

*St. John's Evangelical Church  
211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, Ohio 43326  
(Non Profit Organization)*

**Do Not Delay  
Dated Material**



## **St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter**

June 2020

211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326  
Church Phone: 419-673-7278  
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor  
Website: [www.stjohnskenton.org](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)  
Email: [stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com)

**Happy Father's Day!**



**Fathers have a special role  
In each young child's life,  
To mould and shape them to become  
A follower of Christ  
To show them the Father's heart  
And help them understand  
How God's love can be their guide  
As they take Him by the hand.**

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# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

JUNE 2020

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

<sup>10</sup> “But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” —Jesus, Luke 14:10-11

Last year, throughout Lent and Easter, we studied Jesus’ teaching in the Upper Room in the Gospel of John. There Jesus’ exemplifies His life and ministry in washing the feet of the disciples and then commanding them to go and do likewise for one another (see **John 13:1-20**). This year, we are studying the way of the Cross in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus’ calls us to bear fruit for the kingdom even in the midst of turmoil and tribulation (see **Matthew 24:15-35**).

Throughout the Gospels, amidst their subtle differences, there stands a common theme: to serve and to love as our Savior did. We see that same truth conveyed in the Gospel of Luke. The verses above come from the lips of Jesus just after He witnessed individuals trying to elbow their way to the places of prominence at a dinner party.

Jesus was telling them that our faith is not to be self-serving. After all, that is what the world does. We are taught in a social media saturated world to create ‘content’ that generates ‘likes’ and ‘followers.’ At the same time, we are told to be

‘authentic’ as this will aid in accomplishing those artificial goals.

The irony is this: in order to be ‘authentic’ we have to often cultivate a false persona. Anyone who has spent any time on social media soon learns that being your true self can create all sorts of opposition.

The same is true in real life. Being genuine creates opposition. Take a stance, any stance, and people will voice a contrary opinion. I’ve seen arguments erupt in groups simply around choosing where to eat lunch during a retreat or what color to paint a particular room. Sadly, this occurs in churches too. I heard of a church whose membership divided over how

to spend a bequeath from a dear saint who had gone to be with the Lord.

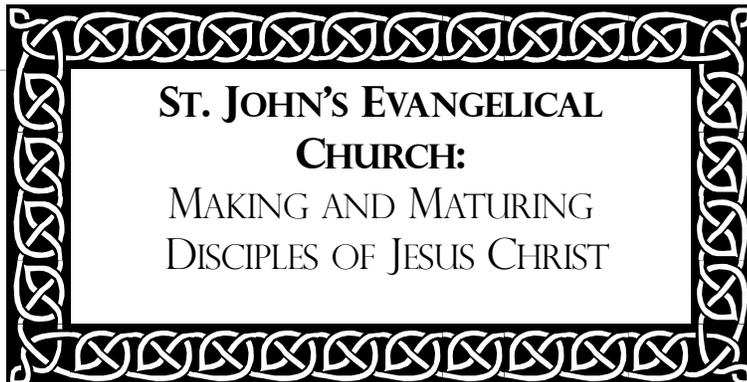
Imagine the opposition that would be generated from telling people that they are not the center of the universe, the focal point of the church, or even the one to receive the limelight. Well, if you have a Bible handy, you don’t have to imagine. Simply read chapter 15 of the Gospel of Luke.

In **Luke 15**, we have one of the most beautiful pieces of scripture, the Parable of the Lost. In that parable, Jesus tells of a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son—actually there are two lost sons. He tells the parable because He is actually living out His own teaching—imagine that!

When Jesus taught of taking the lowly seat, He was talking about sitting down and enjoying a meal with people that no one else wanted to be around.

