

APRIL 2021

The Messenger

CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

Go back and look at early Christian artwork depicting the crucifixion, and you'll discover something peculiar: there isn't much. In fact, for the first thousand years after Christ's death, Christian artwork rarely depicted Christ on the cross. Artists regularly depicted all the events surrounding Christ's resurrection: the Last Supper, Roman soldiers mocking Jesus, and eventually the empty tomb. But rarely will you find artwork of Christ's death itself. And that's because for the early church, Easter proclamation wasn't about death, but about paradise. Not a paradise off in the sky somewhere, but a paradise here on earth – as this world is blessed and recreated by the Spirit of God. You see, the early church envisioned Easter not as an isolated, one-time event, but as a universal event that transforms the world. In other words, the resurrection isn't just about Jesus rising from the dead; it's about God's Spirit bringing new life to the whole world. The way the early church saw it, because of Jesus' resurrection there were little resurrections happening among Christ's followers every day. That was the Easter miracle.

That's the beauty of Easter: it reminds us that God brings new life even amidst the darkest of tragedies. This year, it seems especially fitting to be celebrating Easter right as we seem to be turning a corner in the COVID-19 pandemic. We think it will be especially fitting to celebrate Easter by worshipping outdoors (including masked congregational singing) at 10:00 am. We hope you'll bring a lawn chair or blanket (or remain in your cars) as you join us outside for worship on Easter Sunday at 10:00 am. We'll have an Easter Egg Hunt for children after the service. We'll also be offering free individ-

ual and family portraits after the service!

For the six weeks following Easter, we'll begin a new sermon series entitled *Everyday Resurrections*. Each Sunday, we'll turn to the book of Acts to read about little resurrections – new life brought by God's Spirit – in the lives of Christ's followers in the early church. And we'll learn how to look for little resurrections in today's world, too. I hope you'll join us.

Goochland Baptist Church will be offering some new opportunities to connect this spring, too. My wife, Erin, will be offering a free, six-week Yoga Class focusing on the story of Elijah. It'll meet outside the church starting Sunday, April 18 at 5:00 pm. (In the event of rain, the class will move inside.) Anyone is welcome. Bring a mat if you have one, but the church will have a few extra mats available.

Our Regathering Team just met and has decided to move worship outdoors (weather permitting) on Sundays at 10:00 am through the month of May. Worshipping outdoors provides an environment that's safer for singing with masks. Our Music and Worship Committee will be working with church council to make recommendations for worship as the pandemic becomes more controlled. They'll update you on those developments as we near the end of May.

This past year hasn't been easy for any of us, but Easter reminds us an important truth: if God can turn Jesus' tragic death into a triumph that blesses the world, God can redeem our difficulties, our trials, and our disappointments, too. I'm ready for Easter this year. And just as we'll celebrate Christ's resurrection, I'll also be watching for resurrections all around us.



GOOCHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH
EST. 1771

PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer requests, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com.



WEEKLY EMAILS:

If you are not receiving our weekly emails and Sunday sermons and would like to, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com.

Address:

2454 Manakin Road
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103
Church Office: 804-749-3522
Church Fax: 804-749-4510

Email:

Goochlandchurch@gmail.com

Website:

www.goochlandchurch.org

Facebook:

GoochlandBaptistChurch

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz
Pastor

Kelly Anderson
Minister to Students

Deacon Minutes

Virtual Church.

The Ultimate Oxymoron

David Angel

Got my first Moderna shot two weeks ago. By the time you read this, I should have received my second. Susan got the “one and done” Johnson & Johnson vaccine yesterday. I am told we should be good for covid, rabies, and hoof and mouth disease. It’s a good thing because the stress of this quarantine thing has me wanting to bite someone. But who? There is no one to blame.

I have watched as the seven-day moving average of new cases has dropped from 250,000 to 54,000. The tide is turning. We are not out of the woods but I am encouraged. As more of us are vaccinated, we are told this so-called herd immunity will kick in. I miss the herd, don’t you?

Our Pastor has led us through what surely seems a 40-year trek through the wilderness. I recently heard someone say “this is the most difficult time to pastor a church since World War II.” I have no doubt about it. The tech savvy among us have taught us to use Zoom calls, enhance our social media presence, and live stream our services on YouTube.

