

December 11, 2020

Trinity Musings #36: from Rev Brian Goodings trinityminister@bmts.com
Serving Trinity United Church: Collingwood

I called Pfizer yesterday to offer them space in my fridge for the vaccine but had to leave a message.

I don't know exactly what temperature it is but the darn thing often freezes my lettuce and cucumbers. Surely that should be cold enough? Besides, I told them, given the demand, it's not likely going to be in there very long.

I figure I have room on the main shelf, between the milk and yogurt. The beer is on the door so it shouldn't interfere with the vaccine and it's not in there very long either.

Chapman's ice cream plant in Markdale apparently called them to offer them room in their freezers too. I think Pfizer is going to take them more seriously than me and not just because of the beer.

I'm delighted but not surprised that Chapman's stepped up because it is one of the best employers in the world. When their plant burned down a few years ago the Chapman family kept almost everyone on the payroll until they could rebuild. They are heavily involved in the Markdale community and even donated two million dollars to the school board to keep their local Beavercrest Community School open. That's just who they are.

If their freezers aren't cold or big enough, they've even offered to build special freezers to store the vaccines. Cool eh?

This Covid time has brought more of the best in us than the worst and, although there certainly have been some pretty tragic consequences, I feel pretty heartened by how we've rallied to meet this challenge.

However, even though we are on the verge of getting over this Covid time, it's hard not to feel a bit discouraged and impatient. We've been letting our viral-guards down and the recent steep increase in the number of infections reflects our fatigue and waning vigilance.

We need to remember all the things we did to keep the numbers low in the spring and vow to stay the course, for at least the next six months.

Even as I write, our area looks like it's about to be declared a Red Zone which will mean pretty strict measures will have to be followed. We've lost some of the ground we gained, but not permanently.

I may have played my last hockey game today, for at least a few months until the numbers come down. (And just for the record...the goal I got really should have counted...Mike-the-goalie did not have full control of the puck ...and "no" Whitey and Brad, I did not hack his glove!)

Hockey will return, as will most other things we used to like to do, but I don't believe we are the same people we were before the pandemic.

I believe we are changed for the better and there's been a shift in the way we live and the way we think about life.

Lots of people will never go back to driving to an office five days a week and that's a good thing. Many people, having had to educate their own children at home, have a lot more appreciation for how hard it is to be a good teacher. Some families have been able to move, from large busy cities, to smaller communities like Collingwood.

Since so many people planted gardens last summer, there were a lot more flowers and seeds for the bees and the birds. The levels of air pollution, caused by humans, have been reduced, and all life has benefitted.

We have come to realize that we cannot depend on global corporations and foreign governments to have our best interests at heart. When push came to shove for PPE gear...we got shoved. We are standing in line now for the vaccine because, although we once did, we no longer have the capacity to produce it here. Now we know that even if it costs slightly or a lot more to make things at home, self-sufficiency, in troubled times, is worth whatever it costs.

We also have come to realize that when the best minds in the whole world concentrate on finding a solution together, it can come a lot quicker than we thought possible. And that we are in this earth-story together.

My hope is, that after this pandemic has passed, we don't simply stampede back to the planet-devouring ways we were living before the unplanned pause.

I think we've learned a lot about the better angels of ourselves and slowly have started to change for the good.

I hope to God this is so, and also, that you will buy all your ice cream from Chapman's from now on. The vaccine you get might have come from their freezer too.