

Small Talk – August 23 2021
By Michael Small

I read the short biography of Lance Benson and was ready to be entertained, amused, and have a generally good time – but little did I know. Lance, this young man from the Bemidji area, humble and small in stature, filled the sanctuary with his resonant voice embodied in his movements, almost dance, using words of wisdom, framed in music, song, and storytelling. If you missed the concert, take time to sit down, watch, and receive good news, dare I say a gospel of kindness, friendship, family, love, relationship, and surprise.

We who are members and friends of the United Church of Christ proclaim a StillSpeaking God. What does that mean? It means that when the holy and sacred words were canonized, the divine did not step back and say, “It is finished” and walk away from humanity, from the cosmic creation still unfolding and being made new in EVERY MOMENT! It means that you and me, and the many, many others who live upon this planet continue to be the feet, hands, arms, eyes, ears, and voice of the most holy presence that stood at the beginning of time and who is still engaged profoundly with doing a new thing.

Waking up this morning to the earth refreshed by last night’s rain, the air washed of pollens and haze, the lake sparkling as diamonds from the pure sunlight, I am reminded that this is a NEW DAY! It has never occurred before. It will never be again. As we step into this day may it first be with gratitude. The Psalmist says it clearly, “This is the day God has made, let us celebrate with joy!” (Psalm 118:24) The writer of Philippians reiterates, “Rejoice in the Savior, always! I say it again. Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4)

Even on those days when there is discouraging, tragic news, I say it again. Rejoice! Even where the problems of the world feel like they will never end, be reminded that this is a new day. Celebrate with joy! When the winds of climate change blow, wreaking destruction, awaken to a new day – walking, moving, working into this day with overflowing gratitude.

As I view the pictures of destruction, whether in Florida, Tennessee, the east coast, Afghanistan, the fires in the Boundary Waters, or the west coast – what I also always see is people helping people, resources coming to the places of disaster from all over the world, songs being sung in Central Park and Walker MN, doctors standing unified to heal as they are again swamped by Covid-19. I see hands helping hands, no matter the color of their skin, or economic status, or sexuality, or political and religious beliefs. Together we emerge from tragedy as the Phoenix arises from the ashes of death, stronger, wiser, and healing.

We are stronger together. We are unified in the most painful moments. After the storm we awaken to a new filled with the possibilities of a new creation – May it be so.

In the spirit and agape love of Jesus, Michael

To Donate

And watch 11:00 am Sunday worship services live and at any time.

Go to www.uccwalker.com

Find back issues of "Small Talk".