

#FiredUp4ASC - Jonah Beukman

Arlington Street Church – Sunday, April 9th, 2017

Good morning, friends.

My father once commented, "Jonah's so funny. He starts nearly every situation being anxious and uptight, and by the end he's relaxed and happy and giggling." And it's very true. My initial approach to situations often is, "So, how long do I have to do this before I can go home and watch Netflix?" But then, there is a shift. The place and the people and the feelings and experiences that we share become familiar and comfortable to me. It becomes a home and I find myself not wanting to leave. I want that place to be insular; I want the home that we created with each other to never change, to never go away. I think, "Let's just stay here and tackle the world together and everything will be fine. This is all we need."

Does this sound familiar to you? Arlington Street Church has become one of these very special, very important places for me. It's a place where I gather with six wonderful members of the Transformation Team once a month and become inspired by their boundless energy, commitment, and passion for racial justice. It's a place where I sat with Harlow, Robert, and Joanna at Christmas dinner this past December and said confidently that there was nowhere I would rather be at that moment. (Kim's lemon bars helped, too.) It's a place where I come for respite on Sunday mornings, having a proposed agenda for the rest of the day, but find myself staying longer than anticipated, putting away tables and chairs after coffee hour, connecting with those that I have not met before. It's a place where I feel that I belong, and it's such an honor and a pleasure to be a member here. I am thankful for everything ASC has done for me and will continue to do--bettering my life in ways that are obvious and imperceptible.

This year's Covenant Renewal Sunday takes place on Sunday, May 7th. Covenant renewal is an annual celebration of generosity when we come together to make pledges that fund the ministry of Arlington Street Church for another year. I encourage us all to think about what church means for us and how we feel when we leave here after worship and fellowship on Sundays. It is up to us to translate our values into action, financing the beloved spiritual community that we wish to create. Please give as generously as you are able to on May 7th, and, as our closing hymn says, "come go with us to that land where we are bound,"

Hashtag FiredUp4ASC.