When **Luke 15** opens, Jesus is enjoying the company of tax collectors and sinners. Even worse, the neighbors—I mean the Pharisees



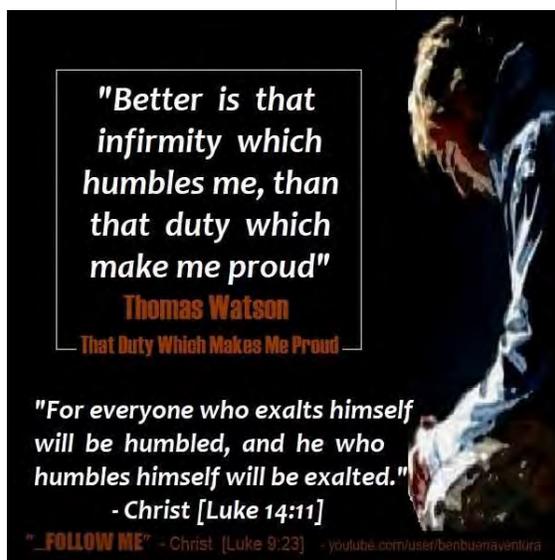


and scribes—found out, and they grumbled about Jesus' humility—His willingness to "receive sinners and eat with them" (v 2). In response, Jesus told them the Parable of the Lost Sheep, Coin, and Son(s). In fact, scripture is utterly clear (v 3), this is ONE parable and needs to be heard as such. We all know what it means to lose a sheep (livelihood), a coin, car keys, or the remote. We'll scour the house and do everything in our power to reclaim the lost 'stuff.' The challenge of the parable: would we do the same for a lost soul?

Do we allow others the privilege of having the place of honor? That's one of the reasons I park so far from the church building. Early on, when I first arrived here, someone actually told me in the parking lot, "I know why you park there." I smiled. He smiled. Most people assume it's because I need the exercise, which is my usual answer when asked. (Believe it or not, most people—even church members—don't want the theological answer).

As we shift into June and slowly emerge from our quarantined bunkers—I mean homes—how shall we return? Will we feel like a church family when we cannot embrace or even shake hands? Will we come seeking comfort for ourselves? Will we gather to find our place in the church? Or will we gather in humility to serve one another, comfort one another, and allow others to sit in the place of honor in the sanctuary or to park in the primo spot?

More radically, when we seek to shift into high gear, will we clamor to have our favorite ministry or program to be restarted? Will we want what's best for ourselves or those closest to us? Will we divide into cliques trying to divide the pie? Or will we humble our hearts before God and seek for a new and radical way to 'do' Church? Will we come seeking to comfort rather than to be comforted? Will we come seeking to feed others rather than worry how much we are being fed?



Will we gather to not only be hearers of the Word but also doers (see **Romans 2:13 AND James 1:22-25**)?

This has been a challenging season, which is a severe understatement! One denominational leader predicted to me recently that churches may end up being closed until September and a second round of closures may come again later this year or in the first half of 2021.

What does such a future look like for St. John's and other churches in our community? How will we be the Church when resources grow scarce and fatigue enters our souls? How will we love our neighbor when we do not feel like getting out of bed in the morning or when our own family's needs seem overwhelming?

Thomas Paine in the founding days of our nation said, "These are the times that try men's souls." Go and read the rest of the quote. For there, he speaks of those who endure and follow through in spite of difficulty will be justly rewarded. Jesus teaches likewise as we have been seeing in the Gospel of Matthew—those who endure to the end will be saved (**Matthew 24:13**).

So when we gather again, may we do so in love. May we gather to build up the church and encourage one another. May we continue to bless our sisters and brothers who may not be able to be with us physically. Even more, may we reach out and preach the Gospel in love and service to our neighbors in this community. May we be humble enough to love and serve them as Christ did and as He commanded.

In humble service,  
*Pastor Randall*

# Pastors Thoughts of the Week

*¶And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms....But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: Luke 14:7,10:*

This intriguing text brings to light the essence of His call to true humility and service to God. In the seventh verse the Lord "marked how the pharisees chose out the chief rooms" - the seats of highest honor being closest to the master of the house. One's seating arrangement was a designation of their societal importance. Sycophants would often jockey for higher positions by flattery and by proving their ability to enhance the status of the host. It is interesting to note here, that very little has changed in 21 centuries. There are those who adulate the rich and famous in hopes of gaining some standing with them. Movie stars have their legion of devotees. Athletes are swarmed by their admirers, Political leaders amass huge rallies of supporters. Religious luminaries attract multitudes to their meetings. All of these hoping to gain some place of distinction by association and the objects of their devotion carefully filtering through the masses to see who among them might best inflate their station and so find the highest seats..