These have been necessary tools but they are not “doing church”. Perhaps you have discovered that a talking head on some video monitor just doesn’t work for you. Of course, it doesn’t work. It’s not supposed to work. Christianity has always been experienced in and through community. There is a reason why the Eucharist, or Lords Supper, has always been a central practice of the church. It is a graphic symbol of our essence as people of faith. We are people of community. We gather together to celebrate with one another. We gather together to support one another. We gather together to love one another. We gather together because we need one another.

For those who have chosen to defer returning to services during the year, please know, we get it. No harm. No foul. We completely understand. We look forward to seeing you back with us when you are comfortable doing so. We, of course, hope it will be sooner rather than later.

Throughout my life, I have belted out the words of that great hymn of our faith, “When We All Get to Heaven”. You know how it goes. “When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus, we’ll sing and shout the victory!” Well.... yeah. Sure. I look forward to that day. But heaven can wait. At the moment, I’ll settle for the day when we all get back to church. What a day of rejoicing that will be, indeed. I have never been one to initiate hugs but I offer fair warning. On that day, all bets are off.

GBC Student Ministry

Kelly Anderson

We are heading into Spring and there feels like new life in many ways here in 2021. We are all hopeful we are nearing the light at the end of the tunnel as it pertains to COVID-19. Vaccines are becoming more commonplace in our communities and restrictions are started to be lifted in the state. Even as things become more and more like the new normal, I believe it is important to reflect back on the past year in our student ministry. My hope is that the GBC student ministry provided a sense of community for students during a long time of isolation over the past year. My prayer for our student ministry going forward is that we can continue to foster that sense of community that we have created over the past year and continue to grow together in our faith journey.

As I reflect back over the past year, I also hope that our students found new and exciting ways to engage Scripture and were able to see the ways the word of God is living and active in the here and now. There were so many events that transpired from the racial tensions from last summer, of course the COVID-19 pandemic, and then the heated election that came in the fall. My prayer is that students were able to see how God is working through all of these things to bring about wholeness and flourishing into our neighborhoods, our communities, and the world. May we all find the time to reflect over the past year and may we rejoice in the new life that is about to spring forth.



Wednesday Nights @ 6:00-7:00 pm

In the Multipurpose Room. Our Wednesday night youth group gatherings will continue this month. We will continue reading through the book of Acts and talking about how the Spirit is working in our lives both individually, and in community.

As we prepare for our summer mission trip, look for upcoming announcements regarding trip formation activities that are being planned as we prepare to be on mission together.

Follow us @GBCVASTUDENTS

or visit www.gochlandchurch.org/students.

Please note that all of our youth ministry gatherings will adhere to CDC guidelines and rules that have been set forth by our GBC regathering team



**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
DINNER
TO GO**

To reserve your meals, call or text

Wayne Melton at 804-380-4528 by Monday at 9:00 PM.

**ON THE WAY:
WEDNESDAYS @ GBC**

Online

Join us online **Wednesdays at 7 pm** for a real-time gathering for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study.

To be added to the email list or learn more, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com or call 804-749-3522.

**APRIL BIRTHDAY
GREETINGS**

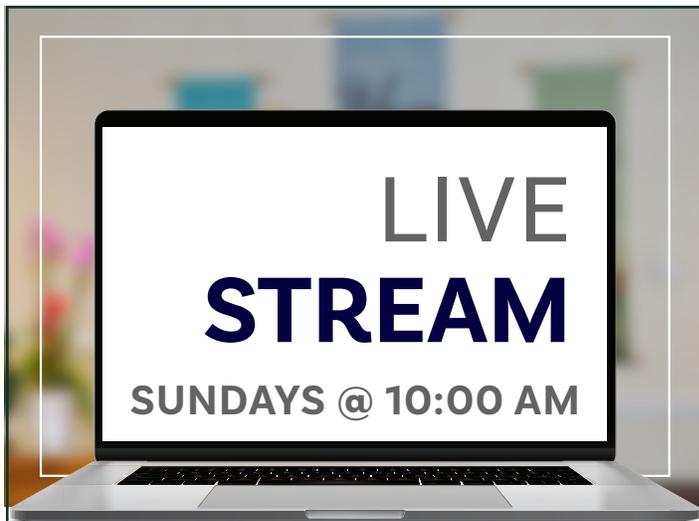
- April 1** William Hicks
- April 8** Angela Hobson
- April 9** Kitt Townsend
- April 11** Evelyn Alvis
- April 13** Faith Bordewyk
Mallory Bordewyk
Laura Ricketts
- April 16** Cameron Bassett
Brenda Denton
Joe Stanley
- April 17** Nate Adams
Philip Hobson
Alana Sargent
- April 18** Lincoln Johnson
- April 19** Kelly Anderson
- April 21** Austin Colgin
- April 24** Daphne Longenecker
Monica Williams
- April 25** Frankie White
- April 29** Jose Camacho



