



FRIDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2021



Dear Ones,

GREAT NEWS! Our beloved Ksenia has been accepted to medical school! Starting in July, she'll be at Penn State, located in the heart of Pennsylvania — the Happy Valley. While most of the ~150 med students will be located on campus in Hershey, Ksenia will be one of 12 (extraordinary) students who are part of the [University Park track](#) located in State College. Ksenia's journey to med school officially took four years, but unofficially lasted over a decade. Ksenia, we are SO PROUD of you! *Congratulations!*

MORE GREAT NEWS! Our new congregational administrator, Joyce Kamau, started work this week (Jeffrey Bouchard is onboarding Joyce as he continues to work ten hours a week and begins to enjoy his retirement)! Joyce was born and raised in Kenya, then came to work in the United States as a translator (Swahili to English ... but ask her how many languages she speaks!). She's excited to be at Arlington Street, working at the intersection of her field (business) and passion (spirituality)! If you happen to be downtown, you may find Joyce in the church office. If you're two weeks out from your last Fauci Ouchie, please stop in and say hello!

AND YET MORE GREAT NEWS! It's Covenant Renewal Sunday, our annual celebration of renewing our Great Covenant of love and service! We'll make financial pledges for the coming fiscal year (beginning July 1st) to sustain the life of this beloved spiritual community (including our staff and our building) and to fund our work in the world ... and have a blast doing it! So many thanks to our mighty Covenant Renewal team, which meets year 'round preparing for this Sunday: our lead, the Awesome Al Ingram, Treasurer Liz Teixeira, Mary Gillach, Prudential Committee chair Philip Roberts, Rev. Beth, and me!

Yulia Yun opens the service on the piano — *Anytime You Need a Friend, You Are Not Alone*, and *Don't You Worry 'bout a Thing* — and closes it on the organ with *With a Little Help from My Friends*. In between, Ann-Marie Iacoviello sings (with herself!) *We Shall Be Known*. Com-

poser Karisha Longaker of the duo MaMuse writes, “This song calls us to learn to lead in love in these times of the Great Turning. It inspires us to appreciate the good company we keep, and go deep into ‘the well,’ our source of creativity, connection, and the ability to thrive — now!”

We shall be known by the company we keep  
By the ones who circle 'round to tend these fires  
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap  
The seeds of change alive from deep within the earth

It is time now, it is time now that we thrive  
It is time we lead ourselves into the well  
It is time now, and what a time to be alive  
In this Great Turning we shall learn to live in love

Tevan Goldberg sings *Gather the Spirit* — “Gather the spirit, harvest the power / Our separate ways will kindle one flame;” Hana Omori sings *Shower the People* — “Shower the people you love with love / Show them the way that you feel” — and *Close to You*; and Director of Music Mark David Buckles brings down the house with Humbird’s *On the Day We Are Together Again*. Rev. Beth joins me in the pulpit. My sermon takes its name from this year’s Covenant Renewal theme: #CloserThanEver.

Your generosity already astounds me. I am grateful for you Every. Single. Day!

*Faithfully yours, with love,*  
*Kim*

p.s. The prompt at Wednesday’s Tea with the Ministers was, “What’s the coolest thing you’ve ever seen?” Here are some of our responses: Polish-American classical pianist Arthur Rubinstein playing eight or even ten encores at a concert in Paris in 1960, hummingbirds, someone being offered a place at the table, hallucinations from dropping acid, Lily Tomlin (standing close enough to touch), a father walking joyfully with his child, the excited greeting of a dog, a bird drinking, reading the newspaper in broad daylight at 11:00 p.m. in Norway; John Belushi singing with the Cars at a concert in Boston, the top of New Hampshire’s Mount Lafayette in winter, Paris, a nest of baby sea turtles hatching out one night on a beach in Jacksonville, Florida, snorkeling with barracudas in a coral reef off Norman Island (Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island!) in the British Virgin Islands, Frenchman’s Cove in Jamaica, a school of dolphins, being pelted by flying fish while night sailing in Hawaii, a snow cake, German hang gliders jumping off Incan ruins in Perú, the Book of Kells in Trinity College Library in Dublin, Swilken Bridge at St. Andrews Links golf course in Scotland, the “thousands of diamonds” reflection of the moon in the water of Acadia National Park in Maine, standing in a slave pen at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, at a family reunion: being in a room of over 100 people, seven months to 90 years old, and learning how we were all related to each other, seeing a child with a cochlear implant hearing her parents’ voices for the first time, a river otter in the Charles River, Grand Canyon, a Jesus Christ lizard at eye level, the Great Pyramid at Giza, the edge of the Sahara Desert at dawn. And a late-breaking response: Walking through the entrance to Black & Blue in Montreal (October, 2000). It was a giant AIDS ribbon made of candles, which were being tended by volunteers. See it [here](#).

