

Covenant Partner Reflection – October 15, 2017
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Almost two years ago, Sara and I, with our then infant son Ephraim, wandered into UPUCC for the first time. I remember walking through the doors wondering why the GPS took us to an architectural firm. I remember - in my attempt to avoid social interaction with people I wasn't sure if I'd see ever again - keeping my gaze toward the floor as we made our way into the sanctuary. We tried to not to bring attention to ourselves, so we took seat towards the back. We were strangers in a new place, not knowing if we belonged.

But as I settled in, Ephraim started making eyes with every smiling face he'd see. And there were a lot of smiling faces. Some smiled, some waved, even the occasional peek-a-boo.

Then at the end of the service, I went to collect our bags, and when I looked up, Sara and Ephraim had disappeared. When I looked around, I found her chatting it up with the group of other moms in the corner that waved for her to come say hello immediately after the service.

We were welcomed. There were no rituals or requirements to be part of this community. We had already been accepted by this place.

And almost two years later, whether it be playing for the church's softball team, or being part of the membership committee, or deciding to provide sanctuary, UPUCC still stands as a welcoming place in what can feel like an increasingly less hospitable world.

In closing I leave you with one of my favorite pieces of our covenant:

In our efforts to walk more intimately in community, we will: Welcome fully persons of every race, religious background, age, ability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and economic condition, who each reflect the image of God.