



Christmas 2020



Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas 2020

Best wishes for this holiday season and the coming years. I don't know what to say about 2020, but I am typing this with my middle finger.

With a pandemic still on the loose and a hotly contested election we have had our share of tragedy and drama. Remember how we all panicked when we couldn't find toilet paper? What is it going to be like we can't find a cop? Oh, well.

So, like all of you ...

- Our church closed its Sunday services and we attended virtual Sunday School via Zoom. I think that some people, just like school kids, found ways to be "on" Zoom for a class but were really playing Minecraft with their phones.
- Our schools were emptied and recreational sports were put on hold and parents had the privilege of *entertaining* their children seven days a week.
- We wore our masks and socially distanced. The good news is that when you wear a mask your coworkers can't smell adult beverages on your breath.
- We used more hand sanitizer in six months than in the previous 60 years.



So what do you do during nine months of COVID?

- Joyce and I watched television news until we ran out of anti-depression pills.
- Then we switched over to the shows where people make over homes. That was a good choice at this point in our lives. Anytime we see someone taking something old and broken and making it like new again is encouraging.
- Joyce also kept busy medically ministering to her many friends. A great service but hard on her emotionally. How come when she takes care of them she is Florence Nightingale; but when it's me she's Nurse Ratchet?
- Then we went out and got our concealed carry licenses "just in case." In case of what? We don't know - seemed to be something we needed to do. (And you are very welcome to visit but you might want to knock.)

And then when we did leave home, we had to know when advance if this is the activity would be open. Bars: Yes. Churches: No. Casinos: Yes. Libraries: No. And then I heard of a Casino that got closed when the churches got opened so it put in an application to be re-designated as a church. I guess craps players are the Holy Rollers.

This year our sweet Mosby went to cat heaven. He was a loving pet and is missed. However we now have Cinnie, an adorable Shih Tzu-Bichon Frise mix that we obtained when she was eight weeks old. Sometimes I wonder "what were we thinking" as we attempted to house train a puppy. At least also don't have to worry about what to do when I am alone with her: The answer is simple ... just play with her non-stop.

Joyce and I slipped under the wire way back last March when COVID was just rearing its ugly head. We had a trip planned for Hawaii and wrestled with a GO NO-GO situation. Ultimately we went, exercised an abundance of caution, and had a very good time. Or maybe we were just lucky. We also got away a few other times to places like Orlando, St. Augustine, and Treasure Island Beach, and Pine Mountain, Georgia, and tried to stay safe.

Now wishing you the best for this Christmas and the coming years. May you continue to grow in God's grace, mercy, and love.

Jay and Joyce
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Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV): "For I know the plans I have for you..." declares the Lord

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways ...," declares the Lord