

**JULY MONTHLY THEME:
CREATIVITY—ART AND CRAFT IN EVERYDAY LIVING**

While creativity manifests in the work of artistic geniuses, it can also be part of our everyday lives. For some, this may be in the realm of artistic expression in writing, music, photography, painting, or sculpture. And for others, creativity may emerge in how we whip up a meal from an odd assortment of ingredients from the fridge. What are other examples of how creativity shows up in everyday living? With the Coronavirus upending so much of how we live day-to-day, exploring the theme of creativity may make us more aware of how embracing creativity might help us to navigate this time. Whether by finding a creative solution to a challenge or by cultivating a sense of meaning through artistic expression, this month's theme invites us to consider the gifts of creativity.

Which question is calling to you? Where is it leading you?

1. What is creativity? How do you define it or know it when you see it?
2. How is creativity similar to or different from innovation?
3. Think of a person whom you would describe as "creative". What traits or actions do you find in them?
4. In what ways do you express your own creativity?
5. Describe an example of a creative solution you or another person found to a problem.
6. If you could add more creativity to your everyday life, how might you do so?

Wise Words:

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have. —Maya Angelou

Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people. —Leo Burnett

Creativity is more than just being different. Anybody can plan weird; that's easy. What's hard is to be as simple as Bach. Making the simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity. —Charles Mingus

To be creative means to be in love with life. You can be creative only if you love life enough that you want to enhance its beauty, you want to bring a little more music to it, a little more poetry to it, a little more dance to it. —Osho

The chief enemy of creativity is good sense. —Pablo Picasso

Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations. —Dr. Mae Jemison (1st African-American female astronaut)

Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better. —Martin Luther King, Jr.

Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted. —Martin Luther King Jr.

When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world. —George Washington Carver

Deliver me from writers who say the way they live doesn't matter. I'm not sure a bad person can write a good book. If art doesn't make us better, then what on earth is it for? —Alice Walker

I believe that the best learning process of any kind of craft is just to look at the work of others. My horizon on humanity is enlarged by reading the writers of poems, seeing a painting, listening to some music, some opera, which has nothing at all to do with a volatile human condition or struggle or whatever. It enriches me as a human being. —Wole Soyinka (Nigerian writer, poet and playwright)

