# Tech for the Homestretch

Let your smartphone and computer assist you in daily living

#### Introduction

- Life is moving online
- The process was accelerated by COVID restrictions
- Imagine the pandemic without Zoom
- Many essential services will assume everyone has online access

#### Intended Audience

- Seniors who own a smartphone and/or a computer
- People who want to explore how their devices can assist in daily life
- People who want to use their device for fun and education
- Please hold questions until the breakout groups

## My Viewpoint

- I use a PC with Windows 10
- I use an Android phone
- I don't pay for the fastest WiFi
- I have a partner with whom I need to share a lot of information
- More...

- I almost never pay for smartphone apps – if you do, read the terms to avoid surprise fees or subscriptions
- All the apps I will mention have Mac and iPhone versions
- This is my first ever PowerPoint presentation, so be kind



## Hardware for Easier Viewing

- Bigger monitor. 30+ inch monitors for < \$200.
- Wide screen vs normal aspect ratio
- Plug in monitor and keyboard for using your laptop at home
- Your flat screen TV can be a monitor

## Software for easier viewing

- Ctrl +/ will magnify and shrink a web page. Cmd +/- for Mac. Finger gestures for phone/tablet.
- Many programs have a zoom function
- Be sure to reset the zoom, so stuff doesn't disappear off the edges

## Learning how to do stuff

- Phone a friend. Even better call your child or grandchild ②
- Ask Google or Youtube
- If you find something that helps, bookmark it and watch it again
- Use natural language to ask for help
- Be very specific about your problem

#### Education and Fun

- There are too many available to even try...
  - Books to read
  - Books to listen to
  - Podcasts to listen to
  - Games both strategy and action games
  - Crosswords free, NYT archive subscription
  - Foreign language Duolingo is free

#### Organizing and Communicating

- As my memory recall declines, I supplement it with some well-chosen tools
- Google Suite is free and reliable (but you give up privacy)
  - Gmail
  - Calendar supports multiple sharable calendars
  - To Do List an adjunct to Calendar on the PC, a separate app on phone
  - Drive free cloud storage, built in software for word processing, spreadsheet, slide shows and form design
  - All data is synchronized between your PC and phone
- Scanner app for you phone high quality capture of paper documents, no matter where you are

## Personal Support

- Medication Reminder app for phone
- Step tracker for exercise
- Sharable shopping list with multiple lists
- Online shopping for convenience and safety
- Even flip phones can set an alarm reminder

#### Financial

- Be sure to use a STRONG password
- Online banking
  - Monitor your accounts, paperless statements
  - Monitor your credit card purchases get instant text alerts
  - Pay your bills
  - Send/Receive money with other people;
    Zelle, Popmoney, Venmo and many others
  - More...

#### More Financial

- Let companies pay themselves
  - For bills that repeat every month
  - Credit cards, Utilities
  - You need a separate login for each company
  - The payment will never be late
  - You set the rules about how much to pay
  - More...

#### Yet More Financial

- File and pay taxes for free
- If your finances are complex, consider Quicken and download all your transactions and code them to make tax preparation easier

#### In Conclusion

- Don't be overwhelmed
  - Pick one app and start
  - Play with the app until you seem to "get it".
  - If it's not what you expected, uninstall
  - The more you do the easier it gets
  - Watch a Youtube video on how to get started

P.S.

- ■If the Youtube isn't enough call someone
- I have made a separate list of the apps I use personally
- You can also receive a PDF of the PowerPoint slides
- ► Life is moving online. Be connected.