ROOTEDNESS  
by Associate Regional Minister–Camp ing, Carolyn Dugan

Rootedness. What image does that word bring up for you? This is the theme for Camp Tamarack in 2018 as we use Ephesians 3:17 (NRSV) “...and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”

I recently attended a conference in Dayton, OH, that challenged me as a Pastor and as a scientist. The main Bible study and many workshops were based in Creation Justice or Eco-Justice. Those terms can mean many different things, but one thing I want to point out is that creation and ecology include us, as humans. Sometimes it feels we have lost that connection.

“That Christ may dwell in your heart” – how does that occur for you? You may have invited Jesus into your heart, but have you allowed God to transform your heart?

“Through faith” – prayer is definitely a part of that. One big piece is Bible study. Notice I didn’t say Bible reading, but study. Are you reading the Old Testament as much as you read the New Testament? Do you see the connections to creation pulled out past Genesis and how Jesus ties it into many of his parables? Are you reading in context of the time and not just pulling the words into the 21st century?

“As you are being rooted” – roots grow down, sideways, and sometimes even up. Do you allow your roots to grow in your environment or is your environment too acidic, wet, dry? Is there some pruning or transplanting that needs to be done?

“And grounded in love” – there is data that shows root systems in forests "talk" to one another. What is your root system?

The next time you open your Bible to study, read with intention to see where creation is found and how the Christian faith is rooted in it. When you do that, your roots may grow deeper.

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