

# FaithBIT



## Community!

*By Becky Carlson*

I don't need to tell you things have been different this past year. We've all been impacted by COVID-19 in one way or another. It's taken "normal, everyday" things like going to work or school, gathering with friends, running errands, and attending church- and turned them on their head. We've had to flex in ways that previously would have been inconceivable.

My family's normal practice of attending church during COVID has been a challenge. While I've been grateful for the streaming options available, the adjustment has been difficult. I found myself grieving the loss of connection to church family, feeling shame over not being more active with church, and being downright sad that, just like everything else, "doing church" felt foreign and unfeasible for us amidst COVID.

But then, during a text exchange, a Faith Group friend and I decided to "do church" by going for a Sunday morning walk together. We sent an e-mail to the other women in our Faith Group to see if anyone could join. To our delight, nearly everyone was able to come! That Sunday, during the time we might have otherwise tried to wrangle our kids to watch the church service, we spent time in fellowship walking around Staring Lake. Our time together was an incredible gift. We were able to catch up with one another, share joys and challenges, and simply be present together in God's beautiful creation.

This year has been hard. There has been so much loss, and so much that's needed to change. Our walk that morning was a beautiful reminder for me – and now hopefully for you – that even amidst the challenges we are facing there are beautiful ways to be together and get back to things we love.