

Dear Board,

This month, it has felt like there's simply not enough time. There are a few things contributing to this sense: being a ¾ time minister in a congregation of a size that could really use a full-time minister, being in the DRE search process, and adding in some new ministerial-led programming (e.g., every other week small group). I'm not overly concerned about this trend, but am very aware of both feeling pressed for time, and of working outside my contracted hours lately. I expect this to recalibrate, but if you are noticing that I'm slower to respond or perhaps even slightly distracted, this is why.

That said, I have only good news to report in terms of UUCSC. Every committee meeting I've attended is comprised of focused, energized lay leadership. Staff is thoroughly enjoying working together – as I think is evident – and even Bethany's pending departure as staff isn't impacting the good groove we're in. And I'm grateful to work with this joyous, imaginative, board.

Yet that sense of busyness, too much so, perhaps, is an important reminder.

As I talked about at the beginning of this year, my focus has been on our spiritual deepening, inviting us into more opportunities to be silent, still, and present to this moment. None of which we do well when overly busy. You'll notice an intentional shift (I hope) in my energy this month, where I'll do slightly less and invite us into peacefulness a bit more. As the world shifts, both our personal worlds and the larger world that holds us, this is perhaps our most important work.

To stay centered, open, and available to the beauty amidst the challenge.

That's what I hope to bring to you this March. Our Soul Matters theme this month is Wisdom. What can be found, I wonder, in doing less and being more? What is the wisdom we carry, but don't hear, until we slow or stop? What are the – small – changes we might make to allow ourselves space for time and clarity?

This is one of those times when I know that I need to practice what I preach. So, in March, you'll see me readjust, work my contracted hours, and let go of that internal pressure to get everything done. Will you join me, and see, together, where this leads is?

With love,  
Rev. DL