

Dear Friends:

I have been writing a weekly devotion for over a year now as together we have traveled through the ups and downs of the pandemic. Hopefully the thoughts I've shared have been helpful in some way, and perhaps even occasionally resonated at a deeper level. Thanks for taking the time to read, think, reflect, and pray with me.

Beginning today I'm going to be stepping away from this exercise to allow some time to recharge my batteries and gain some much needed new perspective. Over the past couple of months I've experienced some weariness, with occasional twinges of sadness, disappointment, and discouragement mixed in. It's been challenging to stay "up" all the time. Maybe it's "pandemic fatigue" because like all of you, I am definitely tired of dealing with the consequences of COVID.

Whatever it is, I know it's time to take a deep breath and unwind. I'm looking forward to our return to in-person worship on April 18th because being disconnected from the community has definitely contributed to my malaise. It will do my heart good to sing with you, preach to real live people, and share the Eucharist once again. It still won't feel totally normal, but I hope it will be a move toward whatever the new normal will be.

Maybe I'll return to writing a weekly devotional at some point down the road, and if so, I hope you'll take a few moments to consider my reflections, and maybe even find a connection to your own lives.

Peace,

Pastor Chuck