

Facilitator's Sheet

I'll have said most of this in my intro but you may want it for reference or encouragement

If I was to tell a 3 - sentence story about having breakfast it might go:
I had a bowl of cereal with raisins.
The coffee was strong and black.
It was just right!

Short sentences. ` Nothing fancy. ~ Just the basics.

We'll have time to talk about the stories after we get those three short sentences down. Let yourself play even if what you're saying is serious. If you find it hard to speak in a group, which as an introvert, I understand, 3 sentence stories can help you step into the conversation through your story. Your story can test the waters for you. Don't compare your story to anyone else's. Remember, you are the best teller of your story.

Please tell a story (you can write it down if that feels good) about you and your church in these COVID days and here's the little extra. Please include at least one of our four words: annunciation exile, stars or wilderness. Remember annunciation is just an announcement.

Some 3-sentence story examples:

*When COVID came we felt we were in the **wilderness**.
We invited our rural community to ring bells on Christmas Eve.
When they did it felt like manna.*

COVID is like Mary's room.
I hear an **annunciation** I cannot understand.

I'm looking for a **star**. (an epiphany)

Everyone is using Zoom.
I don't have a computer.
I feel like I'm in **exile**.

Short sentences. ~ Nothing fancy. ~ Just the basics.

Use one of these words in your story: annunciation, wilderness, exile, star (or Epiphany)

This is your story, your experience, and you are the best teller of your story!! Who knows what we'll discover as we help one another notice things.

When we've finished writing our stories, we'll share them asking:

How do you feel about the story? (not how good your story is but how does what's in it make you feel?)

Where is God in your story?

God might be found

In the friction between what is and what you hope for
In the place where you've let go of something
In the place of your loss or your discovery
In the realization that you can tell a 3-sentence story
In the play that helps us see what's really serious

A 4th question for the second breakout session if there is time.

What is God in your story saying to the church? Now or post-pandemic. Your congregation or the wider United Church.