

We are so fortunate to live in a culture of literacy in which we are able to read and interpret words that are written. Unfortunately, however, much of the material we read can function as a tool for violence and control. Merely consider the many caustic and hate-filled posts that can be seen on social media platforms. But even earlier in human history, in the tragic circumstances that transpired among the Old Testament characters of David, Bathsheba, and Uriah, the story centers on how David had just “taken” Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, and she had become pregnant. In order to cover up his misdeed, David eventually wrote an order to trustworthy general, Joab: In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die” (2 Samuel 11:14-15). However, in contrast to this Old Testament story where writing serves to initiate violence and control, we can consider Sunday’s text from 2Corinthians 3:1-3, where Paul maintains that members of the congregation are his letters that communicate the light and love of God — You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. What a way to think of ourselves in faith! . . . for the message we are called to share is the gospel of love and life rather than hatred and hostility, the word of faith and forgiveness rather than grudges and aggression, the message of justice and generosity rather than injustice and inequity. Indeed, every day we communicate with our lives a message that the world will read. What is the word, God’s Word, that we want to share? I’m looking forward to seeing you on Sunday. The scripture readings will be Isaiah 45: 1-7 and Matthew 25: 31-46 .I look forward to being with you at 10:30am either in the sanctuary or over Zoom.