

From the Corner – *Be Thankful*

For the past eight months every day has seemed like a Tuesday to me. COVID19 has shifted my schedule and consumed my time, thoughts, and focus. I'm exhausted!



It's amazing to me how rarely I go to the supermarket any more. Before COVID I would stop and pick up a few things several times a month to keep my pantry stocked. Now I schedule time on my calendar to create my grocery list, organizing it by where things are in the store in order to get in and out quickly and safely with the least amount of interaction and mask exasperation.

I'm not paranoid of COVID, however, we must be diligent with wearing masks, keeping distance, washing hands, and not gathering in large crowds. These are simple but life-saving practices to flatten the curve. We cannot allow ourselves to become lax in these efforts.

Recently the reality of this virus has come close to me. As a pastor I've provided support to many in our community who are struggling with not having basic goods such as food, clothing, utilities and shelter. I've had congregants, friends and family members test positive. Some have passed away. My mother lives in a retirement community of more than 300 people. The staff have been diligent and proactive in taking care of their residents. They've had three cases – all employees, no residents! The employees are negative now and back to work. That is no small feat.

I don't know about you, but when I wake up and it feels like Tuesday again, I find myself thankful; thankful for so many around me who are doing their part in helping us not just to survive this pandemic, but to live our lives through it, finding new and safe ways to help and hug each other.

Let's be thankful! Thankful for all who are keeping us going: doctors, teachers, spiritual leaders, mail carriers, utility workers, city officials, police, friends, sanitation workers, and the list goes on. Thankful for God who is with us even when we go through the deepest darkness. Be Thankful.

Journey well,

Pastor Keith

“...Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me...” -Psalm 23



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