

Welcome 2021...A Fresh, New Year!

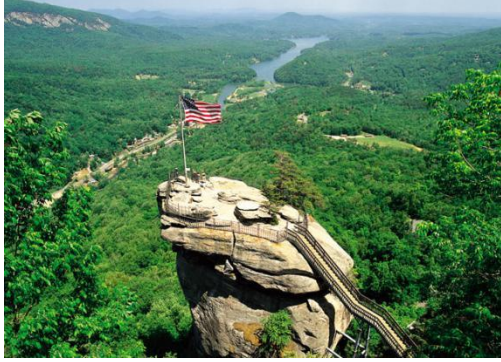


I don't know about you, but I'm so excited and full of hope for this new year. 2020 was one of the toughest years of my life. As I reflect on everything that has happened, I can't help but feel hopeful and optimistic about a new

year. It is important, though, to recognize the good that came with 2020 even if that means digging deep and looking really hard!

For me, the greatest challenges revolved around education – my job as a teacher became ridiculously stressful. My job as a mother of a freshman in college was equally, if not even a greater challenge. Trying to keep my child focused and hopeful, motivated and productive, was extremely hard. After learning how to live in an “empty nest”, I had to learn how to live with him back in the house again – what a roller coaster of emotions!

There were other things, too like replacing a large HVAC in our home, a washer/dryer that suddenly died, and our German Shepherd who decided to get her first taste of the UPS man. Then there was my husband's health scare on top of everything else. By the grace of God we were able to overcome all obstacles and are thankful to be alive and healthy.



One of the things I love to do at this time of the year is to plan projects for the house and travel. These goals keep me going through the dreary winter months, and give me a renewed focus for fun things to come. Even if the goal is a small one, such as taking a hike that is within driving distance of my house, I want to make a plan to do it. Travel could still be restricted

well into 2021, so planning realistic trips is important. That goes for DIY projects, too.

At the end of 2020, I came up with the idea to pour candles into oyster shells. It was one of the coolest re-purposing projects I've done to date. I am so proud of how they turned out! I've sold so many of them, and heard from so many of you about how yours turned out. It brought me a great sense of satisfaction. I also wrote my first article for a magazine in 2020, and our backyard DIY was published. What a cool experience for this freelance writer and DIY design lover! I can't help but wonder, what new DIY's will I come up with for 2021?

Floating around in my never-resting brain is landscape lighting, a guest bathroom remodel on-the-cheap, new flooring in my son's man cave, and lots of writing projects. I'm sure things will break as they always do with any home, and that the necessary repairs will derail me at times. It's important to be realistic about home ownership! I may not get everything on my DIY list done in 2021, but I'm definitely planning on making it happen.

I am so very thankful for you, the reader and fellow DIY enthusiast, for following my blog. I love hearing from you about your DIY projects and challenges. Thank you for all the shares, the encouragement, and the positive vibes you have given me since I started Salt Marsh & Spurs. I hope to continue pouring my ideas into this blog to make it even better this year. I wish you the best for 2021, and encourage you to stay positive and keep pushing forward. Now, let's get to planning!