



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

Making it through the Storm

Here we are on the verge of a once-in-a-century snowstorm, a massive system that is set to shut nearly everything down for a while. I got a call from my cousin who lives in my hometown in Illinois, letting me know that she had someone knowledgeable in such things come by my dad's house to make sure it was prepared for the expected weather. Thus, my three brothers and I will have no surprises when we arrive there from our homes in Colorado, Kansas, Maryland, and Virginia at the beginning of February to work on getting the house ready to sell. She reported that all the milk and bread was gone from grocery stores there already. We reminisced about how we were raised with a year's worth of nourishment laid by so no last-minute shopping for basics was necessary for basic survival, how not many people live that way now, prepared for whatever comes.

Extreme winter weather is a reality. And yet, it does serve as an apt metaphor for our current setting. ICE is loose on the streets of America, needlessly cruel, brutalizing documented and undocumented citizens alike, targeting people of color or who speak a different language or with an accent, separating small children from parents, arresting a five-year-old in Minneapolis and immediately transporting him to a detention center in Texas. Moreover, with the president tasking the US military to invade a foreign nation and kidnap the leader, and with further bullying techniques against allies as he demands US ownership of Greenland, a major winter storm serves as a metaphor for what is happening on a global scale now. Friends and fellow Unitarian

Universalists have gone to Minneapolis to support the on-the-ground resistance and local mutual aid and support efforts there. Where could we do anything meaningful to try to prevent annexation of Greenland?

The unanswered question is whether anything can be done to truly change the direction the president is taking our country. Is there anything that can be done to save the institutions of our democratic republic now that the ICE storm has hit? America had its chance to prevent absolutely all of this at the ballot booth and couldn't be bothered, either because people actually embraced the cruelty explicit in the campaign rhetoric or were not bothered by it enough to act.

Whatever else we may feel called to personally and as a community of faith, we've also got a period of hunkering down and doing what we need to do to survive the storm and emerge afterward ready to rebuild what has been broken and damaged.

Last night I rewatched the 2021 Marvel Studios movie *Eternals*, in which the superhero team that is tasked with making sure the grand plan unfolds as constructed discover that the plan requires indiscriminate destruction and incalculable human loss. They find that together, they have the power to begin changing the narrative. We may not have superpowers, and we are definitely not immortal. But we do have the power, slowly and with both care and trepidation, to begin changing the narrative. We have the power to say that the end does not justify the means.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Paul