

Tired of living through historical moments

By Cassie Oliver, Young Adult Volunteer, 2020-21 Virtual YAV Year

"I am tired of living through historical moments." That is what my friend, another young adult like me, wrote after the events that transpired at the United States Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6. It made me think of all the historical things that have happened over my 27 years on Mother Earth. The Oklahoma City bombing. The Y2K scare. 9/11. School shooting after school shooting. Movie theater shootings. Concert shootings. Concert bombings. Marathon bombings. More school shootings. Historic hurricanes that destroyed cities. Women fighting for equal pay in athletic and entertainment industries. Police brutality. A global pandemic. Accusations of election fraud. An attempted coup on the U.S. Capitol.



These are some of the things I thought of after the recent violence. I know that there are many things I have omitted. My soul is so weary.

One thing that I have started during this pandemic is reading devotions over Facebook video with a friend in Ohio, while I was in Florida and now Wisconsin. We have been getting together reading social justice-based devotions every day so that we can stay connected with each other, but also connected to what Jesus is calling us to do for his kin-dom.

I graduated last May from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, virtually, along with my classmates. If I only ever take one thing away from seminary, I can sum it up in one word, "community." Community for me is the foundation of my life's ministry. I find myself to be a bridge builder in the communities in which I am a member. Connecting oppressed people with community organizations or connecting people of power with the amazing work that the laity are doing already in our community.

This pandemic has harmed our feeling of community. There is no more passing of the peace while standing on the burgundy carpets or sharing in Holy Communion with those around you in church. I know that I am missing that. But serving as a Young Adult Volunteer during this pandemic also has shown me many other ways that we can be in community with one another from around the country and around the globe.

Shalom, y'all.

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