

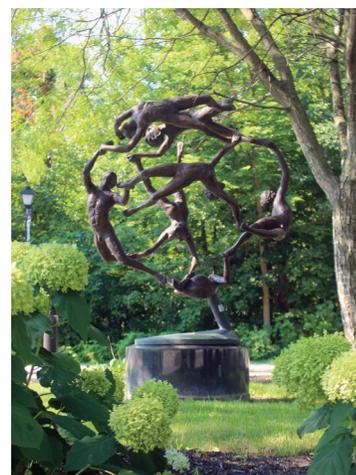
The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University

May 2020

Dear Friend,

As I reflect on the current COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the world, I'm reminded of last spring's newsletter where I highlighted Paul Granlund's *Constellation Earth* to reflect Bluffton's global perspective that "we're all in this together." I'm including this campus landmark again as the current reality broadens our experience and understanding of interconnectedness. Attitudes and actions do matter, all people are impacted, though differently and we are, indeed, in this together.

I highly recommend the picture book, "**Tear Soup: A Recipe for Healing After Loss**," by Pat Schwiebert and Chuck DeKlyen, which recognizes experiences of loss beyond the death of a loved one. During this pandemic, with disruptions in nearly every facet of our lives, each of us could add our own experience of loss and disappointment. It may be helpful to acknowledge these changes as loss, to allow ourselves to feel all the emotions and to understand that others are also experiencing personal and professional losses in different ways. So, be patient with yourself and others as we navigate this time of change and uncertainty together.



The Lion and Lamb ended programming mid-March when Ohio schools were closed and Bluffton University transitioned to online learning. Though I'm grieving the loss of connection with children and students, the focus on peace continues. During this time, I've learned to share the mission of the center through ZOOM technology including a webinar for the Ohio Peace and Conflict Studies Network, a presentation for Kiwanis Club of Lima as well as upcoming connections with guidance counselors, current and prospective students, and families.

Thank you for your interest and support of The Lion and Lamb's mission for peace and the various ways we are able to continue providing experiences and resources. Until the restrictions are lifted, you are welcome to visit us at www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb. Check out the Director's Choice link where I highlight my favorite picture books for readers of all ages.

And in closing, may you choose peace over panic and faith over fear. And, as our good neighbor, Mr. [Fred] Rogers would say, do these three things: "1. Be kind, 2. Be kind, and 3. Be kind!"

With gratitude and hope,

Louise Matthews

Director, The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center