

## Being Retired and Reminded What Blessings I Have

By Jeanne Lee

Pondering (a big word for thinking harder than usual!) the what, why and wherefore of Covid-19 and me, I've come to a few conclusions.

Being retired and previously concerned about Social Security as my primary form of income, I was shocked several years ago when my accountant son told me he would not be doing my taxes. WELL! He explained, "Mom, you didn't make enough money to have to pay taxes." My reply was, "How SAD!" He said, "Are you doing OK financially and where you live?" I replied, "Absolutely!" His reply, "Then it's not really sad is it?" During this Pandemic, I realized how truly blessed I am with my "limited" income because so many in this country are totally without an income. My bills have all been paid, groceries ordered and picked up from Click List and some much needed (OK...Wanted!) fabric ordered online. There are many others who truly want AND need food right now and don't have the necessary funds to make the smallest purchase.

My internet and cable are both the basic package so I have access to re-run after re-run of Hallmark movies, music, more channels than I need as well as access to all the real and fake news a person can possibly ingest in a day. There are parents who were working two jobs to pay for their basic internet who no longer have jobs and their children need to have internet access in order to complete their school courses. Though I have worked in a hospital and an office and taught college and corporate classes, I am very thankful that currently the only person I am responsible for teaching is myself. Some days I am aware that I need to be "sent back" for some remedial learning when I make some pretty less-than-brilliant decision.

Keeping children entertained, encouraged and involved while safe at home with no face-to-face contact with their BFFs, classmates, sports teams, etc. has been an exhausting feat for parents. The only person I have to entertain or encourage is myself; and I can assure you that on some days I can be a bit of challenge to myself. I have started walking a LOT more and even enjoying my new routes around the same landscape. There are nooks and crannies around WG that I didn't even know existed and I have been logging from 20 to 25 miles a week. Entertainment has been a fun project as I find things and places to share with the WG Facebook page. Thank you to those who have responded and played along.

Do I miss the meetings, classes and clubs? Yes, this new normal isn't really that bad once I set my mind to realizing how blessed I am even during this time. Wearing masks has cut down on my need for makeup and keeping my hair neat. Walking has kept off the weight that my increased baking and cooking could have added. Missing those with whom I'm now social distanced...that's one I can't overcome for a while longer.

Someone once reminded me: What if all you have tomorrow when you awake is what you thanked God for today? "Thank you God for ALL that I have and may I never take it for granted!"