

Family and Faith in the summer with Coronavirus

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Matthew 6:34

It seems like **almost everything** is uncertain, up in the air, undecided at the moment. Back to school plans for many school districts are being actively debated and discussed. College students are uncertain about when they will return, whether classes will be on-line or in-person or some hybrid combination of the two. The easing of restrictions has left many even more fearful than before. The full economic impact of COVID-19 in our families, communities, and in the world remains to be seen.

I'll bet, though, you have experienced times when you have momentarily forgotten that we are living in a pandemic. Like when your child shocks you with an amazing accomplishment or when hiking the trails with not another soul in sight. Maybe its been while soaking up the beauty of the lake on a peaceful day, or absorbed in a good novel, or assembling that 1,000 piece puzzle. Perhaps it happened when the kids actually got along and you were all laughing with one another. I hope for you there have been times when, despite all that is happening, you discover and experience the grace of joy, contentment, and peace.

If that doesn't happen very often, I might suggest you try on a Spiritual practice. The Spiritual practices that have been most helpful for me during Coronavirus include regularly connecting with people to process the wide range of emotions that have emerged for me. Others include are spending time in prayer and with scriptures such as the one I've included from Matthew's gospel above.

The context of this verse had to do with money, with having enough. I think its also more broadly helpful during this time of Pandemic. Since the beginning the people of God found themselves in the metaphorical wilderness again and again not knowing what would happen next. They learned to trust God because God remained faithful to them. There will be things we can control and things we cannot control. I've resolved to bring all of this to God in prayer. Not as a way of avoiding work or my own responsibilities, nor taking away the need to make plans, but as a way of growing my trust in the God who cares for us and provides for us each day and as a way of giving thanks.

What about you? How are you growing in your trust of God and finding encouragement to continue in the face of so many uncertainties? How are you giving thanks?

Jen+

St. Paul is traveling, will your house be his next stop?

The Apostle Paul is going on a journey to "Christ Church in Corona". A flat-Stanley style laminated "Paul," along with a wonderful Children's book "Paul writes a Letter" is circulating around homes of people in our parish over the summer.

Will you host him for a visit? Two books will circulate, one is now with Caitlyn and the other is looking to visit you!

To learn more about how and why St. Paul is on the move and to have him come to you, click [here](#).

When you are finished you may either return the materials to the Glebe House Mail slot



(shown here), or arrange transfer to another parishioner.

Grace and Peace to you!



Are you searching for a shady place for your children to play?

The Christ Church Playground is "open" to use at your own risk and according to the State Guidelines. The Children's Center is closed for the summer and that means the playground is not maintained or cleaned. Click [here](#) if you're considering a visit.

If you plan to visit on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, please consider calling or texting me! Clergy are starved for human interaction (ok, this one is!). If I am at the Glebe House I'll come outside and greet you from a safe distance wearing a mask.

By the way, I've seen lots of very creative masks out there! Have an awesome one to show off? Send a picture, please!

Holy hiking tips and tricks and more of God in nature

Are you making progress in your pursuit of the 4,000 footers club? Or do you shun altitude and enjoy flat trails instead?

Do you find yourself awed by the beauty of creation looking to bring creation together with a deeper engagement with Scripture? The Psalms are perfect hiking companions as described in a recent post from [Building Faith](#). [Read more.....](#)

Ready to take it up a notch even further this summer? Consider using this program put together by Rev. Margie Baker from St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, CT. Click here to learn more about [VBS 2020 NOTICING GOD IN CREATION](#). This tremendously flexible plan is entirely non virtual and allows you to make progress on your own pace either as a family or with a small group of friends.



What will church be like this Fall?

Re-gathering planning is happening!

The Task force appointed to make recommendations to the Vestry regarding re-gathering for in-person public worship would like your feedback.

Please take a moment (if you haven't already) to open this survey in this [link](#). This is the same survey and link that appeared in last week's e-Prophet. Please, submit only one survey per family.

Thank you in advance!

On a related note, many of our Church School teacher volunteers will be talking about Children and Families and how we'll want to worship and mentor and teach our children and youth this fall. Any parents or grandparents with children in our Church School Program are invited to join this conversation taking place over zoom on July 21st, Tuesday, at 5 pm.

If you are interested, I am happy to share the Zoom link. Thank you!



Resources and thoughts about Racial Justice

Many resources have been made available help parents talk about race and racism with our children and family members. Here is a list with suggestions for various age levels.

Is there a book that you've read that has helped you grow in understanding? What as it been like for you to talk about race with your children? Would you like conversation partners from our parish to join you? Please, let me know as there has been growing interest in sharing stories and resources.