



WESTMORELAND CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 Westmoreland Circle • Bethesda, MD • Bethesda, MD 20816

April 21, 2016

Dear Friends:

Greetings to you, sisters and brothers.

We write to invite you to join us at Westmoreland Church on **Sunday, May 15**, for our **10 am service** and for coffee and conversation to follow. This is a special invitation for our Muslim sisters and brothers in the DC area.

The past weeks have seen intensified anti-Muslim rhetoric in our country. This troubles us. We believe that the love of God is greater than religious traditions. We believe that all of creation is cherished by God. We believe that all people are sisters and brothers, children of God.

On Sunday, May 15, we celebrate the annual Christian holiday of Pentecost. The Pentecost story in the Christian scriptures tells us that God's people being able to communicate in a variety of language and speaks of unity for people from different nations. We see this as a sign of God's eternal bigness and love for all humanity.

This invitation comes with no "strings attached." We won't ask you to speak or be singled out in any way. We simply want you to be our guests, to experience how we express the love of God for all people during our worship service, and to know that you are valued as our friends and neighbors. We feel this kind of shared experience is a good way to bring about mutual respect and understanding.

Our worship service begins at 10 am. It will last until about 11:15. The service includes announcements of the community, congregational singing, prayers, scripture reading, a sermon, and music by our choir. On May 15, we will also baptize a baby, so you will see how we welcome children into our church. No special dress is needed for the service. Members of our congregation will be prepared to welcome you and guide you through the service.

Children are welcome to attend. We have nursery care for infants and toddlers. We have a special Children's Church during the service for 3 year olds through 5th graders. Or, children may remain with the teenagers and adults in the service.

After the service we have a light reception (coffee, lemonade, snacks). You are invited to that reception to have conversation with members of our community.

Again, we hope you will join us at 10 am, Sunday, May 15. And please pass along this invitation to anyone else who may want to join you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Timothy Tutt
Senior Minister

Rev. Alexis Kassim
Associate Minister