

“MINISTER’S Message”

February 14, 2020

Caring for one another as we head into Lent ...

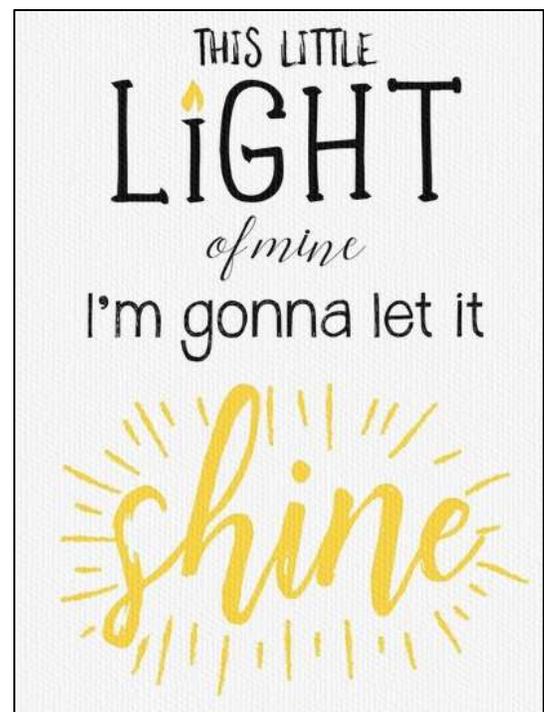
As I write this message, we are in the last days of the Season of Epiphany, the season of light. Throughout this season, the scriptures read in worship have reminded people of their call to discipleship and service in the way of Christ. We are called to live in the light of Christ, and be light for others, and indeed for all of creation.

As children, we used to sing "This Little Light of Mine". (Some of us still like to sing it!) The lyrics speak of how we all are instilled with God's light, and that we are required to let it shine. In doing so, we are giving the best of ourselves to others, and to God.

So what does that mean? It's about caring for one another; it's about engaging in conversation with others in ways that are respectful and honest - even, and especially, where there is potential for conflict or disagreement. It's about treating one's fellow human being as equal, without judgment or assumptions. It's about living in the light of love and care, as we live the golden rule of treating others as we would desire others to treat us.

That call to shine our light is not a seasonal call. It is a call to commit our whole selves to serve and love, each and every day of our lives. So, let your lives shine, all the time! Be a blessing to the world.

Tuesday February 25th is Shrove Tuesday, sometimes known as "Fat Tuesday, and also Pancake Tuesday". The tradition is to eat all those rich foods we so enjoy, (think eggs, butter, and bacon) and to



have a feast day, before entering into Lent.

Lent begins on February 26th, Ash Wednesday. The wearing of ashes, often in the sign of a cross on the wrist or forehead, is considered a sign of repentance, sorrow, and mourning. It helps us enter Lent in a reflective, contemplative way. The word Lent has a variety of sources. In Middle English "lente" and the Old English "lencten" refer to the lengthening of days. In French, "lente" means 'to move slowly'.

The colour for the season of Lent is purple, a colour for deep reflection, and in the church, traditionally the colour of penitence. As you begin your Lenten journey, remember, may you find moments of quiet reflection that nourishes your body and soul.

Blessings,

Rev. Tammy Allan

Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge of the United Church