

**MARCH MONTHLY THEME:
RENEWING FAITH**

Too often faith is understood only as belief in the absence of evidence. Such belief is anathema for minds trained to the value of scientific analysis and critical thinking. However, faith can also be understood as trust, as holding on, or as being loyal and keeping the faith. After two trying years of pandemic, political strife, and rising impacts of climate change, we may be wondering just what we still trust and place our faith in. To what do we remain faithful? This month we ask how to renew our faith when so much is falling apart. How do we listen for the longing that beckons us to believe that it can be better? Maybe faith is more about remembering our longing for what we love and who we want to be, more than it is an act of restoring our trust that everything will work out well. Maybe the peacenik was right: We must remain faithful to the fight not because change is guaranteed but to ensure that we are not changed.

Which question is calling to you? Where is it leading you?

1. What have you trusted since childhood? What have you never lost faith in?
2. Has too much doubt ever gotten you into trouble?
3. Despite its losses and challenges, Covid has clarified priorities for many of us. So, because of covid, what are you now more faithful to?
4. How is your faith in democracy doing?
5. Do you think faith in the American dream is dying?
6. Is it time to take that leap of faith?

Wise Words:

Faith is homesickness. Faith is a lump in the throat. Faith is less a position on than a movement toward.

Frederick Buechner

Once a reporter asked A.J. Muste, "Do you really think you are going to change the policies of this country by standing out here alone at night in front of the White House with a candle?" Muste replied softly: "Oh I don't do this to change the country. I do this so the country won't change me." [*Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat*](#)

Do not believe anything just because I said it. Put it into practice. See for yourself if it's true.

Buddha, in the Kalama Sutta

Faith without works is dead. It's just not nice to sit around — you can sit around in your prayer breakfast with all this faithy-faith and all this talking and thinking and 'hallelujahing' and it's nothing. It's nothing to God. I mean, I think it pisses God off.

[*Anne Lamott*](#)

Beware the faith that does not trouble the world.

[*Steve Garnaas-Holmes*](#)

Everything worth doing in the world is a desperate gamble, a game of chance, where nothing is certain.

What is love? Is it not a wild and sublime speculation that can end in ecstasy or despair?

What is courage? Is it not a hazardous risk of fortune that can end in victory or defeat?

What is adventure? Is it not a blind leap in the dark that can end in joy or disaster? [*Rev. David O Rankin*](#)

It's lack of faith that makes people afraid of meeting challenges, and I believed in myself. *Muhammad Ali*

The moment we break faith with one another, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.

James A. Baldwin

The opposite of faith is not doubt. It's despair.

Sharon Salzberg

There is always light.

Only if we are brave enough to be it.

Amanda Gorman