

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

Oregon District

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New Beginnings

May always reminds me of new beginnings. Flowers are blooming, people are working outdoors in their yards, students are headed off to prom and some are preparing for graduation. New beginnings.

This year is a lot different!

I'm not sure about you, but I don't even know how many weeks we have been in quarantine and how many weeks we have missed gathering together in our home churches. Seems like it's been a really long time!

And yet, during this uncertain time, there have been new beginnings. We are now talking on the phone more, checking in on our friends and family. We are writing letters and making cards to send to distant friends. We are now meeting using virtual meeting methods such as Zoom and seeing our family members using FaceTime. We are watching our pastors on Sunday morning via live streaming or YouTube videos.

I have been attending 3 churches on Sunday morning. A definite new beginning for me!

I live stream a church called Broken Grounds in Millersburg, Ohio each Sunday morning at 7:00 am. This is a small town in Ohio with approximately 3,200 people. The church is held in what was once a BBQ place. It's now a church and coffee shop combined. My sister and her husband attend this church. Thanks to live streaming of the service on Facebook, my husband and I can now attend church with my family 2500 miles away.

I then attend my home church, Grace Lutheran in Scappoose, Oregon. Adult Bible study is done using Zoom and then I watch our Pastor's sermon and Sunday readings on YouTube.

Next, I attend Pastor Gary's church, St. John's Lutheran in Sutherlin, Oregon. A church that I have been to once physically for a Zone Rally, but now feel totally connected to it thanks to Facebook.

New beginnings in an uncertain time.

As one of the pastors put it, we have time now to re-evaluate, re-deploy, and renew.

Re-evaluate our priorities, our commitments, and what it is that we are pouring ourselves in to.

Re-deployment of our resources, our generosity to others, and to place all things in the Master's hand.

Renewal of our faith. Our faith should be placed in the One who is the same, today, yesterday and tomorrow. Renewing our worship in a new way. Opening our hearts and pouring out praise to our God.

There is still much work to be done, even in quarantine! Focus on what you can do, help whoever you can, as much as you can, whenever you can and as long as you can.

Go in peace and never in pieces!

The Christian Life Committee,

Judy Chase, Gladys Green, Sue Larsen, Carolyn Nelson and Deb Weaver

"Because of the LORD's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him."
Lamentations 3:22-24**

