

A Reflection by Chuck Link

Lately, I've been reflecting on the impact of the pandemic on my personal engagement with our church. I was moved to think about this while reading Anne Lamott's book, Help, Thanks, Wow, subtitled: The Three Essential Prayers. While the substance of her book holds fundamental value, it was her writing style that stimulated my thinking. Every so often one happens on a book that appears to be written in your own voice – even from inside your head. Lamott's self-deprecating humor and more than occasional irreverence struck a particularly harmonious chord in me. Then, reflecting on the popularity of her books, I began to realize that many others have probably shared this feeling – which means that I was blessed to be a part of a larger community of dedicated Anne Lamott readers.

Now back to the pandemic... I have found myself engaging in every opportunity to meet with other St. Peter's congregants – beginning the week with the recorded weekly service (great props to Rev Susan, Chad, and all the readers for the uniquely "St. Peter's in the Woods" spirituality and character that transcend YouTube) – followed by the 10 AM Adult Forum, then the Zoom coffee hour. Tuesday evenings are filled with our Education for Ministry Zoom meetings and on Wednesday there is the Zoom Compline service at 7:30 pm. Thursday morning brings another lively Adult Forum on Zoom.

I have asked myself why this deeper sense of engagement with our church – and the answer comes back to that word, community. I appreciate the community of St. Peter's in the Woods. I appreciate its political diversity, its age diversity, its tolerance for the occasional latecomer or unruly child, and its very welcoming nature. I appreciate unselfish energy of our ministry leads and participants. I appreciate the way we worship together. And I miss that worship...

I am grateful for the blessings of technology that help to fill that desire for communal worship, at least a little bit. And I remain incredibly grateful to the community of St. Peter's for permitting me to call myself a member of this awesome church.