Now note here the glorious Maker of heaven and earth chooses for his holy cadre the ignorant, the common, the persona non grata. Could we sinful miscreants find a more congeal text than Luke 15:1-2: *Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.* The Divine Messenger made himself of no reputation so he could include the disenfranchised and call them his friends.

So the Lord makes His point, When deciding who to invite to your soiree put at the top of your guest list the undesirables- the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. These that have no means to repay your kindness. No quid pro quo. No handsome return on your investment. Let the unworthies of society, the forgotten men, women, and children be the objects of your benevolence and expect no recompense. Beloved Let us as His church today act in His behalf, for surrounding us we will find all of the above cases, worthy of our love and attention. The Lord is careful to add the reminder: thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

*Matthew 25:34-40: Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

Oh what consolation shall be ours as we celebrate at the marriage feast of the Lamb. We have hope that seated next to us will be those many who on earth were beneficiaries of our kindnesses. On earth, they could offer us nothing but a word of thanks but here we can now harmonize our praise to our common King. But do I with wonder hear Him say "Friend, go up higher" and now be seated with me in heavenly places! Hope deferred would thus be recompensed. How good it was to seek out the lowest seat in the service of God that we might hear that glad promotion. "Go Up Higher!"

Have a blessed day .

*Pastor*

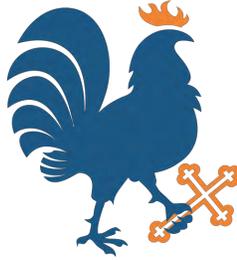
*Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17*

**This devotional is from Faith Bible Baptist Church, 150 Curry St, Turtle Creek, PA 15145 and was posted 12 May 2020 on their Facebook page. I reprinted for your edification and to show how we share common values and have a similar outlook.**



## Upcoming Worship

Hopefully, June will bring us back together in worship. Here are the scriptures and sermon titles for June.



## MISSION TRIP

While the mission trip to Guatemala has been canceled, ministry has continued. A family along the Tracks outside of Guatemala City will receive a new home. Pray for Pastor Walter and the local church as they continue to minister in that area. They have a school attached to their church and seek to create opportunities for a new generation as they build up personal and economic opportunities for the local populace.

My family used some funds that were going to be used on the trip to bless a pastor in Argentina. Pastor Telmo in turn used that gift to feed members of his church and local community. In other words, by not going, two communities in the world were blessed, and our church family was able to share the Gospel where they are located.

Members of our mission team still desire to serve. If you have any ideas or suggestions for what we could do here in Hardin County as a project, please contact the church or me. We want to serve, and we want to reach out. We want to have an impact that blesses a family or portion of our community.

Some of the caregiving ministries in our community are suffering from fatigue. We may not be able to bless them all, but we can do something. Please pray that we find a place to serve. If you can, please join us in that work also.

Thanks again for all of your support. It's been a wild ride at times, but God brought us to a good place. I'm looking forward to see where our missions program goes in the future. I am sure that God has something wonderful and amazing in store for us as we serve in this world!

—*Pastor Randall*

May we listen attentively to Jesus as He challenges us to love radically. He understood that serving His heavenly Father meant standing at odds with the ways of this world—even those/especially those who called themselves religious. May the Spirit grant us wisdom as we discern how to obediently obey the Father in this generation during these strange and wonderful times.

07 June

Scripture: **Judges 4:1-7**  
**Matthew 25:14-30**

Sermon: **Burn Brighter**

14 June

Scripture: **Ezekiel 34:11-16**  
**Matthew 25:31-46**

Sermon: **The Sheep of His Fold**

21 June

Scripture: **Deuteronomy 15:1-11**  
**Matthew 26:1-13**

Sermon: **The Threat Jesus Poses**

28 June

Scripture: **Exodus 24:3-8**  
**Matthew 26:14-29**

Sermon: **For the Sake of  
Forgiveness**

PASTOR'S  
PAGE



# Upcoming EVENTS

## June 7—9:00 am One Worship Service

### St. John's Church Re-Opening Protocol

As we reopen the church for in-person worship on Sunday, June 7 at 9 am with one worship service, we will be following some new protocols to help keep people safe.