Holy Yoga

**SUNDAYS
5:00-6:00 pm**

Join us **Sunday, April 18** outside the church for a free, six week Yoga Class focusing on the story of Elijah. For more information, email e.kruschwitznp@gmail.com or visit www.goochlandchurch.org.



To watch, visit **Youtube.com** and search "**Goochland Baptist Church**" or follow the link at www.goochlandchurch.org and in our weekly emails.

From SMAT...

Staff Ministries Appreciation Team

Happy Birthday to **Kelly Anderson** on April 19th!

We're grateful that **Pastor Curt's** **Kruschwitz** scans and lab work last month were encouraging, and that everything looks stable.



FEBRUARY MISSION PROJECT REPORT

THANK YOU! We set a goal to collect \$300 during the month of February to go towards purchasing pots/pans and silverware for families/individuals being ministered to by CARITAS and moving to a permanent home. As always, the GBC Family responded over and above what was requested!!!

Received = \$572!!!

Delivered to CARITAS: 32 place settings of silverware, 40 pots and pans



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

STARTING EASTER SUNDAY
AT 10:00 AM



Our Regathering Team has decided to move worship outdoors (weather permitting) at 10:00 am on Sundays through May. Outdoor worship will include masked congregational singing. Bring a blanket or lawn chair (or remain in your car) and worship amidst the natural beauty of the outdoors.

GBC EASTER MISSION PROJECTS

WELCOME HOME KITS

Ministry Partner - CARITAS

GBC Goal - 20 KITS

Coordinator - Mila Spaulding

mila.spaulding@gmail.com, 804-305-7506

These kits include household cleaning items. Items are used by clients served at the CARITAS Furniture Bank as they transition from crisis into a permanent home. **Please bring to GBC by Easter Sunday.**

Please provide:

- sponges
- glass cleaner
- paper towels
- all-purpose cleaner (i.e. Comet, Soft Scrub)
- broom and dustpan
- mop

GBC will be furnishing buckets to go with each kit.

ALSO, If anyone has a dresser or chest of drawers they would like to donate to CARITAS, contact Mila Spaulding.

GOOCHLAND CARES NEEDS

CLOSETS CLOSET

Coordinator - Gale Chaisson

gdchaisson@aol.com, 804-749-3358

If your spring cleaning includes your closets, please bring any clothes still in good shape to GBC so we can donate to Goochland Cares Clothes Closet.

FOOD PANTRY

Coordinator - Shannon Wilson

shannonwilson3@mac.com

Please bring to GBC by Easter Sunday.

- canned soups
- beans
- fruit
- mac ' n' cheese



EVERYDAY
RESURRECTIONS

NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS APRIL 11

GBC

Go back and look at early Christian artwork depicting the crucifixion, and you'll discover something peculiar. There isn't much. And that's because for the early church, Easter proclamation wasn't about death, but about paradise. Not a paradise off in the sky somewhere, but as this world blessed and recreated by the Spirit of God. You see, the early church envisioned Easter not as an isolated, one-time event, but as a universal event that transforms the world. In other words, the resurrection isn't just about Jesus rising from the dead; it's about God's Spirit bringing new life to the whole world. The way the early church saw it, there were little resurrections happening among Christ's followers every day. That was the ongoing part of the Easter miracle. So for six weeks following Easter, we'll be surveying Acts to read about little resurrections - new life brought by God's Spirit - in the lives of Christ's followers in the early church. And we'll learn how to look for little resurrections in today's world, too.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Goochland Baptist Family:

As you're well aware, the COVID-19 virus is spreading through our community more quickly than ever. Positivity rates are up, and just about everyone knows someone who has tested positive. Our Regathering Team met this week to reevaluate Goochland Baptist's response to the pandemic. From the beginning, our Regathering Team has remained committed to the importance of corporate worship (Isaiah 43:21), the importance of human connection (Genesis 2:18), and the importance of caring for our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us (1 Corinthians 12:22). These values guide our decision-making.

