

## NOTES FROM THE ARLINGTON DS – 8/04/2020

### *Question of the week:*

***What story are you writing with your congregation that you will one day tell your inheritors about 'back in pandemic times'?***

### NEW UPDATES:

- a. **I am taking my own advice and going on vacation August 14 – 23rd!** What does that mean for you? If you want approval on an HCT plan, you must have it to me no later than 9am on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Please plan ahead, because the one thing I would like a break from over my vacation is reading HCT plans! DS Jeff Mickle will be covering for me – you can reach him at [AlexandriaDS@vaumc.org](mailto:AlexandriaDS@vaumc.org) if you have an emergency. Artabia will also be out of town during those dates.
- b. **New TAM updates as of 8/3/2020** - <http://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/TAM.pdf> The changes are in the light green type. One that will be helpful for those looking at outdoor worship events with communion – during outdoor (not indoor!) communion services, after people have gone back to their safe spot that is 6 feet from anyone else, they can remove their mask long enough to partake of their communion, and then put the mask back on. Prior to this, they were only allowed to leave with it, and partake in the car or at home. Just a little closer to communion as we remember it...
- c. **August's Arlington District worship, Michelle Holmes Chaney is preaching from James – see** <https://novaumc.org/sabbath-worship/> There will be a Facebook and YouTube premier on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am, if that is helpful. Coming up in September – Arlington Lay Leader Karen McElfish! Please use these opportunities as you see fit, but we hope they are for some Sabbath!
- d. **Bishop's program with the Attorney General of Virginia – information:** [https://vaumc.org/?mailpoet\\_router&endpoint=view\\_in\\_browser&action=view&data=WzUyLCI3NGYzYzNhOTMONTQiLDYzNiwiMWk0azdljdjNrandnNHMwa2Nja2NjYzhjZzhzMDg4MG8iLDcyLDBd](https://vaumc.org/?mailpoet_router&endpoint=view_in_browser&action=view&data=WzUyLCI3NGYzYzNhOTMONTQiLDYzNiwiMWk0azdljdjNrandnNHMwa2Nja2NjYzhjZzhzMDg4MG8iLDcyLDBd)
- e. Checking in on **COVID infection rates** – Fairfax is slightly up in average daily cases over the last week, but still at 5.3 per 100k cases – we worry about community transfer at 10. Loudoun – 7.5 and flat; Arlington 6.3 and declining.

### 2. Reminders:

- a. **Would your HCT Chair like to network with others?** This suggestion came from one of our Thursday discussions. If they would like to network, please send the name and email address of your HCT chair (with their permission please!) to Cynthia Lopynski ASAP – Church, Name and email – to [CynthiaLopynski@vaumc.org](mailto:CynthiaLopynski@vaumc.org).
- b. **Sample HCT Plans:** <https://novaumc.org/back-to-church/>
- c. You should all know your **Charge Conference Cluster dates by now** – if you have questions about dates and forms, check in with Artabia. Other questions – ask me!
- d. The weekly **clergy ZOOM call continues** – Please join us at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday!
  - i. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434526053?pwd=WTlyMDFlaHlreVRwelpyR1dRRnM0dz09>
  - ii. Password: ARClergy
  - iii. This is your time – bring ideas, questions, network, ask for help, share a good idea – this is WHY we are connection!
- e. Don't forget to read your books and attend the cluster meetings!
- f. **I am praying at 8:46am and 8:46pm 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/> **Our website is awesome!**
- d. <https://vaumc.org/>

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

***Sarah***