

Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

We are heading to Washington, DC, flying out from the Twin Cities on Friday morning. I heard from Rev. Kevin Brown, our Associate Conference Minister who has led this trip 4 times, the usual size of the group is about 20 youth. This year we are bringing 48 youth and 23 adults. I hope that Congress, at least our representatives and senators, will take notice that our youth have something to say.

There is a lot of griping out there about the 'youth of today' being out of touch with the world or lazy. They were born in the shadow of September 11th, maybe were aware of the 2008 financial crash, grew up with Barak Obama as President and then Donald Trump. They have grown up with school shootings and a rise in violence and a climate that is already unstable and extreme, with the terror that it is only going to get worse. And I almost forgot the pandemic which isolated them from their family (can't visit Grandma and Grandpa because we might kill them), friends, and the world for two years. They can connect with anyone around the world in a matter of seconds and probably do on a regular basis. They are in a program, school, or scheduled event from the moment they wake up to the time when they drop into bed to finish up their homework, sometimes not getting to go to sleep until midnight or later. We live in a country where gay marriage is legal, but abortion and health care for transgender youth is being outlawed. They are finally given a glimpse that how they see themselves and who they love is being talked about, but it is also turned into a weapon in our culture and political wars.

Yep, many adults think that we can go back to the good ol' days. As Billy Joel sang, "The good old days weren't good, and tomorrow ain't as bad as it seems." Jesus calls us to go forward in this world towards the kingdom of God. I have a lot of faith and hope in the youth of today that they will help us move forward and make the world a better place.

Peace