- If you have any of the following COVID 19 symptoms, please continue to worship online:

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fever

Chills

Muscle pain

Sore throat

New loss of taste or smell

- This list is not all possible symptoms. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. (from cdc.gov)

- Masks are recommended but not required. Please bring your own mask. If you do not have access to one, some will be available at the church. If you use a mask provided by the church, please take it home with you.

- Hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout the church.

- Enter the East Carrol Street Entrance Only. Temperatures will be taken with a no – touch thermometer. Please sign-in and continue upstairs to the sanctuary. Every other pew/row will be roped off to maintain social distancing. Please enter the pew by the center aisle and exit on the side aisles and sit with immediate family only. When exiting, please use the upstairs south porch entrance if possible. Ushers will be available to assist you if needed.

- Offering plates will be placed in the back of the sanctuary.

- Nursery will be closed. If you have children, Miss Trish will be making up packets with activities for children to use in worship and take home with them. Please consider bringing crayons or soft toys for play.
- No children's sermons due to social distancing rules.
- No communion will be served in June.
- No coffee hour before or after the service.
- No personal touch in these areas:

No passing of the peace

No hymnals, pew pads, bulletins

No handshakes or hugs please

- No in-person Sunday School at this time. Please continue to watch videos on our Facebook St. John's Children's Ministry page

\*\* MS & HS youth can continue to follow videos on Wednesdays on the youth Facebook page: St. John's Kenton, Ohio Youth Group

\*\*\*The church building will continue to remain closed except for Sunday morning worship service at this time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Randall or the church office at 419-673-7278. Thank you for your continued understanding as we reopen the building. \*\*\*

## Join Us for VBS

Music - Missions - Crafts - Snack



September 19-20

3 - 6 PM

Preschool (potty trained)  
through Grade 5

### Vacation Bible School at St. John's Evangelical Church

This fall we will build on the love of Jesus. So, grab your hard hat and tool belt! As kids explore a world of concrete and cranes, rivets and rebar, bulldozers and backhoes, they will discover that skyscrapers aren't the only things that need a rock-solid foundation. During VBS, kids will learn to build their faith on Jesus as they uncover the truth that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion.

If you plan to attend or volunteer, please Pre-Register online by September 16 at <https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=54591>. Reservations are very helpful for preparation purposes. Hope to see you all there!!!

## St. John's Evangelical Church

211 E. Carrol Street

Kenton, OH 43326

419-673-7278

stjohnskenton@gmail.com



## Mission of the Month— Gideons



The Gideons International  
Spreading the  
Good News

**Gideons International** distribute Bibles and New Testaments around the world. Having God's Word can and does lead people to faith in Christ, and those new Christians then grow by studying their Scriptures and even use them to share their faith with others.

For this reason, they focus on distributing complete Bibles, New Testaments, or portions thereof. These copies of God's Word are printed in more than 90 languages and are either given directly to certain individuals or placed in selected public locations where large numbers of people, who may be searching for answers, will have the ability to encounter the Word of God.

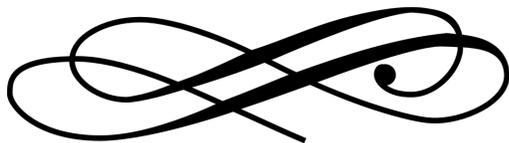
## Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows, widowers, and single seniors who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. We meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join us if you are a widow, widower, or single senior adult. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

### **Forthcoming outings will be as follows:**

If out of town, meet at St. John's at 10:45 am to car-pool. Please note time change for out of town meeting. Still eating at 11:30 am.

