

Online Welcome April 21, 2024

Hello, family of God and welcome to New Covenant Fellowship's virtual service! My name is Renée Antrosio, and I am truly delighted to rejoin you in this space after three months of sabbatical. The online service has been a particular treasure while I was away- hearing the voices of our fellowship in song, prayer, scripture reading, and teaching encouraged and fed my spirit each week. Thank you to all who contribute to these podcasts, and a special shoutout to Kevin McGuire for putting them together each week and to our Associate Pastor Melissa Logsdon for coordinating and serving so faithfully.

Sabbatical for me was very much a time of listening- to poetry, to nature, to my breath, to the wind, to my body healing from the effects of the pandemic and the pressures within and without, to the Spirit speaking through wise teachers and God's continued call on my life. I look forward to sharing this journey again with you, as you have been ever on my heart and in my prayers throughout all of my listening and silence and seeking and journaling and reading and camping and hiking in the quiet of the wilderness and the bustle of National Park campgrounds, where I also practiced Not Listening to the voices of fear, but instead to the One who persistently says, "Do Not Fear."

And so as we enter more fully into God's presence and renew fellowship with one another, as many of us prepare for Passover and for Earth Day, may our ears and our hearts be open to listen- to the still quiet voice of our Maker, to our neighbors, and to our created world. Wherever you are listening, may you experience this service as an invitation and entrance into the house of the Lord. Amen.