

healing

T. Aaron Zeller, MD a,b,c

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS:

- ^a Clemson Rural Health, Clemson, SC
- ^b Clemson University College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences, Clemson, SC
- ^c Clemson University School of Health Research, Clemson, SC

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

T. Aaron Zeller, Clemson Rural Health, Clemson, SC, timmyzeller@gmail.com

HOW TO CITE: Zeller TA. healing. *Fam Med.* 2024;56(5):332.

doi: 10.22454/FamMed.2024.881777

PUBLISHED: 11 April 2024

© Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

how does healing enter the world?

it cannot be manufactured or rushed encapsulated bottled or crushed automated billed for or bought or crammed into a 15-minute slot

it cannot be packaged stacked or sorted traded stockpiled or hoarded

but it can be refused resisted

even denied.

what form does healing take?

it is a warm smile a cold drink
a listening ear a few well-placed words
it is patient and petulant painful and soothing

it is both time and space laughter and tears

giving in hanging on solitude community

fasting easting

at times amputating excising

at others transplanting or transfusing it can take a moment and a lifetime it can come through contentment

and through refusing to settle

it is thus paradoxical mysterious

even magical.

how does healing enter the world?

it enters the world through care and those who give it through humanity and those who choose to live it so no wound should ultimately fester should it?

when compassion can serve

as a conduit.