### **Postponed until further notice**



#### **Church Staff:**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester  
Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman  
Children's Ministry: Trish Wilcox  
Financial Secretary: Kay Rush  
Church Secretary: Kathy Forester  
Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley  
Contemporary Worship Leader:  
Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler  
Children's Choirs Director: Hope Cauley  
Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker  
Technical Support: Richard Katterjohn  
Historian: Gerald Pfister  
Janitor: Randy Crum

## **Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

**Scioto Valley Cook out:** July 11 from 1-3 pm

**All Church Social**– July 16

**Forest Court Cook out:** August 1 from 1-3 pm

**Mystery Party (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade):** August 9 from 3-5 pm

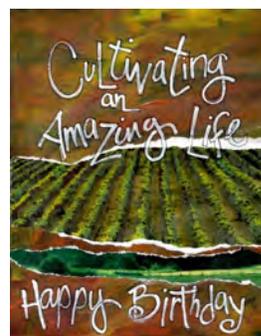
**VBS– Concrete & Cranes:** Sept. 18 & 19 from 3-6 pm

**Disciple Me Programs Resumes:** September 23



Today in our society, we truly believe that Women are so busy with life that we never slow down long enough to work on our relationship with Christ or with other Women. At Women of Joy it's their main priority! Are you ready for the best weekend of your life? It's time for us Women to rise up! A group of ladies will be traveling to Indianapolis, IN on August 14th & 15th, 2020. The cost will be around \$200, this includes your lodging and conference fee. Deadline to register is May 15th. If interested or would like more information please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or contact Michele Sherman. For more information on event:

<https://womenofjoy.org/upcoming-events/>



## **Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)**

Happy Birthday!! Please contact the church office if a name was omitted from the list.

Thank you so much.

June 21: Ross Weaver  
10127 CR 255  
Kenton, OH 43326



June 2020

June, the month for weddings and enjoying the last of Spring. Both celebrations of new beginnings. There is another “new” beginning that started 100 years ago gained traction in June of 1920. The World Council of Churches was founded in 1948 in Amsterdam as “a fellowship of Churches which accept Jesus Christ our Lord as God and Saviour.” The WCC is not a church, nor does it issue orders or directions to the churches. It works for the unity and renewal of the Christian denominations and offers them a forum in which they may work together in the spirit of tolerance and mutual understanding.

I think you will be surprised at one of the major players in its foundation, who in 1920 authored a famous letter helped start this remarkable entity.

The late Metropolitan Germanos Strenopoulos (1872-1951) was born in Eastern Thrace (Bithynia), in the village of Delionas, in a modest Greek family. He studied at the Halki Institute of Theology, studies that he completed at the Universities of Leipzig, Strasbourg and Lausanne. In 1903 he received a doctorate from the University of Leipzig. From 1904 to 1922, Germanos was the rector the Theological School of Halki, and he contributed, in this way, to the formation of the elite of the Greek hierarchy.

The name of the Germanos Strinopoulos is closely related to the history of the ecumenical movement, at least on the part of the orthodox participation and cooperation. Indeed, he is placed among the pioneers of this movement and among the most senior of the ecumenist figures. He joined the ecumenical movement in 1920, through the Theological Institute of Halki, acquiring an active role and participation in the drafting of the “Synodical Encyclical Letter of the Church of Constantinople to the Worldwide Churches of Christ (1920)”. He contributed actively to the founding of the World Council of Churches (WCC). He has been a member of the Committee of Fourteen, which paved the way for the merging of the movements “Faith and Order” and “Life and Work” into the World Council of Churches. During the same period, Germanos actively participated in the Movement as a representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and president of the orthodox delegations. At the first General Assembly of the WCC in Amsterdam (1948), he was elected as one of the six presidents of the Council.

Are you surprised that one of our oldest denominations was a leader in the WCC? The letter he wrote in 1920 is recognized as the instrument which enabled the organization to engage at formation with denominations which presently include all major denominations except the Roman Catholic and Southern Baptists. Our beloved Evangelical and Reformed Church was a founding member in 1948, having been involved since the 1920s. The organization would have been formalized in the 1930s but was delayed by the chaos prior to and then the Second World War.

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Jerry Pfister, Historian



The late Metropolitan Germanos of Thyateira (1872-1951)

St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Agenda  
Thursday, April 23, 2020– Zoom meeting  
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Carol Wilcox, President

OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Randall

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall

OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - Kristi Weaver

- March 12 & March 31 (zoom) Minutes – Motion to accept minutes and seconded, council vote, motion carried.

REPORTS

1) Finance - Kristi Weaver/Russ Cahill

- Income is down about \$13,000, but the check book is still looking okay.
- Made last payment on pews
- Insurance was paid
- Youth Retreat payment was made from February trip

2) Christian Education—Trish Wilcox-Michele Sherman

- Reports submitted
- Did not order the Easter Flowers and will refund people.
- Update on camps – don't think there will be any this year,
- Trish sent a request to do a blessing bag that would include some food. Michele is doing something similar for the youth.
- Trish got a grant that will be used to buy the back to school supplies for the Wednesday Night Kids.
- Question on Vacation Bible School – will have to wait until we have the discussion on the church opening, so will have to revisit

3) Women's Ministry - Kay Rush

- OSU Banquet - June 4, 2020 – will have to check back with them

4) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher

- Letter received that it would be nice to have a combined service when we came back. Will discuss when we talk about opening the church.

5) Personnel Committee - Jerry Pfister, chairperson

- Nothing to report

6) Pastoral Relations - Carol Wilcox

- Meeting May 17

7) Trustees—Russ Cahill

- Windowsills refinished
- Lights installed
- HVAC project completed
- Going to have Randy clean the carpet
- Sanitizers – got a quote – ordered 12 dispensers and foam for it. Need it in 10-11 locations.
- Greg Martin got a call from Dave Zaring about the rooftop – the manufacturer is covering some of the cost. They were wanting to start the annual check on the air conditioning units. Will have to follow up.
- Bus inspection will have to be rescheduled. Cancelled due to the BMV being closed.
- Greg did sign some hunting permits this week.
- Discussion of ordering masks, and if we should order some. Or should we have people make some? Heather will see about getting some people to volunteer.

8) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin/ Mark Sherman

- Discussion of the mission trip, and cancelling it due to concerns of quarantine. Looking at still being able to send money that was donated to have the house built. Then keep any other funds to seed another mission in the future.
- Working with a couple families on beds right now.

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

- Wedding postponed until October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Vacation request for the end of May.

OLD BUSINES:

- Safety of Church Alice Program – hold off for now
- Survey – hold off for now
- Rental agreements – hold off for now

NEW BUSINESS:

- Church Services – Discussion that we should not have communion for awhile when we do go back. Discussion of Sunday School, and how we would have to set up to keep social distancing. Probably have to block off pews, and limit the entrances. Logan County health district is putting out some guidelines. Discussion that would need to seat and release people. Could put an offering plate at the door so would not have pass it. Discussion of having pre-packaged communion. Discussion of the music, and not wanting to expect people to sing. That maybe it should be special music or taped music. Should we table things until the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, then we would know more about what the direction is from the Governor. It would be nice to see what the other churches are planning on doing. Discussion of needing to disinfect things between services. Decision to wait until we meet on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Payroll – Are we keeping the same that we had in April for now? Yes until we go back to services. We can change as needed when we meet May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- June 20 – Wedding – still hoping that it will be able to happen
- Vacation Bible School – Trish has looked at shifting toward August or September if needed.
- Heathers Care Group – Want to thank them for the calls and the work they have done. It has been very well appreciated.
- Thank you from Kenton Full Gospel for the use of the parking lot.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: May 14, 2020 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT – Motion and seconded to adjourn, Council Vote, motion carried.

LORD'S PRAYER

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Sunshine bags were delivered via porch drop off to 40 Youth. There was a few that I got to speak to while delivering and it was so good to see them. I have been keeping contact with the ones that I can. Some are doing well and others are really struggling with their school work so please continue to pray for them during this time.

I switched things up for online lessons and made my own lesson with Adobe Spark. This way we had a lot more feedback. The plan is to continue making lessons and reaching out here and there with them.

