

## Letter from the Minister

### *Leading a Legacy Life*

January, 2025

One of my all-time favorite poets is Nikki Giovanni. She passed away on December 9, 2024. The first time I heard of her was at the end of 1992. A year later, I drove from Bloomington to Lafayette, Indiana to hear her speak. She read her poem, “Those Who Ride the Night Winds,” and I became frozen with awe. Nikki was a small person with massive talent. She seemed born to communicate in an honest and yet profound manner.

Shortly after the poet’s death, Krista Tippett of the “On Being” podcast spoke about her. Regarding Nikki Giovanni, Krista said,

“Her words and her spirit feel, if anything, more necessary now. In the 1960s, she was a poet of the Black Arts Movement that nourished civil rights. She became a professor at Virginia Tech, where she called forth beauty and courage after the 2007 shooting there — a precursor to violence that has become all too familiar in American life in the intervening years. And she was an adored voice to a new generation — an enthusiastic elder to all — at home in her body and in the world, even while she saw and exulted in the beyond of this tumultuous age of her lifetime.”

As we enter a new year and people talk of making resolutions, I invite you to consider making these two.

First, this one: *I will in whatever way I can commit to carrying on the legacy of individuals such as Nikki Giovanni. Striving to be at home in my “body and the world”, I will incorporate honest but loving interactions. May my words and efforts carry our society one step closer to the world those before me had envisioned.*

And then, this second resolution: *Although the world is filled with fear and fracture, I will remember to persistently seek new and novel experiences that will leave me motionless with astonishment.*

Happy New Year!!

Rev. Amy Kindred