

March 13, 2018

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Last night, I was at Washington National Cathedral, attending a book launch for Adam Hamilton, the well-known pastor who leads the largest United Methodist church in the country. His book is *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*.

Hamilton began his remarks by pointing out the many ways in which fear takes root in our lives, and then he talked about how faith can help us overcome our fears. He concluded by inviting everyone present to read the book. And, then he said, "If you find the book meaningful, encourage others to read it. I sincerely believe its message can help."

Hamilton's words got me wondering: *Do you find Grace Church to be meaningful? Does Grace make a difference in your life?*

My deepest prayer is that the answer to both of those questions is: YES.

Our vision is to be that "city on a hill" where people of all races and cultures can come to build their relationships with God and others, and our clergy, staff and lay leaders work very hard to fulfill that vision. We want to be a place where you can explore your relationship with God, in a loving, caring and supporting community; a place where you can learn what it means to follow Jesus in a world that is broken, angry and divided; a place where you can try to make a difference by seeking and serving Christ in all persons and loving your neighbor as yourself.

In other words, I hope we are meaningful.

If we are, I want to follow Adam Hamilton's lead and encourage you to invite others to Grace Church. I am sure that there is someone in your life – a friend, neighbor, coworker – who yearns to experience the unconditional love and acceptance of God that is at the heart of our community, and they are just waiting for someone, someone like you, to reach out.

There is no better time to share God's Grace than right now.

See you (and your friend, neighbor, or coworker) in church,
Andrew