

## NOTES FROM THE ARLINGTON DS – 8/11/2020

### **Question of the week:**

**What would you do if you had 24 hours to not work?**

*Sleep? Read a book? Spend time with family? Cook? Hike? Walk or run?*

**God instructed you to take a Sabbath time – please use it this week!**

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

**NHCT plans** – I’m reading a lot of plans these days! Here’s what I’m noticing: Your HCT team is in charge of everyone in the building and outside the building’s usage. This means renters too! If your renter preschool or Boy Scout Troop want to come back, they need to go THROUGH the HCT team to get their first approvals. Things the HCT should be checking - where the plans overlap with staff or other small groups that may be in the building, sanitation around shared bathrooms, ventilation issues, etc. THEN it comes to me. Please don’t send me “Renter Church’s” plan or the Boy Scout troop’s plan if the church HCT hasn’t already gone through it and approved it already. **Remember – all HCT plans for August events must be in my inbox by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, as I am leaving for vacation on Friday!**

- a. **It’s all about the aerosol issues right now – this is why masks, no group singing, and outdoors preferred.** [https://www.nfhs.org/articles/second-round-of-performing-arts-aerosol-study-produces-encouraging-preliminary-results/?fbclid=IwAR1Kxo-ZFReYCOYRB1fGIwkhL79N1hnGM-Vo\\_4qRltyLhfxaAaSwwg6CdKU](https://www.nfhs.org/articles/second-round-of-performing-arts-aerosol-study-produces-encouraging-preliminary-results/?fbclid=IwAR1Kxo-ZFReYCOYRB1fGIwkhL79N1hnGM-Vo_4qRltyLhfxaAaSwwg6CdKU)
- b. **Clergy Summer Cluster Meetings – what we learned!** Thank you for participating in our “Forced Family Fun”! Michelle and Cynthia did a great job, and we all learned a lot. Each group was different – some focused on the Convergent/Divergent movement, some focused on racial injustice issues, some focused on the pandemic. It was noticed that not a lot of people were ready to commit to actions in these areas, so we will continue to ask questions about next steps and actions.
  - i. Connecting on issues that are important to us all is critical. **Please make sure you are in a clergy peer group this year**, because I will be asking Cynthia to let me know which clergy have not responded to her form on peer leaning groups – you can expect a call from me!
  - ii. Here’s the form if you haven’t filled it out: <https://novadistricts.wufoo.com/forms/clergy-peer-learning-groups/>
- c. Checking in on **COVID infection rates** – Loudoun and Arlington are seeing new increases over the last week; Fairfax is increasing just slightly. Stay masked, stay outdoors whenever possible, and wash your hands!  
**Bishop’s program with the Attorney General of Virginia is today** – 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)
- d. **I am taking my own advice and going on vacation August 14 – 23rd!** 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.

### **2. Reminders:**

- a. **Would your HCT Chair like to network with others? Cynthia is putting this group together NOW, so this week is your last chance to add someone.** 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. Some have asked for additional charge conference dates for other matters – just ask Artabia, and she will get you a date.
- d. The weekly **clergy ZOOM call continues** –Please join us at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday! **YES, we WILL meet next week even though I’m on vacation. Special treat that Thursday!**
  - i. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/434526053?pwd=WTlyMDFIaHIreVRwelpyR1dRRnM0dz09>
  - 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. **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/> **Our website is awesome!**
- d. <https://vaumc.org/>

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

***Sarah***