

Leesburg United Methodist Church
Trail Guide
Week of May 18, 2020

My grandson, 6 years of age, and my granddaughter, almost 4, were looking forward to summer swim team. Our grandson was excited to be on the “real” swim team after beginning last summer. Their parents, and we, their grandparents, were also looking forward to summer swimming. For 16 years, we lived the excitement and experienced the sense of community around summer swimming with our kids, and my wife and I looked forward to reliving these experiences with our daughter and her kids. You can imagine our deep disappointment and sense of loss when they and we heard that the summer swimming season had been cancelled for this year. There is no “do-over”. What might have been is now lost forever.

I think of all in our congregation and community who have been hearing similar messages since the onset of COVID-19. No graduation ceremony. No spring sports. No school plays. No prom. No opening day of baseball season. No summer swimming. No Disney World. No. No. No. We cannot deny the sense of grief and loss for ourselves, our children and grandchildren, our nieces and nephews, our neighbors and friends.

In the midst of all these loses – which pale in comparison with those who have lost loved ones to this virus – God continues to draw near to us, as we draw near to God. We cannot help it. When (not “if”) we walk through the valley, we long for Someone to lift us out, to save us, to make it all right again. Instead, we are given Someone who says, “I will walk with you. I will sustain you. I will see you through.” This week, as you read through these scriptures, as we cry out for relief, for help, for deliverance, for a return to “normal”, here God’s message of assurance: “Even though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will be with you.” Acknowledge and grieve each loss. Comfort one another. Let the One who is “the Comforter” strengthen and sustain you. There are two scripture passages, one to help you begin the day, and one to end the day.

Monday 05/18 – [Matthew 28:1-10](#); [Luke 1:26-38](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Tuesday 05/19 – [Luke 2:8-10](#); [Luke 5:1-11](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Wednesday 05/20 - [Luke 12:4-7](#); [Luke 12:22-34](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Thursday 05/21 – [John 6:16-21](#); [John 14:27*](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Friday 05/22 – [Romans 8:14-17](#); [Romans 8:28](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Saturday 05/23 – Keep praying for our church family, our community, our world; our older members; medical and health care workers; first-responders; those who are sick; those struggling financially; those having trouble hanging on to hope.