



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know Me."
John 10:14

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

It's a Different World!

In my report to the congregation at our July meeting, I asked how are you with change. Change seems to be the only constant thing we can count on these days. Things are different in the world, in our country, in our state, and in our church. One very important thing for us all to remember, however, is that no matter how things change, God is still in charge and He doesn't change. I mentioned in my report that even though God did not cause this pandemic, He allowed it to happen. Why would He allow that to happen? Perhaps we are straying too far away from Him and He needs to gain our attention.

This virus has caused our church to make many adjustments. Almost all our ministries were required to shut down. Our live church services were not allowed to happen for many weeks. We pre-recorded our services to show on YouTube Sunday mornings. When we were able to have a limited number of folks attend our Sunday services, we installed a video camera so we could go live on Sunday morning. We had some glitches with our live services at the beginning but hopefully we have those glitches resolved. When you enter our church now, we have sanitizing stations waiting for you, some pews marked off for social distancing, offering plates at the sanctuary door so we don't have to pass the offering plates, and masks available for those who may have forgotten theirs. Unfortunately, we have had to ask folks to not shake hands, no hugs, and no Passing of the Peace. It turns out that these things were some of the hardest things to do. These were some of the things that make our church special – the love we have for each other.

We want you to know that we have taken this virus seriously. We are taking every precaution we can think of to make those who are attending our services safe. We understand that some still have apprehensions about attending and that's okay. We pray that you are taking the opportunity to join us on YouTube. If you do not know how, call us and we will help you figure it out. However, as one person who attended Sunday's service after not being here since we were shut down said "I watched on YouTube but couldn't take it anymore because it's not the same as worshipping live with our Jenkins family."

Obviously, this will not be the normal fall schedule our church is used to. Different ministries will be making decisions about when, or if, to restart. Please look through the entire newsletter for information about a ministry you may be involved in.

Do not forget Romans 8:28: *“And we know in ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him...”* What good has come out of this for you!

Blessings,

Milt

CrossFire

CrossFire will resume Wednesday September 2 at 6:30. We will continue to meet outside so long as the weather permits but will move into the youth room if needed. The leaders of CrossFire will be diligent to honor the necessary health and safety guidelines to help protect our young people. During these strange days, we have used the phrase “social distancing”. This phrase is flawed and has done damage to many people during the pandemic. Our focus for CrossFire this season will be to connect or re-connect with each other and with Jesus. While maintaining physical distancing, our young people will explore creative ways to discover the things of God and the importance of connection in healthy relationships.

Jesse

JMIC

The men will continue to meet for Bible study on Saturday mornings. There is a light breakfast at 7am and the study begins at 7:30am. JMIC will have a retreat on October 2-4 at Covenant Village. Two nights and four meals for only \$98.

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid would normally return from our summer break in September to resume our meetings and fundraisers. However, due to COVID 19 concerns and restrictions at this time we are postponing our meetings until January 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Redding

JWIC

We are putting a Bible Study together for the fall. Stay tuned for more details. Also, we will be having our women's retreat November 13-15 near Cumberland and will be getting those details out to you shortly.

Holly Robinson

Sunday School

We sure have missed meeting together and ministering to our kids! We are looking forward to starting back up again sometime in the fall.

We will of course be making some changes in order to keep our children as safe as possible as they come to learn more about Jesus. Some of these measures are: A sign-in for Sunday School as you arrive, including a fever check and hand sanitizer. We also are going to try to have a sign-up ahead of time online so we can prepare properly for how many children are coming.

Social distancing with seating

Requiring masks

Each child will receive their own personal kit of craft supplies/Sunday School papers

Sanitizing the area before and after each meeting

No snacks

Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer nursery at this time.

We plan on having two groups for the younger children, a pre-K, Kindergarten class and then grades 1-5 together. There will also be a middle school class and a high school class.

Our teachers are anxious to get back to teaching and are looking forward to bringing Jesus to your kids in some new and exciting ways!

Bob Kruger

Youth Bells

Hello to all the youth who are part of Youth Bells. It has been a strange time since March and I missed being with you for rehearsals and playing for Easter. Hopefully, we will be able to get together again before Christmas to learn some new songs. We can space you far apart at the tables and you can wear masks, and still make beautiful music for Jesus and bless the congregation. Stay busy learning at school, or at home. Looking forward to seeing you at church again, and learning some songs with you in the near future. I will be in touch with you when we know we can begin.

Blessings,

Miss Jeanne

COVID POSITIVES

There has been so much sadness, strangeness, sometimes anger for the last 5 months that I thought it would be good to remember the positive things God has given us during this time. One thing He gave each of us was more time with Him. For those of us who thought we were too busy for Bible study, or worshiping Him on Sundays, or a prayer longer than saying grace at meals.....he gave you lots, and lots, and lots, of time at home to talk to Him, study His Word, and develop your personal relationship with Him. Did you take advantage of this blessing, or complain that the virus was ruining the plans you had that didn't include Him?

