



*Kitchissippi*  
UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, April 19th, 2020  
First after Easter

**A note from Rev. Jenni**

Good Friday afternoon, all,  
This is a picture of a garlic clove I planted in November.



I went out to poke around my backyard and found that the prolific squirrels had dug under the thick layer of straw and into the deep dark soil of my vegetable garden to expose this garlic to the elements. I tutted at the squirrels, reached down and pulled it out of the ground. The garlic, as you can see has quite nice roots and it also took some pulling to get it out. I carried it inside, still blaming the squirrels and left it on my kitchen table.

When I came back to it a few hours later, I realized I probably didn't need to yank it out of the soil. I likely could have just covered it back up with soil and pulled the straw back over it. I thought about going back out and doing just that. It may have grown. It may have re-rooted. It may have continued to duplicate cloves to form a lovely big bulb of garlic.

Right now, 9 days later, the garlic looks like this:



**APRIL 17, 2020**

It has continued to shoot up green sprouts! It has continued to be propelled into it's becoming. It was on a path to growth, new life (especially in the garlic scapes I give away to my neighbours) and hasn't stopped! Why has it continued on this path of transformation? Why has it continued to grow?

Mark Twain once said, "I was able to answer him quickly, I said 'I don't know'".

That's my answer - I don't know why it's continued. I could guess that the resilience of nature is not to be underestimated. I could guess that despite conditions being very different, it might still *\*think\** it's in the deep, rich soil, and therefore still growing. Does nature have a trajectory that is resilient, life giving, indestructible?

Do we humans have a resilience that is not to be underestimated? Are we able to thrive, despite conditions not being the same? Do we have a trajectory that is resilient? Do we have life giving coping mechanisms? Are we engaging in activities that help us to *\*feel\** indestructible?

It is disheartening to read and hear some of the news right now, especially about certain places in the world where suicide is on the rise. Hopelessness and fear drive people to do things that are very difficult on their loved ones, their community. If only they knew that there is hope, there are possibilities beyond their fear.

I believe we are all like my prematurely plucked garlic clove. We are on a growth trajectory. We are on a path toward becoming. With God, we are co-creating our future: with good coping mechanisms, with prayer, with meditation, with journaling, by reaching out for help, by reaching out and helping others.

We have survived a month of quarantine! We have survived a month without an in-person community by building online communities. We have survived, daily, the pressures we put on ourselves or feel from society for productivity. One day, we will feel like we are not just surviving, but thriving.

I can't say my wee garlic is going to thrive, but for now, it is still surviving. It may never be a full garlic clove in all its robustness, but it is doing the best it can, under the circumstances. It's growth will likely be a finite period of time.

This is my hope for you on this Friday: that you do the best you can, under the circumstances. Survive. Put one foot in front of the other each day. Acknowledge that this quarantine is a finite period of time and your growth is not limited to it or by it.

Please, if you have been feeling hopeless and thinking about suicide, reach out to me, reach out to a professional, reach out to the mental health crisis line (613-722-6914 or 613-238-3311)? Your fear is valid. Your life is valuable.

Continued blessings as you navigate this new normal,  
Jenni

Maple Syrup anyone??

MAPLE SYRUP FOR SALE - A message From Neil Knudsen

We will have 1 L bottles (\$22) or 500ml (\$12) of both Golden and Amber pure maple syrup ready to go very soon. If you would like to order some – please contact Neil at 613-724-5923 or [nknudsen@meridianlocate.com](mailto:nknudsen@meridianlocate.com). Neil can deliver or drop at the church when the church re-opens.

We are here for you! Please reach out!

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CLOSED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE DUE  
TO THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC**

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