

Barbara's Wastepaper Record

How can people move beyond isolation, a banal individualism and a lack of purpose? One way is by coming together with others in religious communities that fire our intellects, touch our hearts, connect us in loving support with others, turn us to face the world's painful realities with honesty and critical analysis and direct us into deeds of service and social activism. Through assembling – coming together – people can harness what James Luther Adams called- “the organization of power and the power of organization.” The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker

There is no replacement for showing up. I know technology brings many gifts. You will get this weekend update within seconds of our sending out by e mail. The web connects us to virtually everything- virtual and real. Still there is nothing as powerful as showing up. Being present. Being one part of the gathered existence, the interconnected web of all being, as experienced in the finite, the partial; sitting next to your neighbor at worship, sharing a cup of coffee after services, teaching the RE children a wisdom life lesson, cleaning up the sanctuary (FYI it is Oct 2), marching for a meaningful cause, singing for the simple joy of it.

Maybe that is why singing together is so powerful. (Isn't having choral music wonderful!) With singing you cannot intellectualize the experience. You must breathe and sing! In the Commedia's Inferno, Dante's characters do not sing. They do cry out in dissonance and isolation, reliving their worst act, for eternity. It is hell! As Purgatorio opens, the first voices you hear are those of a choir singing in unison. There begins the reader's hope.

Last night the Common Council met in a large circle in the sanctuary. I brought a singing bowl, and then we sang a brief song of gratitude and began our committee “check-ups”. The council's work can harness the “*organization of power and the power of organization*”, *can facilitate the success of our common* chosen goals.

To help us do that we each made one promise to and one request from each other. I said I can promise the leadership that I will “*listen*” and I said that I needed *sincerity*. As I drove home I reflected and revised. What I need is when we speak to one another, we ‘*speak truth in love*’.

I invite you to reflect on a promise you can keep to UUCD this year and name one thing you need this year from this community.

I hope I see you Sunday.

Barbara