Okay, that was the biggest and most important positive you were given since March. On a not as important note, I'll share some of my Positives. Getting sick on the ship during our vacation was NOT a positive, BUT:

1. Getting off the ship and home safely before the shutdown was a positive
2. Not being allowed in the hospital when we got home probably prevented us from getting COVID
3. We needed 2 months rest to recover in March and April.
4. The cough subsided enough by April that Milt and I actually had long conversations. That might not have been a positive for Milt, but it was for me.
5. For 2 months the family showed up at the door with food ready to eat.
6. When we were healthier and they didn't need to feed us every day, Milt decided to do the cooking!
7. When Milt was tired of being in the house he decided to start working in the yard!
8. Haley and Milt had time to get the boat ready to launch as soon as the Governor said 'go'.
9. My 91 year old aunt, who is the only one left alive who can remember the day I was

born, has stayed healthy and will be 92 in November.

10. Our whole family has stayed healthy.

11. We both found time to clean out closets and cupboards of things we hardly ever use that others might need, and I found time to start painting again.

12. Most importantly one of my best friends found Zoom. She has been bedridden for 15 years in the same bed, in the same room, and she still loves God. She found it unbelievable that people were whining about having to remain in their house and yard because of the lockdown, and was more amazed that some were angry with God. For the first time in 15 years she has been able to see and talk to relatives in other states, participate in a Passover meal, and be at birthday parties. She is thanking God even more now for this new Zoom world. Think of her the next time a complaint enters your mind and stop it before it hits your lips.

I challenge you to make your own list of Positives - blessings that God sent you in the midst of the mess. I look forward to seeing each of you again in worship as we thank Jesus for all He has given us.

Blessings,

Jeanne

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We will resume our Wednesday morning Bible Study continuing our study of Genesis on September 16 at 10:30 a.m. with proper social distancing.

Milt

Deacon's Bench

Understanding the Bible, cont'd.

Last eight of fifteen keys to help understand the Bible.

- 8. Read the whole Bible.** Go through the Bible from cover to cover. By reading every section of the Bible, you give yourself a broad familiarity and perspective that will help you shed preconceived ideas about doctrinal subjects.
- 9. Compare different translations.** The Bible was written in ancient languages, and scholars sometimes differ on how certain verses should be translated today. A literal rendering is often preferred, but a thought-for-thought translation or paraphrase is sometimes better at capturing the intent of ancient figures of speech. We must also be aware that doctrinal bias can influence translation. Comparing Bible versions will inform us on disagreements in translation and help us to sort through such issues.
- 10. Use study aids properly.** Many Bible study aids are quite helpful. They can provide valuable historical background or point you to other scriptures that add clarity to what you are reading. Aids include concordances, lexicons, dictionaries, maps and commentaries. However, always keep in mind that such resources are not Scripture and can be wrong.
- 11. Seek guidance from God's church.** It is always best to seek help from qualified people in any field of study. God has commissioned His servants to guide people into a fuller understanding of His Word. (Proverbs 11:14; Nehemiah 8:8; Acts 18:26; Romans 10:14-15).
- 12. Take notes.** Jot down notes and explanatory comments in your Bible, a notebook or computer. This will help you remember key ideas or related scriptures. Some people use a marking system, with colors or symbols, to keep track of key verses by categories (doctrine, correction prophecy, etc). This can help you save time when looking for a particular section of Scripture
- 13. Review and Meditate.** Take time to ponder what you have been learning. If something seems hard to understand, take some time to consider its meaning, using what you have already learned as the starting point. Reflect on what the Bible is saying on how you can apply the verses in everyday life (Psalms 1:1-3; Psalms 119:97-99; Psalms 139:17-18).
- 14. Obey God's Word and prove it right.** Put God's Word to the test by practicing the things you are learning. Acknowledge how His ways bring positive change in your life. The best way to determine that God's commands and teachings bring true peace and blessings is by living them (Psalms 111:10; 1 John 3:22; John 10:10; John 8:31-32).

15. **Hold Fast.** Once you have proven something to be true, don't allow yourself to be lightly convinced out of it. While new evidence may overturn your previous conclusion, this must be the product of serious study in God's Word. And always be aware, because false teachers can lead you astray. Ask God to help you remain true to His teachings (1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Timothy 3:13-15; Colossians 1:22-23; Psalms 119:10-16).

Karen Fressler

The Return

The National and Global Day of Prayer and Repentance is Saturday September 26, 2020. Some believe it is a critical moment in time for America and the world. With recent developments of the covid pandemic, quarantines, isolation, loss of great numbers of lives, job loss, financial loss and insecurities. Our nation is witnessing civil unrest, violent protests, and an important presidential election forthcoming. Our nation's core values are being challenged. Our Christian values, faith and freedom are being tested and shaken. We are asking that each of you take the time to enact God's word from 2nd Chronicles 7:14 “*For if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land*” Continue to follow JMC in person for fellowship or on YOUTUBE for updates on how we will support this important National and Global Day of Prayer and Repentance. There is an event taking place at the National Mall in Washington, DC on the same day. For more information on that special event, you can log on to “thereturnwebsite.org”.

Yvonne Pumphrey

Record of Giving for July & August

July

7/5 - \$6,029; Mtg. \$335
7/12 - \$3,902; Mtg. \$325
7/19 - \$2,916; Mtg. \$85
7/26 - \$3,706; Mtg. \$270

August

8/2 - \$3,990; Mtg. \$350
8/9 - \$1,913; Mtg. \$60
8/16 - \$1,837; Mtg. \$435
8/23 - \$2,888; Mtg. \$195
8/30 - \$4,150; Mtg. \$205