

Dear Bethany

I love our United Church Creed.

*We are not alone, we live in God's world.*

*We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.*

*We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:*

*to celebrate God's presence,*

*to live with respect in Creation,*

*to love and serve others,*

*to seek justice and resist evil,*

*to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.*

*In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.*

*We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*

Lent is a season of renewal, reconciliation, and repentance. As we gather on these five Sundays, I will be holding these words in my prayers. *We are not alone...* Often we think and act differently, we imagine it is all "up to us", we are alone. Some feel God is distant, absent, as the challenges continue. Are we receptive to God's presence? It can be challenging to be humble, contrite, and open to something new. Are we in a place to explore this?

I was thinking of a scene from my all-time favorite TV series, The West Wing. It reminds me of my favorite Bible story, the Good Samaritan.

*Leo: This guy's walking down a street when he falls in a hole. The walls are so steep, he can't get out. A doctor passes by, and the guy shouts up, "Hey you, can you help me out?" The doctor writes a prescription, throws it down in the hole and moves on. Then a priest comes along, and the guy shouts up "Father, I'm down in this hole, can you help me out?" The priest writes out a prayer, throws it down in the hole and moves on. Then a friend walks by. "Hey Joe, it's me, can you help me out?" And the friend jumps in the hole. Our guy says, "Are you stupid? Now we're both down here." The friend says, "Yeah, but I've been down here before, and I know the way out."*

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road"?* Being open to this stranger who walks beside us often reveals we are not alone "in the hole". And that stranger offers us resurrection, new life, he "knows the way out". Are we humble enough to listen to this stranger? Are we contrite enough to adjust our vision to see what the stranger sees? Are we open to the new life this stranger shares? Join us:

**Good Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.**

**Easter Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.**

I'm here to walk and talk through Lent, to Easter, with you. With a *burning heart*, Kevin Little

