

Cooman, Kevin

From: The Advent House <theadventhouse@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Brentley Smith; buchananray39@hotmail.com; David Wideman; George Havens; glenda hastings; James Brekovsky; 'Judy Burgeson'; Cooman, Kevin; Lois Rixner; Patricia May; Ray Wager; rickhillco@aol.com; 'Sue Amrine'; theadventhouse@frontiernet.net; Erik Lungler; 'Jeanne Kremers'; 'Jeffrey Baker'; r.trotta@leonardsexpress.com; rwager@raymondfwagercpa.com; Tim Ashman; Vicki Deady; Bond, Stefanie; Catherine B. Keller; Deirdre Kennedy Won-Short; 'Eisele, Laurie'; Madelyn Sarnoff; Margaret Swarthout; 'Megerle, Patti'; Nancy Loughran; 'Shanto, Molly'; Stacy Daniels; Susan Rhody Sherman
Subject: Patience and Other Things!!

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
Hello my Dear Friends,

Well, it has now been a very long time since we have been together in person and it truly feels even longer. I miss all of you a lot and cannot wait till the time when we can actually sit in the office and catch up on all of our news. I am sad not to hear about you and your families and all that has been going on in your lives. Children and grandchildren have graduated, new babies born and sweet, intimate weddings on beaches. I can't wait to see pictures!!! Hopefully, you are staying well and have been able to find pleasure in these beautiful summer days. My garden is in such a state of shock from all this attention I might even get a tomato before the frost!!! And, I have read two whole books~ highly recommend Bridge Of Clay by Markus Zusak and also I Am The Messenger same author. He has a lovely way with words. Let me know if you have any that you have enjoyed.

Laurie and I have been Zoom meeting with the other Comfort Care Homes on a regular basis since this all began. One of the upsides to this is that we have all become better friends and have a greater appreciation of how best to support one another and how best to proceed so that we are all opening our homes safely while protecting our potential residents, families, volunteers and staff. Our most recent meeting was with the Medical Director, Assistant Medical Director, Director of Hospice, Director of Admissions and Director of Social Work from Visiting Nurse Service. Was incredibly gracious of them to take their time to meet with us and share their insights and recommendations. They are very appreciative of our Homes and are as anxious as we are to get them reopened. All of that being said, they strongly suggest proceeding with great thoughtfulness and caution.

As we all are aware of from the media blitzes, there is great concern regarding the uncertainty of a major recurrence this fall. Both physicians from VNS agree that it is a very vulnerable time especially as folks become more relaxed about vigilance due to our reduced statistics in Monroe County. (GOOD FOR US!!!) Homecare in any environment is "very challenging" right now. The hospitals and nursing homes are at capacity most days with non-covid patients so there is no clear "backup " plan if someone becomes Covid positive. The general feeling is that it is not prudent to open our Home at this time and when we do reopen it will be necessary to do so with a much revised and restricted mission statement, new protocols in place for safety , new policies regarding family responsibility , restricted visitation , volunteer screening , limited use of the house by family members, and maintenance of the safety regulations put forth by the CDC. It is an understatement to say this is a bit daunting. Mostly, it makes me very sad. But for now, this is our reality and we will power on to make the best of it.

So for now, after all that long winded babble, we are not reopening our House this early fall. Many of the Houses have already stated that they will not reopen until early 2021. Others are hoping to reopen by late October and a couple have opened. I am taking a wait and lets see how it goes stance before making any firm decision. All of us operate differently, some with a large paid professional staff, some who operate with only one volunteer or staff person on at a time, and

those of us who rely on our dedicated, amazing volunteers to provide their tender loving care. I cannot stress enough how blessed we are to have all of you~ Resident Caregivers, Sweet Charity volunteers, grocery shoppers, house cleaners, fundraisers, callers, gardeners and maintenance people, board and committee members. We as a staff are beyond grateful and so humbled by your dedication to this ministry of caring.

We will overcome this. We will resume this blessed ministry. We just must be prudent and trust the process so that when we do reopen all are secure in the knowledge that they are cared for in the most safe loving Home that only Advent House can provide. I am teary as I write this; it's a lot and a bit scary but I do believe in my heart we will carry on and be even stronger and better for it. Keep Advent House in your prayers.

Enjoy these last few days of summer. Laurie and I will stay in touch. If you have concerns or questions please feel free to call me. Actually, I would love to hear from you!! So many hugs!!

Peace and God Bless,
Glenda