

Building Caring Communities

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Outline of Sermon:

Throughout the sermon, there is a call-and-response:

Preacher: You taught me.

Congregation: What did we teach?

- I grew up in this church where I learned all of my foundational lesson about being in spiritual community.
- This congregation taught me that we care for one another with our words and actions.
- This congregation taught me that we that we care for the world by working for justice with those most directly impacted by poverty, racism, militarism, and the environmental destruction.
- This congregation taught me that conflict can be hard, but is natural and normal. When we engage conflict with shared expectations of how we will treat one another, conflict is also healthy.
- This congregation taught me that we can have very different understandings of spirituality and share a common belief that we need one another to make the world more whole.
- Caring communities practice the lessons this congregation has taught me:
 - They practice kindness in thought, word, and action.
 - They work to expand the experience of Justice for all peoples.
 - They make, break, and remake covenants in order to disagree in love and show agreement with great power.
 - They identify and move from a point of shared spiritual purpose even if their beliefs differ greatly.

- The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg has experienced hard times with conflict in the past.
- However, we know how to be a caring community.
 - We need to do what we know how to do more and better.
- We will have more conflicts in the future.
 - Practicing being a caring community will help us successfully navigate these conflicts.
- Being a caring community will not always be easy.
 - We will make mistakes.
 - We might hurt one another through negligence or on purpose.
 - We must practice reconciliation and recovenanting.
- The goal of caring community is the great message of our faith: Let's go out and do this work together!