



Giving Thanks in the Times of Corona



Thanksgiving

I find myself struggling to say Happy Thanksgiving this year. I wish there were a more appropriate word than happy to acknowledge this particular season of Thanksgiving. It is not business as usual and I realize I had taken so many things for granted before the pandemic. Despite having trouble with the word happy, I have more thanks to give than ever this year.

I hope you too are finding hidden corona blessings and a heart filled with a different, maybe, even deeper form of gratitude on this Thanksgiving Day.

If you have lost someone during the pandemic from COVID 19 or it's sequelae of a stressed health care system, my heart, prayers and love are with you.

If you are a nurse, I see your fatigue and I know you are tired. I have witnessed you again and again, deeply caring for our patients isolated from their families. You have been the last person to love and care for another human being as they leave this life separated from those, they loved the most, without a last touch or whispered I love you. You have had to go home in fear of spreading the virus to your vulnerable loved ones. You have lost your own loved ones. I am humbled and thankful for you beyond all words.



I am grateful for every Still Place Family. The joy, enthusiasm and resilience you and your children show daily despite so many struggles made worse by the virus lights the world with a glow brighter than the sun and filled with hope, encouraging us all to be stronger. The unstill time we have spent chasing adventure and the still time beside the campfire or watching your children play have been a huge corona blessing to me.



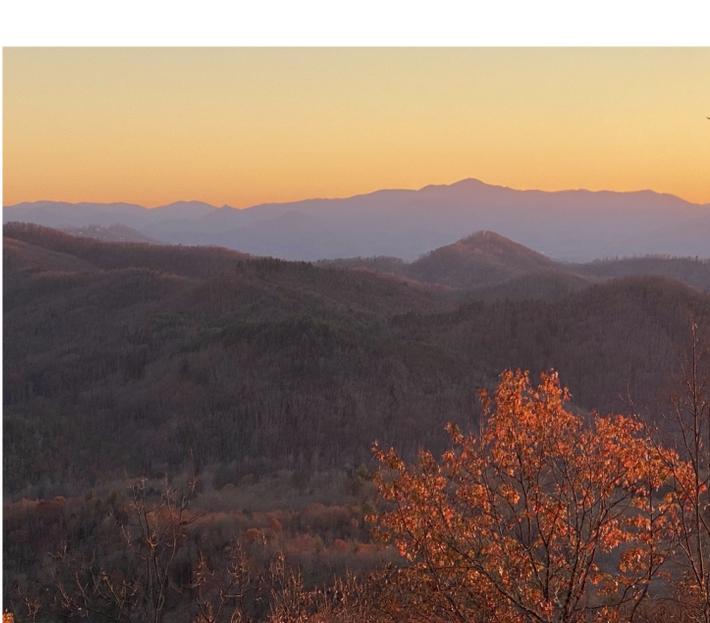
I am grateful to the restorative power of nature. The clear blue corona skies take my breath away. The slowing down in the spring, while I was in endless quarantine, gave me time to see each blossom emerge and each leaf unfurl. The long slow fall has given many moments of beautiful shimmering dancing their way to the ground, sunsets of epic beauty and an abundant harvest from our first Garden of Hope.



I am grateful to our Board of Directors, Donors and Volunteers who have continued to support The Still Place despite it all so that we have been able to safely re-open and look forward to continued growth and serving more families than ever in the year ahead.

I am grateful to our Pay-it-Forward families who have rented the Cottage or The Still House when we were unable to serve families. We absolutely could not provide for The Still Place Families without your support.

I am grateful to that amazing husband of mine, my family and friends who seem to know just when to send an encouraging text or call.



I am grateful to God, always present and reminding me I am not in control of much, thankful for the gifts I have been given to serve, love and provide medical care to others in such an unprecedented time.

I hope you have a Thanksgiving filled with love, joy and many moments to be still and consider your own corona blessings.

-Dr. Dawn



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