

Minister's Musings – January, 2022

Because of staff leave schedules, including my own, our monthly news will go out much earlier than usual this month. This means I find myself writing this message to you that is supposed to speak of January, yet it is only December 21. In any Before-Times year, I might have gotten away with being able to write something now that would still be relevant in January. Or relevant for at least the beginning of the year. The pandemic has changed all that.

We just past the 800,000 mark of COVID-19 dead in the U.S. Over 5.3 million throughout the globe. With the current spike, driven by the Omicron variant, we know that this number will continue to grow. At this point in time, we know that while highly infectious, Omicron is milder in those who have been not just fully vaccinated, but also boosted.

If you are eligible for a booster and have not yet had one, **please get it as soon as possible**. Even as more and more people are saying it is just a matter of time before most or all of us get this virus, it will help a huge percentage of us have milder symptoms. This is good for us, for our loved ones, and for the straining health care systems in our midst.

Already, many at TUS have contracted COVID. Some have had mild cases, recovering with little fanfare. But there are those who have had, or are having, lasting, significant symptoms. If this is you, please know this community of care is here to be of support to you. We do not want you to feel or be alone.

We don't know what the coming year will bring. We can make educated guesses. Yet, the further out we try to plan, the less likely we approach accurate. This is true for our personal plans and have been true for the past nearly two years when it comes to congregational programming.

**The pandemic, with its spikes and variants,
is making real and necessary
the spiritual practice of living in the Now,
practicing letting go of our nostalgic notions of the Past;
gentling ourselves to not hold too tightly to the Future.**

With that in mind, I do want to share with you that we are hoping to hold what I am calling Winter Weekend activities through the months of January, February, and March. These activities offer us the chance to stay connected with each other, an important tool to each of our mental health and to the congregation's resilience. TUS Winter Weekend Activities are a collaboration by individual volunteers, including the Membership Committee, Sunday Salon on First Friday, and myself. Many of the activities will be virtual. Some might be in-person, once the pandemic spikes allow and following our guidelines.

**Let us all covenant:
in all the ways that we can
help each of us and all of us
get through another pandemic winter.**
[#damnthepandemic](#)

I am blessed to be on this journey with you,

~ Rev. Karen