

FaithBIT



Sharing the Peace

Reflection by Brian Northrop

"God does not want us to be in disorder, but in harmony and Peace." 1 Corinthians 14:33

Sharing the Peace is one of my favorite aspects of our church service. I witness many people approaching others that they may or may not even know to pass this Peace along. Some even walking several rows away to give a simple wish for each person they greet with sincerity. Where else in your everyday lives can you come together as people of God to share intentionally such a genuine blessing with each other?

When we share that "Peace be with you", it's a brief, yet time-honored, tradition that reinforces our desire to be "Peacemakers". And isn't that something that our community and world could use more of right now? This expression even goes back to how Jesus himself greeted his disciples! ("Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them 'Peace be with you'", John 20:19)

During the pandemic shutdown last year, we weren't able to gather as we always have and share the peace with each other. I missed sharing this blessing! But, coming back together has revived this important connection. Despite the ongoing challenge of Covid, this expression of peace to each other can now take many forms, but no less diminishes the message and connection we share each week,

Our sharing of peace with one another is just one way our church makes a difference, and I am so grateful for the difference it makes in my life. And as a member of the Stewardship Committee, I think of how many other difference making ministries and moments our faithful giving supports. Our financial gifts to Immanuel make this "communion of community" possible, all those blessed moments where we share the good news and are "made new" by God in our faith journey.