

2-22-21 FUMC Devotional ... TRANSITORY SNOW!

I must admit that while I spend little time on Facebook, I *did* love seeing all your pictures in the snow last week! Some of you were *trying* to get a tiny bit of fresh air while appreciating the historic *amount* of snow we had! As the snow and ice began to melt, (it's going to be 70 tomorrow!) most of us enjoyed the fact that we won't likely *have* snow like this again for an awfully long time!

Our temperatures last week were too cold, and our snow was too powdery to see any great snow *sculptures*, but I came across some SPECTACULAR snow art on the internet! Did you know that for 30 years, almost every year in January there has been an International Snow Sculpture Championship in Breckenridge, CO.? Teams from around the world compete to hand-carve 20-ton blocks of snow into enormous, intricate works of art and artists are only allowed to use hand tools, creativity, and inspiration to bring their ideas to life! They are quite incredible, (check out this 1 minute [VIDEO](#)) but here are some I loved:



It's fascinating to me, that while most artists create art that will have some **permanence** so it can be enjoyed or hung on a wall, transitory art, as snow and sand sculptures are called, have extremely limited windows of enjoyment because artists must rely completely on the weather! In a Wired Word article, British nature artist, Andy Goldsworthy, said: "It's not about art, it's just about life and the need to understand that a lot of things in life do not last."

British land artist Richard Shilling said this: "There is even greater joy when the artwork created with temporary materials reaches its zenith in only a short moment before beginning to degrade and returning back to nature from where it came. All that effort to see that magical moment before you to simply just leave it behind," Shilling added. "There is no way you can possess or own that moment beyond that time so you have to simply leave it and let it go and that is very liberating indeed and an allegory for the transience of our existence."

When we reflect on the meaning of transitory snow and sand art and beauty, our **faith** teaches us a LOT about the transitory nature of creation, including human life.

In our Lenten Ash Wednesday service last week ([watch here](#)) we talked about the transitory nature of life (*Genesis 3:19 says ... "You are dust, and to dust you shall return",*) but the prophet Isaiah provides some wonderful imagery of this in chapter 40 also:

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. IS. 40:6-8

God's promise to forgive, comfort, and rescue His people is **real** and it's based on the eternal, sure word of God, and His WORD is **everlasting!**

In the last year we have certainly learned that life is transitory! We are about to hit an unimaginable COVID death number of 500,000! We have not been able to make future plans, go on vacations, or see our families ... we've all had to adjust and make sacrifices. James, in chapters 4 & 5, reminds us of what's IMPORTANT in life ... he speaks to those who boast about their plans to travel and make money, and to the wealthy who place great stock in their riches and luxurious possessions which he says have rotted, rusted and been eaten by moths. (James 4:13, 5:1-3, 5),)

He wrote: *You don't really know about tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for only a short while before it vanishes. Here's what you ought to say: "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." But now you boast and brag, and all such boasting is evil. James 4:14-15*

Our lives are as wispy as mist, or sand or snow! Our lives are as inconsequential as a shadow, lasting "a little while" before they vanish, so what matters is doing the right thing!! This means simply ... loving God and loving others!

As we enter the season of Lent, you may find it meaningful to reflect on the meaning of your **own** mortality: when you see petals drop from a flower, spot a grey hair in the mirror, feel an unfamiliar ache in your body ... never forget, your glorious new life began the **MOMENT** you said yes to Jesus, it is now, it is real and it is **IMPORTANT!** Imagine how much better it will be someday when He calls you home!

Pastor Debbie