

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

June is National Dairy Month, but this June feels different. Perhaps like me, you are experiencing these feelings, too. June in years' past, may have meant attending the farm breakfast, making final adjustments to 4-H projects, looking with anticipation to the county and state fairs, and more. I remember practicing my 4-H baking projects, attempting to improve them, as well as finishing my knitting projects. My cousins and friends who lived on farms, were readying their cows, pigs, and other animals for the fair(s). Friends were sewing dresses for the fashion show, and when they were older, a few were rehearsing in hopes of becoming "The Fairest of the Fair." A committee from church was signing-up volunteers for the baked potato booth at the county fair. The proceeds went to support mission projects (much like St. Paul's ice cream sundae booth at the Wilton Wood Turtle Days). But this June feels different.

Most of us have lived many years of normalcy. We never imagined that one day we would experience a pandemic such as the Coronavirus. In year's past, we wrote dairy month events and the fairs on our calendars in permanent ink. We planned, prepared, and happily attended the events. But nowadays, we perhaps write activities and events on our calendars in pencil, and hope that we can do some of them.

When faced with change, a colleague of mine used to say, "We're young, and we'll adjust." (He would say this to all person's, no matter what their age, for we stay young at heart, when we can think positively and creatively.) Perhaps this is the approach that we need to take now. To be thankful that there are things we can still do this year, albeit in different ways. To be creative in seeking out ways that we can make adjustments. And to recognize that some things will be postponed or delayed until next year (which may mean that they will be bigger and better).

In the midst of change and uncertainty, one thing remains constant: God is with us. God is with us in our planning and preparing. God is with us as we seek to come up with new ways of doing things. God is with us as we try to create some semblance of normalcy during this atypical time. God is with us now, and in the days, weeks, months and years to come. That we know. That, we can be sure of. That, we can write in permanent ink.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy