

Small Talk – August 11 2021
By Michael Small

“I can see clearly now . . .” Momentarily the skies have cleared, the winds pushing out the haze and smoke from Canadian fires. There is a brilliance in the air and on the horizon. Last night while sitting outside with family, for the first time in a while, we were able to see the vividness of the stars and a few meteorites falling from the Perseids Meteor shower. There was a stillness, calm, quiet that brought to us tranquility and peace to our souls – and joy. It was simple. There was no entry fee. We did not have to stand in line and pay for this show. We only had to be present with creation and each other.

Another song reminds us to *“Slow down You move too fast You gotta make The morning last, just Kickin' down The cobble stones Looking for fun And feeling groovy.”* (Simon and Garfunkel *The 59th Street Bridge Song*)

When we slow down, we can see, we can hear, we can feel deeply, and we can live deeply. A member of the church recently shared a story of going home and being stopped, in the middle of the road, by a beautiful Snowy Owl, slowing down and being groovy. It was a joy to stop, see, and experience.

As I write these words, I am aware that tomorrow at this time I will be manning the “Man Cave” (0700 – 1100) at Community Church of Walker UCC’s Annual GOOD WORKS RUMMAGE SALE (8/12 – 8/13 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM [8/14 Saturday 8:00 AM – 12 noon]) There will be little calm but full engagement with you who are a part of this community, and yes there will be joy! There will be conversation and searching for that perfect treasure, long lost – just for you. People will meet people. And it will be good!

And yes, surely, there is a time for working in the busy world, tackling hard and big issues, being productive, creating and making the world a better place for our children and the many generations that will follow. As we do this work, may we always be joyful and find satisfaction and joy in the work done. May we find those times to slow down and smell the roses “and feel groovy”. May there be calm and steadiness in our doing and may there also always be engagement and respect for the other!

In a world too often ruled by chaos, fear, and shouting we can and WILL BE the difference. For so many there is the need to stand out and be right and demonize those who would dare to disagree. May we simply stand and be present. And may we soak life in.

The words below are from the 8th Psalm. I can’t say it better! Read and take in these marvelous words, ponder them and may they give you sustenance on the wonderful and miraculous day!

*God, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your Name in all the earth!
You have placed your glory above the heavens!*

*From the lips of infants and children
you bring forth words of power and praise,
to answer your adversaries
and to silence the hostile and vengeful.*

*When I behold your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you set in place—
what is humanity that you should be mindful of us?
Who are we that you should care for us?*

*You have made us barely less than God,
and crowned us with glory and honor.*

*You have made us responsible
for the works of your hands,
putting all things at our feet—
all sheep and oxen, yes, even the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.*

*God, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your Name in all the earth!*

On these beautiful summer days may we live these words.

In the spirit and agape love of Jesus, Michael

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