Camp Cotubic has been cancelled for this Summer. They do plan to try a virtual camp. Going to stay in contact to see what this will look like incase any of the Youth will be interested.

Hardin County Collective honored our Seniors on May 17<sup>th</sup> with a drive by parade. We are also doing positive gossip for them through email. So any emails that are received will be made into a book and added in with their senior gift that will be presented to them that day. We have been having HCC meetings over Zoom and right now everything else is at a stand still, our summer camp is planned for June but with everyone's concerns about distance issues we're all thinking this may not be doable. Christa Quail mentioned a virtual camp that we could offer but this will have to be done separately in our own churches due to a 10 person limit. Things change day by day so all we can do is Pray and have trust in Him.



Hello! St. John's family! I hope you all are doing well during this crazy and unknown time. I have been praying for our church, all of the families in our church, and all of the church leaders.

I think Prayer is so important! Here are some ideas on how to pray for your children:



Do you pray for your children? God has given us our children on loan for us to raise in his image. It's almost impossible to do that without praying for them.

Here are some ideas for you to try:

**Pray that they will increase in the knowledge of God** – Most parents' greatest hope for their children is that they will be happy, but a fulfilled life comes from knowing God. Without God, there is a nagging emptiness. Lots of people know about God, but knowing Him personally is different. We all know a lot about our nation's President, but only a few know him personally.

**Pray that they live a worthy life** – Pray that their lives have an impact for good and that they will be people of trustworthy character.

**Pray that they're strengthened in God's power** – The world and evil influences will seek to pull our children down. They need God's power to be strong, resist temptation, and do the right thing.

**Thank God for each child** – They are unique creations of God.

On the last week of April I prepared some blessing bags for 60 children which were 40 families. Miss Hope helped me put these bags together. Amanda Dyer donated several boxes of crayons, bubbles, and chalk. I purchased the rest needed from Wednesday kids' account. We loaded these bags with several crossword puzzles, word searches, coloring pages along with bible stories. A box of crayons, a bubble wand, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, food including boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter crackers, microwave popcorn, chips, candy, and bottled water. I sent a Vacation bible school flyer out in these bags along with a letter of where they should look in case of postponement or cancellation of VBS. On May 1, 2020, Jane drove the bus to 32 kids homes along with Mary and I, I drove to 6 country locations and Hope delivered to 2 homes for me. It was so awesome seeing all of the kids, although I wanted to hug them all and couldn't. We dropped on doorsteps and left. We did get to see lots of smiling faces. This was all such a blessing to so many!!!

I have been posting lessons for little kids on my St. John's Children's Ministry page. You are all invited to come take a peak at our page. Natasha and Hope have also been posting some Sunday school lessons to the page. Miss Kristi and Miss Alisha are done with lessons due to Wednesday kids program ending for the year. I have had a lot of feedback on this page. I have had several people call and verbally tell me to please keep this page going, that it is uplifting and inspiring. I will continue to put devotions or lessons on while the church is shut down. I encourage you all to come take a look at my page.

At the beginning of May, I boxed up all the Easter stuff that I had ordered for the community Easter egg hunt. I stored all of the items for next year. If we do have an egg hunt next year, the only thing that would need to be purchased is candy. I am so sad that we had to cancel. I do have some hope that we will be able to have the Easter egg hunt next year.

When the church opens back up, I'm assuming we are not going to be opening up Sunday school/Jr. church right away, therefore I will keep my lessons going online. I will be making up some "Busy KID friendly bags"? I will put a few items in a ziplock bag and your children can grab one at the door of the Sanctuary coming in to be seated for church. The children will just take these bags home with them so that only they will be touching them. Hopefully this will help in keeping the children busy during church. A busy bag might include: 3 crayons, color sheet with bible story, maybe could coordinate with sermon, cross word or word search bible related, and maybe fruit snack.

I hope you all have had a blessed month and hope you all are doing well. We miss you all and we sure do miss coming to church. I Hope we get to see all of you in June. Take care and God bless!

Trish