Dear friend in Christ,

As human beings, we can't help but wonder about our future. Will we have hope? How can we find the courage to let go of what's behind and step into the future?

The future depends on what we do in the present. This is a message that's been passed down through the ages: "By steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."—Mahatma Gandhi

THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO IN THE PRESENT.

"We declare God's work," said Martin Luther King Jr., "and we are committed to completing it."

"One of the most important things we can do for the Kingdom of God is to use the gifts and resources that God has given us to share that Kingdom with others."

We are a church energized by our lively engagement in our faith and life. We are a church that's changing and adapting. We're taking our cues from Scripture, the current context of the world and the needs of people. We're not just living out the call to love our neighbors as ourselves; we're living out Erik Erikson's idea of generativity (see previous story) as they matter and "look for creative ways to tangibly support, resource, and involve the younger generation in family and community life." We are a church that recognizes the importance of passing on stories.

PASSING ON STORIES

"The future depends on what we do in the present." The past, however, is not a reality. It's a set of stories and traditions that shape who we are as a congregation.

"Stories drive our collective identity and they are often the foundation for the groups we belong to and the communities we shape."

"Throughout history, the stories we have told about ourselves have played a significant role in shaping our identity and our culture."

"It's important to remember that stories are not just about the past. They are also about the present and the future."

"Most of us don't have an accurate understanding of our own family stories."

"We are a church that recognizes the importance of passing on stories."

"We are a church that values the past, present and future."

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