

Minister's Musings ~ November, 2021

There is so much that I could write about, particularly given that we are so close to re-opening our Sunday services with our new multi-platform capacity! The plan is for us to broadcast from the sanctuary on October 31st and invite a limited number of people to attend on November 7th. Fingers crossed and good prayers for it to go as we hope. Either the Board or I will continue to be in touch with you about this through other means.

Instead, I would like to share a letter I wrote as an Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor. I sent it to the Home News Tribune. As of this writing, they haven't published it yet. I don't know if they will. So I am sharing it here with you:

On my 54th birthday, I got arrested. It was the best gift I could give your grandchildren.

During the week of October 11-15, hundreds came to Washington, DC, from all over the nation: from the countryside, reservations, and cities; infants in arms and elders walking with support; all hues of skin and diversities of gender; people of conscience and of different faiths. This action took place a few weeks in advance of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26) to urge the current administration to declare a climate emergency.

Led by indigenous leaders who have been Water Protectors in the face of oil pipelines snaking across the continent, we were there to pressure elected officials to end fossil fuel-based projects now, rather than continuing to extract this death sentence for our communities and our planet.

We lamented with residents of "Cancer Alley" in Louisiana ~ communities along oil refineries ~ paying a lethal price for our society's addiction to oil.

We followed youth who did not give their consent to this dismal future imposed upon them, especially if we do not change our economies and our consumption right now.

Altogether, there were 655 arrests for non-violent civil disobedience. Some were arrested in front of the White House, hoping to gain the attention of a president who has said he is on the side of the climate (but continues to approve permits for oil drilling on federal lands at a rate equal or greater than President George W. Bush). On the last day of the climate action, some of us (including me) were arrested for blocking an intersection near the Capitol, for Congress must find the will to sustain the required transition to keep to a minimum the over-heating of the planet.

I was charged with "crowding, obstructing, or incommoding." I had to look up the definition of that last term; it is another word for "inconveniencing." On my birthday, it was the least I could do: inconvenience myself in order to disrupt business as usual, so

that ALL our grandchildren can celebrate THEIR 54th birthdays with joy, rather than under the burden to come, if we do not turn away from fossil fuels now.

Declare a Climate Emergency NOW!

I am blessed to be on this journey with you.

~ Reverend Karen