

Minister's Report for Town Hall 4.30.17:

The past four to five weeks have been intensive with the cycles of life. I was able to have very dear and intimate visits with both Don Davidson in his home the day before he died and also with Barbara Gibson in the hospital just days before she became non-verbal in her final days of life. In addition to this I have been processing the death of my grandmother after a very special final visit with her. Being present with death is a facet of the work of ministry that I cited as a deficit in my experience, yet this last year has held more death in CIC than perhaps any other year, including Annie McManus passing away in August. I have learned so much and am in awe of the depth within the CIC community in wisdom surrounding end of life issues.

Yet just this last week a recent CIC attendee, Katie, celebrated the birth of a healthy baby girl. Katie has expressed her gratitude and sense of belonging in the community. So the cycles of life never end, and so it is with our community as well.

In addition to this we recently celebrated Easter and Seder as a community. Both of these observances are major events in the life of CIC...and with that knowledge I was very aware of the challenges and opportunities in my preparations with facilitating Easter. As the weeks leading up to Easter approached I called upon the wisdom of the former ministers/leaders of CIC to help me understand the components of this large celebration. Looking back, both events were absolute highlights of my time in CIC.

There has been a four week lull in the Judaism class, but I am happy to have it resume this coming Monday. In addition, I have started the second of six classes offered through Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry and the School of Business related to financial literacy for non-profit leaders. This class is about branding and marketing. Am looking forward to this material as the curriculum development.