

Reflection for Wednesday 22 April 2020

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith, our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

I had a conversation the other day with a member of our community of faith and she asked me how we would handle opening the church buildings again. It is a great question and one we are all thinking about now. As anxious as we are about getting back to “normal” it will be a process. We talked about this at our staff meeting and developed guidelines which will be given to each congregation council for review and approval. We will need to take one step at a time in order to keep everyone safe. Rest assured that we are relying on our governmental leaders and the Centers for Disease Control for guidance. We are blessed to have people in our leadership group that have medical training and science backgrounds and will be giving us guidance.

Governor Wolf has announced the stay at home order will be continued until May 8th and then there will be a gradual “reopening” of the state. Some of us will be ready to jump right back out there and get back to “normal.” Others will be more reserved about going out and about again. The bottom line is that the virus is not going to disappear overnight, it will still be with us, and we will still need to take precautions. Social distancing and wearing of masks will probably be a part of our lives for several months to come.

Just like faith, recovering from the pandemic will be a journey. There will be starts and stops along the way, there will be difficult days, and days when we are feeling good. We will have more questions than answers and sometimes we will feel lost and alone. We may experience twists and turns we are not prepared for or want. The journey is not straight or easy and, in the end, it is the only way to move forward.

I pray that you will be blessed in both your journey of faith and your journey of returning to “normal.” I have complete confidence that God is walking with us, beside us, in front of us, and behind us to carry us through. You are in my thoughts and prayers and I will see you soon.

In Peace,

Pastor Suzanne