

## Is Evolution Scary?

Rev Pam Easterday

Years ago, my family lived in a school district where a few were insisting that intelligent design be taught in public school science classes. They feared that learning evolution would endanger their children's faith. As they saw it, if the seven-day creation of the Bible was not historically accurate, the foundation of all their faith was threatened.

Absolutely, all are free to believe as they wish. However, it is sad that some believe that using our God-given intelligence is a sin. Our society depends upon educated researchers understanding how germs evolve in order to find new cures. All biology stands upon the shoulders of bold theorists such as Gregor Mendel and Charles Darwin. Science keeps asking and learning the hows. Still, evolution is a fact, obvious in fossils and your doctor's office. To understand how we are similar to laboratory creatures, or how grain can be developed to feed more of the world's hungry, science trusts the reliable evolution process. To keep up with rapid changes in the world and make good decisions in health care or the voting booth, we all depend on scientific principles.

Frankly, we should fear for the faith of youngsters taught that they must avoid science. When they face contrary facts, will they abandon a faith they know is hopelessly removed from reality?

In the United Church of Christ, we say that our faith is 2,000 years old; our thinking is not. We know that freedom in faith allows us to ask questions, to grow and to respond to the world around us and the Spirit within. We take pride in an educated clergy and the great contributions our faithful make with open hearts and inquiring minds.

The Bible is a light to our path, not an idol to worship. There, we can learn about tricksters, slaves, fathers and sons, murder, betrayal, justice, mercy and everlasting love. Through stories with origins older than the Hebrews, we hear that our God created the world and us. That God is powerful, patient, faithful and loving. How blessed we are to understand as well as believe.

In Micah 6, we learn that the Holy One expects justice and kindness, and wants us to walk humbly with God. Big assignment. We need to work together, with all our hearts and all our minds, for God's work in the world. February 10-12 is Evolution Weekend in houses of worship across the country. No need to check your brains at the door. Bring questions. All are welcome. St. John's United Church of Christ worships Sundays, 10:30 AM at 10 Main St, Tiffin. [www.tiffinstjohns.org](http://www.tiffinstjohns.org)