

Introduction

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July 11, 2010

Welcome.

Welcome to our hour of worship.

Our service this morning is the middle of a three-part series planned by Sara Fretz-Goering and the worship committee to help each of us begin to think about and prepare for our deaths:

- What we might want included in a funeral or memorial service,
- How we might want our remains handled,
- And if and where we might want a memorial placed.

The idea to do this was sparked in part by a fascinating conversation between several of our members at last year's fall retreat at Shepherd Spring.

The series began with the worship service this past Memorial Day that included a sermon by Gene Miller on the Communion of Saints pointing out, among other things, that we do not live our lives in isolation, but rather in unity with those who have gone before—a Communion of Saints:

- Saints who are friends,
- Saints who are family,
- Saints who are fellow travelers in the Faith —the great Cloud of Witnesses.

Gene's sermon is posted on line — it will reward a rereading.

Today our service includes several of our community sharing their personal experience of the death of someone close to them.

Later, in early fall, our focus will turn to how we as a faith community handle death.

The hymns and scriptures in today's service come from important moments in my family's history and those of others contributing to today's service, and also from the All Saints Day service we have been observing here at Hyattsville Mennonite Church for the last, almost 15 years now.

Welcome to this hour of worship.