

# *County-Wide Chaplaincy*

## *Thanks you!*

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**October 2024**

### **Turn Around**

I don't know if this is true for many of you, but I am kind of a creature of habit. When I find a way of doing something that works, I just stick to it. For example, I have a seat in my hot tub where I always sit. I love to look out at the beautiful view and I also feel comfortable there. It works! One day I decided for some reason to sit facing a different direction and, lo and behold, I noticed things I had not really noticed before. Some of those things motivated me to change something or do a task that had not previously come to mind, but mostly I was seeing things differently.

There is great benefit in our lives to seeing things differently sometimes. It gets us out of our rut, or gives us a new vision, or simply a new appreciation. Sometimes a simple conversation with a friend helps us look at a troubling issue with a different take. It might help us to "flip the script" as they say. To look for the positive in a dark situation, or to find a hidden opportunity is to flip the script, to look at things differently.

Since this is the October letter, it is also in the month of Halloween. Now I am not a fan of Halloween and would just as soon not think about it and wish it would go away. But I saw a wonderful example of finding a hidden opportunity in my church. A few years ago they decided that since many families would be out and about on Halloween eve, they would use the opportunity to meet and love on the neighbors! Several families in various neighborhoods serve chili from stations set up in their driveway and serve those who happen by. What a great opportunity to meet people and reach out in love! And what a great lesson for me that there are hidden opportunities when we are willing to turn around and look at things from a different direction.

As our chaplains step into painful and overwhelming situations, they are able to bring hope and light and encouragement to those who are in the midst of seeing only a dark and hopeless situation. What a wonderful opportunity to be the love of Jesus to a broken and hurting world. They are often able to help families find a measure of peace in the turmoil and to help carry the very heavy load. Thank you for your prayers for them as they look for opportunities to be that beacon of hope.

In closing, I ran across a quote the other day and I do not even know who to credit it to. It is, however, a great example of looking at things from a different angle.

“Today I learned about a term called a ‘glimmer’, which is the opposite of a trigger. Glimmers are those moments in your day that make you feel joy, happiness, peace or gratitude. Once you train your brain to be on the lookout for glimmers, these tiny moments will appear more and more.”

I love that! Please join me in being on “glimmer watch” and thank you as always for your support of this ministry.

Jan Richards

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