We know that not everyone is comfortable with in-person worship in a season like this. In fact, for many of church members who are more vulnerable to COVID-19, it's best to worship from home. However, our Regathering Team has decided to continue worshipping in-person following the guidelines we established last fall, including wearing masks over the nose and mouth and social distancing.

We want to be clear with our church family about our response if someone who attends worship tests positive for COVID-19. Pastor Curt has talked with the Chickahominy Health District to make sure the Regathering Team's response aligns with the best practices for our region. What's outlined below is our plan to try and keep everyone as safe and informed as possible.

First and foremost, if you've attended GBC in-person activities and test positive for COVID-19, please contact Pastor Curt or your deacon ASAP. We will never share the identity of persons with COVID-19 with the church family without their consent. By letting us know of your COVID-19 diagnosis, you allow us to do everything reasonably possible to protect the greater church family.

When we learn that someone who has tested positive attended one of our in-person gatherings within the last 14 days, we will take the following actions:

- **First**, we'll contact everyone who attended the event with the person who later tested positive for COVID. We keep records of who attends every in-person gathering to aid in contact tracing.
- **Second**, following the guidance of the Chickahominy Health District, we'll advise everyone who attended an in-person gathering with someone who tested positive for COVID to talk to their primary care provider and get tested for COVID-19. Most providers recommend taking the send-off test, which is much more accurate than the rapid test.
- **Third**, if we are aware that specific people were in close contact with the person who tested positive (i.e. sat near, had a conversation with), we will let those particular people know that they were in close contact with someone who tested positive. The Chickahominy Health District recommends folks who were in close contact with an infected person self-quarantine for seven days, even if they get a negative COVID-19 test result. Research suggests that people who test negative sometimes still transmit the virus, especially if it was a false negative.
- **Fourth**, following the direction of the Chickahominy Health District, we will cancel the next week's service to allow a full 14 days between services. For example, if we have someone who tests positive in our Sunday morning worship service, the next Sunday's worship will be online only.

If you have any questions about our protocol, please don't hesitate to reach out. Hopefully later this year we'll turn a corner and we can return to some form of normalcy. Until then, you can be assured that we will do everything reasonably possible to keep you informed of potential exposures to COVID-19. It's our prayer that you stay healthy, and that God's presence sustains and guides you in this season. Please let us know if we can help in anyway.

Sincerely,
GBC Regathering Team

Guidelines for Indoor Worship

Established by the Goochland Baptist Church Regathering Team

We will be doing the following in an effort to keep our church family safe:

- Sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (including doorknobs and bathroom fixtures)
- Offering hand sanitizer and face masks upon entrance to the church
- Refraining from passing things (bulletins, offering plate, Lord's Supper)

Each person will be asked to do the following:

- Wear a facemask at all times while they're inside the church building. (Children under age 2 do not need facemasks.)
- Practice social distancing, remaining at least six feet apart from those outside your immediate family.
- Refrain from bringing food or drink into the church building.
- Use the bathroom before or after the service, but remain in your seat once you've been seated for worship. (Worship will be approximately 45 minutes long.)
- Visit with our church family outside of the church building after the service.

Worship itself will look different.

- In an effort to reduce traffic, an usher will show every individual or family to their seats. (We will seat from the outside of the rows moving in.)
- Ushers will leave three seats between each individual or family unit to ensure adequate social distancing.
- At the conclusion of the service, ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows.
- We will not pass the offering plate, but there will be a box at the entrance of the Multipurpose Room for our church family to drop their offerings into.
- We'll have music, but there will be no congregational singing.
- Children may come forward for the children's sermon and sit on pre-arranged mats to ensure social distancing.
- We will not be printing out bulletins. Instead, we'll use the monitors to guide the service.
- Our pastor will preach behind a clear shield and exit the building immediately after the service, so he can greet you safely outside.

Who shouldn't worship indoors?

- If you have a fever, cough, or sore throat, please stay home and worship with us online.
- If you or someone in your household has been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home and worship with us online.
- If for any reason, you're not comfortable with the guidelines the Regathering Team has established, please stay home and worship with us online!

We will continue to monitor state and local guidance concerning COVID-19 and will make necessary adjustments to our worship guidelines as needed.

