

Dear United Church Congregation,

I have heard from a number of people about last Sunday's worship service-- not only how meaningful it was, but also how helpful it was to hear the meaning behind many of the elements in a worship service. Thank you to members of the worship class who planned and led the service, and to Kara Windler for her leadership, inspiration and sermon! This Sunday offers us another opportunity to learn and share in the mission work of The United Church. Wayne and Katherine Niles from the Democratic Republic of Congo will be visiting us. They are missionaries we support as a congregation. They will offer a Moment for Mission during both worship services and will teach the adult class (all combined this week) in Graves Hall.

Our scripture reading this Sunday is one of Jesus' "I am" statements in John. It is the last one when Jesus said, "I am the true vine..." (15:1). Many people find this statement very assuring and less confusing (or controversial) than some others. It speaks of our intimate connection to Christ as his "branches" throughout our lives. But if you read it all the way through, it packs a significant discipleship punch! It also talks about being "pruned" or "cleansed" and an expectation for bearing fruit in our lives of faith. If you have a chance to read it before Sunday-- What do you find assuring or inspiring in this text? What do you find difficult to accept? This is the last "I am" teaching from Jesus in the Gospel according to John. Don't we find hope in these words that our lives are so bound to his... our source of life and strength?

Join us for worship this Sunday at 8 and 9:30 a.m. Communion will be celebrated.

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8

Sermon: "Accepted Already!"

Classes begin at 11 a.m. (The adult classes will meet in Graves Hall, led by Wayne and Katherine Niles.)

All-church Potluck is at 12:15 p.m. in Graves Hall Boards meet at 1 p.m. and the Executive Council meets at 2 p.m.

As announced, the memorial service for Krik Krikorian will be Tuesday, May 29 at 1:30 p.m. here at The United Church.

We keep the family of Bob Brownlee in our prayers. We found out yesterday that Bob died on Wednesday, May 2.

Grace and peace,
David