

John McKnight and John O'Brien "The Thread" and introduction to Breakout Groups for Reflection...

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

thread, Judith, place, great, unfolding, John, threads, circled, tragedies, poem, deeper, small group, suffer, waters, Marsha, disruptive, snow, John McKnight, named, means

SPEAKERS

John McKnight, John O'Brien

John McKnight

It's a wonderful place to be, all of you. We've flown here. We are here. You see right in the middle of where we are is the Village Well. And we're going to all drink from that well. And we're going to drink the waters of memory, and the waters of possibility. So, we are now circled in this magic place. We're going to be refreshed in ways that you can't imagine at the beginning. So, let's go.

John OBrien

Thank you, John.

This is a poem by William Stafford. It's called The Thread.

There's a thread you follow.

It goes among things that change.

But it doesn't change.

People wonder about what you are pursuing.

You explain about the thread.

It can be hard for others to see.

While you hold it. You can't get lost.

Tragedies happen. People get hurt or die.

And you suffer and get old.

Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.

You don't ever let go of the thread.

John McKnight named for us threads that animated the lives of three Summer Institute ancestors, who we welcome to this gathering.

Marsha Forest: All Means All.

Judith Snow: We must be present.

Pat Worth: We must be connected.

And if you're like me, those threads that John named have resonance with my own sense of purpose. I'll borrow another idea from Judith Snow, her idea of a Great Question. And we'll use that idea to guide our small group reflection. Judith said, "A great question refuses to be answered. And so it keeps leading us into deeper connections and deeper thinking." "A great question refuses to be answered. And so it keeps leading us into deeper connections and deeper thinking."

So our question for reflection~ **"As we live together through these disruptive times, what are my great questions?"** As we live together through these disruptive times, What are my great questions?

And Bill, when you're ready, send us back? Zoom us back to the small groups?