Goochland Baptist Church Regathering Team

Kelly Anderson
David Angel
Susan Angel
Angela Bassett
Elizabeth Hobbs

Curt Kruschwitz
Erin Kruschwitz
Jeff Parrish

Mila Spaulding
Russ Starke
John Webb
Mike Wilson
Shannon Wilson

PRAYER REQUESTS

Allen Bowles—health concerns

Doug Brandmahl—health issues

Debbie Dunlavey—cancer

Jackie Eby—Brookdale

Janet Faudree—health concerns

Carolyn Heath—now living in Dogwood Terrace in Henrico

Lila Hicks—recovering from knee replacement and now is dealing some hip issues

Scott Hobson—continued prayers that his cancer remains low and continues to respond to treatment.

Janet Koch—recovering from knee replacement surgery

Connie Long

Daphne Longenecker—recovering from surgery on her other foot

Hazel Melton—having some trouble with an eye issue

Rebecca Michels—tests have revealed some tiny cancer growths, so Rebecca is beginning chemo again

Linda Moore—has been in and out of the hospital

Rick Murren—was discharged from the hospital and has returned home.

Mike Nicholas—recovering at home from surgery; he welcomes phone calls.

Lee Proffitt—caring for her husband, Jim, who is facing some health concerns

Adelaide Stanley—doing PT at her new residence at Beth Shalom

Mary Stanley—Beth Shalom

Wanda Waldrop

Bob White—health concerns

Julia White

Family & Friends of GBC Members

John Bartlett—Linda Moore's brother has C-Diff.

Roger Bourgeois—(Linda Moore's uncle) exposed to Covid. Has other health issues and a disabled daughter he cares for.

Diandra Camacho—prayers for arthritis and its treatment

Jim Crews—(Carla Yuen's neighbor & friend) had a cancerous tumor removed from his neck.

Roger Foster (friend of Mike Nicholas and retired Henrico County police officer) has terminal cancer.

Audrey Geraci (Denise and Gerard Huff's niece) stage 4 metastatic melanoma. She is 36 years old and has three young children.

Clarence Hall Jr. and Carol Hall, his wife; kin to Willy Hall and Hazel Melton

Janice Hanner—undergoing treatment, pancreatic cancer

Kelly Harris (Jim & Brenda Allen's daughter)—Health concerns

Margaret Holland (a member of the community) she suffered a stroke

Dan and Sherry Kittelson—Kitt Townsend's newlywed brother and sister-in-law.

Caroline Laughorn—(friend of Kelly Anderson) diagnosed with Leukemia for the 4th time at age 20

Mary Anne Lawson—(Gwen Padgett's cousin) having trouble with shoulder that was repaired.

Mae Higgs—long time Goochland school bus driver is at VCU Oncology Critical Care Unit, room 110. She has just started a month long chemotherapy protocol for Leukemia. No visitors please but cards and notes are welcome.

Rebecca Michels' Mom

Jan Moritz (friend of Richard Ciofani & Sandy Fisher)—cancer diagnosis

Gwen Nuckols (Iris Nuckols' sister-in-law) - beginning chemo treatments for cancer in March

Gwen Padgett's cousin Nancy—multiple health concerns and her husband Eddie had a small stroke

Arlene Parent - Hazel Melton's sister is in ICU at Henrico Doctors Forest for COVID-19. She has been put on a ventilator.

Wayne Parent (Arlene's husband and Hazel Melton's Brother in Law)—has COVID as well, but is at home

Mrs. Calvin Porter diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Rhonda Powell—friend of Daphne Longenecker, has esophageal cancer

Tami Ricketts' mother has breast cancer at 91 and has declined some this past week

Sue Snead (friend of Ann Bowles)

Kellee Thurston (friend of Cindy Alvis)—had a kidney and liver transplant last week. Please pray her right kidney starts working.

Dolly Vopelak—Ken Stalls' mother in NC

Nell West—(Aunt of Audrey Nuckols and Lois Lane) recovering from surgery

Sharon Wood—Hazel Melton's sister, health issues

Our Sympathy...

To the family of **Selma Herweyer**, who passed away on March 18. There will be a private family burial service this week. After the threat from COVID-19 loosens, the family plans to host a celebration of Selma's life for the community at GBC.

Please email goochlandchurch@gmail.com with new prayer requests, changes to prayer requests, or to be added or removed from our Prayer Request Email List.