are learning to pray, perhaps we are learning how to cook a meal for a hungry person, or perhaps we learning to trust that our community can hold us in love and healing.

This coming Sunday, I hope you will join me as we celebrate Holden Sunday, and our long partnership with this very special school. We are a learning community.

In faith,

Elizabeth

Announcements

From Mitch Breitwieser

Life Long Learning and Spiritual Formation News

In the announcements portion of the service this past Sunday, I announced that there would be presentations and discussion on the topic of Christian Nationalism in a second-hour event after the service on Sunday, February 12. I was mixed up. That event will take place on Sunday the 26th. On Sunday the 12th, Kurt Sunderbruch will give a talk in our ongoing Spiritual Journeys series. Please save time for both if you can, they promise to be enlightening. (Sorry for the confusion-- still learning the ropes.)