



Minnetonka

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 6, 2024

Dear Church Family and Friends,

How are you this afternoon? In the wake of a deeply divided election, I'm confident the emotions we are experiencing as a congregation run the gamut. On behalf of the pastoral and staff team, I want you to know that we are here to support you however we best can.

Perhaps you're feeling deflated, unmotivated and lethargic. You might oscillate between rage and weepiness. Conversely, some of you may feel triumphant and powerful. Your step may be a bit lighter and your optimism, greater. But at the end of the day, the results of this election have not brought nor deterred the victory that God wants for this world. None of us can truly declare victory when there are children who go hungry, when wars rage and when the moral, ethical, political, religious, educational and social divides in this country continue to deepen.

And yet, we are called to pick up the broken pieces and move forward in love.

Some of you may not feel ready to pick up *anything*. You may wish the responsibility for living and modeling a faith with hope didn't rest on your shoulders today. Or tomorrow.

And yet, God needs us to lead our families, friends and neighbors in healing a broken world.

In order to mend what is broken, we need to recognize our struggle and allow those who need space to process the results of the election to grieve. We need to hear one another's stories and name our fears. And so I would like to invite you to join our church family **tonight from 5:30-6:30 PM for dinner** in the Fellowship Hall (menu: baked potato bar). Following the meal, I invite you to accompany me to the Sanctuary for an **individual or group time of prayer, meditation, sharing and/or reflection from 6:30-7:45 PM**. Essential to the work of healing is the process of acknowledging, naming and feeling our emotions. *This important work starts now.*

If your preferred candidate will not be taking office in January, please come and find solace with your faith community tonight. There will be resources and prayers for personal or group use and I will be present if you want to talk. And if your candidate of choice was elected last night, you, too, are invited and encouraged to come. Listen for the sake of understanding those who are hurting, support your siblings in faith and seek God's guidance for our shared life together.

By the power of our resurrecting God, we *will* rise, and we will do it **together**.

May the peace of God be with you, the love of Christ compel you and the Holy Spirit lead you forward this day,

Pastor Carrie Binnie