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## **Making the Future Real**

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

Friends,

It is a long while since I wrote a Letter of Hope to you – but not a long while since I have read one! I enjoy reading them almost every week, just like you do. What a blessing they are.

As this pandemic winds its weary way through our lives, and we watch another summer slip into fall, and feel the circle of social contact contracting once again with the coming of the frost, it can be a challenge to feel excited about what is yet to come. Hope can be a heavy burden to lift, especially if prior hopes have been dashed – travel plans delayed or cancelled; celebrations postponed indefinitely; hugs and kisses transformed into fist bumps and cheery waves.

It's amazing, though, what a difference one little decision can make in how one feels about what is to come. One thing to look forward to can mean a world of difference, shining like a wee little light out there in the future, which otherwise seems so dark. No wonder Jesus calls himself the light of the world – only a very little light makes everything bearable.

Let me share my little light of hope with you. Sean and I are engaged to be married! Did I surprise you? Apparently, this is the least surprising surprise I have ever had! Almost everyone saw it coming, including us. Because of COVID, and changing restrictions around gatherings and travel, we have no specific wedding date in mind yet. We might just be the longest-engaged couple ever – but that would be fine. The important decision has already been made.

And this gives us hope. Something out there in the future to look forward to. Perhaps Sean and I can share our hope with you. And perhaps, by having this little light – or any little light – out there in the future, we will discover that the darkness is not truly dark, after all.

Grace to you and peace,

**Kate**

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.  
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

