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## Viewing the World Through a Lens: Resources for Shutterbugs

My camera happens to be a phone. How about you? I am fortunate to have professional camera equipment too (I am a Canon gal), but I love how smart phone ownership has allowed people to access photography easily. If you've wanted to make it more of a fine art, here are a few tips to aid your discovery.

### **Five Photo Tips from Dawn**

Although I am not actively pursuing my photography business currently, I enjoy doing photoshoots for engagement and baby announcements. There are many professionals in the area, but I hope you find these tips from me to be helpful and increase your joy as you capture your favorite things.

**Tip #1: Get Down (Or Step Up).** I don't do squats in the gym but I do when I am on a photoshoot! Getting down (or up, with a step stool) to the subject's level adds personality and emotion.



Caption: Chair in the Glasgow Cathedral, Scotland.

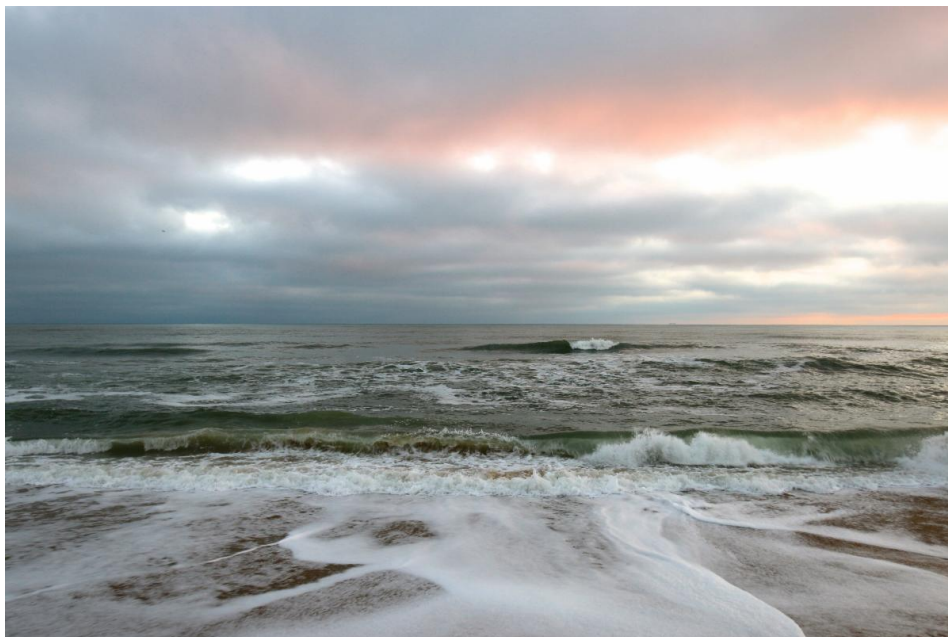


**Tip #2: Get a Little Closer, Lend a New Perspective.** Even now, there is no need to social distance - *with a flower!* Get up close and personal with inanimate objects like bugs, trees, toys, benches, windows and doors. Fences are one of my favorite subjects to photograph. To me, they can point to a farther horizon and showcase opportunity for growth. And if you can add a macro lens to your collection, every day objects will become extraordinary!



Caption: Fence near Long Lane, Gettysburg, PA. Shot on my iPhone 8 Plus.

**Tip #3: Aim for Stability.** Sometimes it's hard to hold a camera steady enough to obtain crisp focus, especially in low light. I carry a bag of frozen veggies with me or sometimes simply use my backpack or camera bag to rest my camera on for stability. The veggies will thaw and be more malleable as I shoot. Of course, a tripod might just become your new best friend. There are many options for cell phones, too.



Caption: My camera rested on my backpack to capture Virginia Beach's early light.

**Tip #4: Remove Distractions.** What's in the background? If you are able, remove distractions that are near your subject. Is someone "photobombing" in the background? Wait a moment for them to leave, or move your lens to capture your subject in a different angle. To save time later, whether I am taking a photo with my Canon or my iPhone, I also crop the photo on the spot.

**Tip #5: Take More Photos.** Practice makes perfect, right? One of the luxuries of digital photography is the ability to immediately see if you've captured the subject the way you intended. Is the subject overexposed? Too dark? Blurry or perfectly focused? If it isn't what you want, adjust and take some more pictures. Whether it's your current mood, places you go, a family milestone, something that makes you happy or a vacation, take a photo. You have a memory-capturing tool at your fingertips so preserve those precious moments!

### **Finding Subjects Around the House**

Since most of us are spending a lot more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, here are two blogs to help you keep your photography skills sharp without leaving your home:

<https://digital-photography-school.com/still-life-photography-at-home-can-keep-your-skills-sharp/>

<https://digital-photography-school.com/practice-composition-skills-around-your-home/>

### **Landscapes and More!**

Adobe.com is a great resource if you are looking for assistance on a specific aspect of digital photography. If you enjoy taking landscape photos, check out

<https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/photography/discover/landscape-photography.html>

Here's a good article by Attila Kun summarizing 10 tips for photography.

<https://www.exposureguide.com/top-10-digital-photography-tips/>

### **Encouraging Kids to Become Shutterbugs**

Want to inspire your kids to develop a love of photography?

Check out Cole's Classroom at <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/good-pictures-phone-tips>

### **Phone Photo Tips: There's An App for That**

If you're interested in perfecting phone photos, specifically editing photos on your phone, there are a lot of apps from which to choose. Amanda Zantal-Wiener includes a list; some of them are free:

<https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/best-photo-editing-apps>

Blog.Hubspot.com offers many other tips for taking photos with your phone at

<https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/good-pictures-phone-tips>

There are so many resources, but I have to bring this blog to an end. I'll close with a link to the team at Digital Camera World and their 215 tips and video tutorials.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/147-photography-techniques-tips-and-tricks-for-taking-pictures-of-anything>



Here's to capturing the essence of your part of the world, wherever you are!

All My Best,

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P.S. I'd love to see what you capture. Find me on Instagram at dawnsmithingettysburg and let's learn from each other!

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JUNE 5, 2020

6:30PM

Tickets \$25 per household

**An Evening with  
Jamie Ford:  
The Virtual Sequel**

Jamie Ford, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, *Songs of Willow Frost*, and *Love and Other Consolation Prizes*, will join us via Zoom for a conversation about his latest book and other updates since his visit to Gettysburg last September.

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