

## NOTES FROM THE ARLINGTON DS – 6/23/2020

*The phrase “all creation is groaning” is employed by Paul in Romans 8:22 wherein he elaborates on the struggle for newness through the anguish and demand of labor pains, a new creation willed by God but not yet birthed, only in anticipation. My modest comment is that we must not pass over the labor pains, cries and demands too readily. - Walter Brueggemann, Virus as a Summons to Faith, p 61.*

Note: This is one of our summer reading options, and if you are interested in the theological implications of the pandemic, this is a great read!

### **1. NEW UPDATES:**

- a. **Stage 2 has begun!** If you are planning events, indoor or outdoor, worship, weddings/funerals, or small groups meetings – **please have your HCT and give me a plan for how you will do this at least 10 days prior to the event.**
  - i. **It is not enough to say “We will follow all the TAM requirements.”**
  - ii. I would like to know when, how many people, how you plan to do sanitization, how you plan to do registration and Health Authorization Forms ahead of time, etc. How will your church do all the required things?
  - iii. You can give me one plan with everything in it – worship, indoor & outdoor events, small groups, etc. **or** you can start with just what you plan to do this summer.
  - iv. **Outside groups, like boy scouts, AA, etc., do NOT have to give you registration and Health Authorization Forms** – they need to have their leader take them and hold on to them. If there should be an overlapping case of COVID, they should be prepared to contact everyone who was at their meeting to let them know.
- b. **District worship offered to you once again!** This is a new one, and like many of you, I am learning – this one is much better than the first one!
  - i. **You can find it here in SD:**  
<https://novaumc.org/sabbath-worship/>
  - ii. There are other options for pieces of it, in case you just want a welcome to worship, or a stewardship moment – use what is useful to you.
  - iii. This is based on John 21, and is not attached to any particular lectionary or liturgical day, so you could use it later this summer if you’d like. It is about barbeques, but in my world-that’s all year round!
  - iv. This will also “Premier” on FB and YouTube on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., if that helps with your Zoom meetings or other worship plans.
  - v. I pray this gives you a time of rest and Sabbath!!
- c. Like many of you, I have missed vacations this Winter/Spring, **so I am off to the mountains for a few days**, starting today, Tuesday (I wrote this on Monday!). I will be back next Monday. Please stay out of trouble until then. ;)
- d. No matter what you hear by email or text, **I do not ‘need’ you to get me gift cards** for orphanages or anything else. I am sorry I’m being spoofed, so much! If you have doubts, check the email or text number – if it’s not my number or email return, it is not me!
- e. Checking in on **COVID infection rates** – Arlington showed two days of increase in cases over the last 4 days. Loudoun and Fairfax are not increasing.

## 2. Reminders:

### a. Are you reading your books for summer cluster clergy meetings?

- i. **Attendance is required** at one of the meetings – your choice of books and dates.
- ii. The books and the registrations for the meetings can be found at:  
<https://novaumc.org/ar-clergy/>
- iii. You will get the Zoom meeting link 3-5 days before your scheduled meeting. We are limiting size to about 12 or so for each of Zoom meeting.

### b. The **clergy ZOOM meeting continues** –Please join us at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday!

- i. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434526053?pwd=WTIyMDFlaHIreVRwelpyR1dRRnM0dz09>
- ii. Password: ARClergy

### c. **I am praying at 8:46 a.m. and 8:46 p.m. along with the Council of Bishops.** I invite you and your churches to join us! We are praying AND we are working to resist evil and injustice as it has presented itself in the form of racism.

## 3. Resources:

- a. Cynthia Lopynski from our office is offering mystery worshipers for your online services – contact her at [CynthiaLopynski@vaumc.org](mailto:CynthiaLopynski@vaumc.org)
- b. Kim Johnson continues to do digital communications consultations –  
<https://calendly.com/kimjohnson-vaumc/church-communications-consultation>
- c. <https://novaumc.org/covid-19/>
- d. <https://vaumc.org/>

***Stay Calm, Stay Connected, Stay the Course!***

***Sarah***