

Small Talk – July 9 2021
By Michael Small

Some thoughts early on a Monday morning. I first noticed it yesterday, and then again, this morning – looking out my window there it was. A bright burnished orange and red sphere – it was the sun rising for a new day. The brilliance of the sun was diminished by the smoke in the sky coming from the fires in Ontario Canada. (Sunrise tomorrow at 5:35 am) Yet, even with diminished light there was a beauty, a wonder, a mystery to the beginning of another day. The words coming to mind were simply “yes!”.

As the summer moves swiftly by there are many more opportunities to gather with friends and family. Even though Covid-19 persists with those too many who are unvaccinated, there is a joy and wonder in our gatherings. Last night at the Gazebo Concert, listening to the Golden Harbor Quartet – there were many new faces – and there was a song in the air filling hearts with joy. There was an ease to that event as we even sang along! (Sunday, July 18, Paul Nye and Jeff Menten)

Listening/participating virtually to the opening worship of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ I was reminded of the wonderful diversity of the UCC in the people present both in voice, song, dance as they represented the whole people of the UCC. There was joy, miracle, and wonder as together we explored the evolving and expanding theologies of an inclusive faith grounded on this ancient earth. We, together, are “Rooted in Love”! (The next worship service can be seen on Wednesday, July 14 at 7:00 pm at www.ucc.org. The closing worship service will be on Sunday, July 18 at 5:00 pm. All services will be available on-line after July 18.)

As I ponder summer, the events of the last couple of days, the gatherings occurring as we move beyond the grip of the pandemic, I am reassured by the words of Pablo Neruda *“To feel the love of people whom we love is a fire that feeds our life. But to feel the affection that comes from those whom we do not know . . . is something still greater and more beautiful because it widens out the boundaries of our being and unites all living things.”*

As we unfold, as we risk to truly look, see, experience the earth and all who live upon this very precious earth – rooted in love we are united, intimately connected with all living things – even the wasp that stung me the other day when I entered its space.

Unfolding means that we stretch, unfolding means we move beyond our typical comfort zones. We explore. Our engagement with the world and those who dwell upon her and within her go deeper. We are guided by an intentionality that is informed by love and possibility. We strive to understand and be understood without the filters of what is normal, predictable, safe, and easy. It might mean that we arise just after 5:00 am and quietly witness the dawn of a new day. It might mean that we walk that extra mile with a friend or a stranger listening deeply. It might mean we arise deep in the night to see the Northern lights. It might mean that in conversation and engagement we shed the untruths that have guided and misled us – opening our hearts, minds, and bodies to that

which is possible when life is rooted, shaped, formed simply out of a deep love and a wondrous curiosity.

Together and in your sacred alone time – may we all strive to be fully human upon this earth and fully engaged during these days of summer. It will then become a time of unfolding and surprise.

In the spirit and agape love of Jesus, Michael

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