

Dara Tinius
Hope

Hebrews 6:19 We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain...

“We don’t get to have hope without having grief. Hope dares to admit that not everything is as it should be, and so if we want to be hopeful, first we have to grieve. First we have to see that something is broken and there is a reason for why we need hope to begin with.” - Sarah Bessey

“Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final”
Rainer Maria Rilke

At the beginning of the pandemic I purchased a banner you may have seen on your Instagram ads. The banner read “Together We Will See it Through” and I hung it from our dining room window. I don’t remember my precise reasoning but I probably imagined there would be a concrete time limit for the pandemic. The banner would serve as a hopeful reminder during an event with an expiration date. On the day it ended perhaps I thought I would remove the banner marking the victory in sort of a reverse “mission accomplished” scenario.

But as the months and now years have gone on, I don’t imagine I will have a symbolic lowering of the banner. Not just because the pandemic has not had a definitive end date, but also because I now can’t imagine a time when that phrase will not apply to my family.

How else can we move through illness and job issues and the teenage years but together? Together is how we hold firmly against racism and prejudice and pushing others outside the circle of acceptance. How can we face our fears of the future without huddling together when things get too scary?

So the banner stays. A tiny hopeful anchor for my soul.

I can see the window where the banner hangs from our kitchen. Every time I’m washing dishes or feeding the dog or grabbing a snack it serves as a reminder. A reminder of hope, but also of grief. I grieve the ways we have been broken and exposed during this time. I would be lying if I said there have not been many days in the past several years when my hope has been on life support. And yet I also don’t know how to move forward without that hope. Without the possibility, even on the darkest days, that together we will see it through.