

APRIL 2020

The Messenger

CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

What a month! Several weeks ago, our church family was excited about all that was in front of us: making plans for a churchwide dinner, a Parent's Night Out for our community, and a business meeting to discuss a proposed new staff position. The spread of COVID-19 around our region wiped all of that out – as well as the school year for our children, youth, and college students. Who would have thought three weeks ago that we'd all be at home all day?

That's certainly disrupted the way we do church. Following our state-wide ban on all assemblies of more than ten people, our church building will be closed at least through Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Like churches all across the country, we've had to re-imagine what it means to be church together – especially when we can't meet at church.

This is nothing new, though. Throughout history, God's people have shifted the way they gathered and worshipped together. Back in the Old Testament days, when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, followers of God began meeting together in local synagogues. It was then that God's people realized that worship wasn't dependent upon any one particular space. Some years later, the first disciples of Christ had to shift their worship to secret places to escape persecution. Some followers of Jesus in other parts of the world still do that today.

Locations change, buildings change, and even worship styles change. But throughout history, the essence of our gatherings hasn't changed: people gather to worship together, and then they scatter to make God's presence felt throughout the community. The way we worship has changed drastically over time – but in all of it, people have gathered to meet God and then scattered to make God's presence known.

Right now, we can't gather. At least not physically. I'm grateful for Kelly and Jennifer's help in finding platforms that help us gather virtually – our Sunday morning worship videos and our Wednesday Night Online gathering. (Read about our virtual gathering on page 4). But for the most part, we're scattered right now.

In the midst of this social distancing, how can we make God's presence known? In Romans 12:12, Paul encourages us to "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." I heard that text in a sermon when I was in college – and it had a profound impact on me. The preacher reminded us that our strongest witness occurred when our lives were a mess. "When everything is good, it's easy to praise God," he told us. "But when your life is falling apart – that's when others will be watching you, to see how you respond."

We may be in an era of social distancing, but other people will be

CURT | CONT. ON PAGE 2



GOOCHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH
EST. 1771

PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you are not currently receiving prayer requests by email and would like to be a part of this ministry, 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](https://www.facebook.com/GoochlandBaptistChurch)

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz
Pastor

Kelly Anderson
Minister to Students

From SMAT...

Staff Ministries Appreciation Team

Happy Birthday Kelly
on April 19th!!

Here are some facts we thought you might like to know about Kelly's personal tastes:

Food: Pretty much anything.

Favorite Restaurant(s): Chick-fil-A, Chuys, Texas Roadhouse

Favorite Cake: strawberry

Favorite Pie: chocolate

Favorite Cookies:
Oreos or chocolate chip

Favorite Candy Bar: Butterfinger

Favorite Ice Cream:
Moose Tracks

Snack: fruit of any kind

His favorite movie:
The Wizard of Oz (lions and tigers and bears oh no! There's no place like home.)

Join us in wishing Kelly a very happy birthday!



GBC Student Ministry

Kelly Anderson

During these strange times, it is great to be reminded of God's faithfulness. Psalm 119:90 says "Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures".

While having to be isolated and hearing so many stories of how the coronavirus is impacting so many people and communities it is easy to begin to lose hope. It's ok to be scared. It's ok to lament and cry out to God during times like these. Even during seasons like this God is faithful to us.

One of the ways I have been reminded of God's faithfulness during this time is by all the acts of kindness I have seen. People reaching out and providing masks for those in the medical field who are on the front lines of all of this. Small businesses reaching out to serve their community in any way they can during this time. I want to encourage you all to look for the ways God is showing up in our lives even in the midst of chaos.

Take time to be still. Take time to step away from the screen for a few moments and take a walk outside. Call to check in on a neighbor or a friend. Even though we can-

not gather physically as the church, we are still able to be church and show the love of God to those who are desperately searching for hope.

Even though I miss gathering together as a church family, I am grateful for the technology that we have that allows us to gather together online. Here are the ways that the GBC student ministry is staying connected:

- **Sunday evening gatherings at 5:30 P.M. on Instagram live.**
- **Wednesday evening gatherings at 6:00 P.M. on Zoom.**
- **Staying connected through daily Instagram posts as well such as praying through the Psalms.**

Some events that are being rescheduled: *Stay tuned for updates on these and other events as we try to work through the calendar on the other side of the COVID-19 crisis.*

1. Portable faith trip to DC that was scheduled for April 18
2. Our Youth ministry fundraiser that was scheduled for April 1

CURT | CONT. FROM PAGE 1

watching you. They'll be watching how you respond to having your whole family home together. They'll watch how you respond during economic challenges. They'll be watching what you do when you're under stress - do you crumble, or do you hold out hope in Jesus? This season may enhance our witness - because as we put our trust in God, others will be watching like never before.

So think about how you talk with your family, your colleagues, and your neighbors. Think about ways you can help out right now. One way Goochland Baptist is trying to make a difference is by collecting homemade, CDC-compliant facemasks for use in our regional health clinics. (Read about that on page 3) Think about the ways you deal with your own anxieties - do they reveal your faith, or do you look like everybody else?

The ways you talk, live, and serve during these uncertain times have the potential to reveal your faith. Even though we're scattered, we have a unique way to remind people that God is still with us, God loves us, and God can bring good out of difficult situations. Let's use it!



Deacon Minutes

Phil Egolf

Greetings to All,

I'm hopeful this letter finds you all healthy and safe. Spring is in the air which usually means March Madness for NCAA basketball and spring training for MLB. However, this year has given a different perspective on March Madness and spring training. I had almost forgotten about all of this until I ran across a post the other day about "who would be winning" and "What if" the tournament was happening--who would have been shorted in a last second shot...

What if we did have sports to take part in and watch? What if all this was not happening?

Silver linings can be found in every situation we encounter throughout our lives. We have to find and embrace these in times like this to overcome the adversity we are dealt. It can be very difficult to find, but this is my challenge to each of you over the next few months.

These times are unprecedented and I'm sure we all have questions about what the future holds for us: When this will lift? When we can meet together as a church family? I wish I had the answers. Over the past three weeks, I have thought many times about how crazy this seems and what is next for us. The only thing I can do is pray to our God and allow him to show me the way. Please allow him to show you and your families the way too. Always remember--God's plan is a masterpiece!

For I know the plans I have for you--this is the Lord's declaration--Plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Mission Empasis

COVID-19 MASKS

Medical facilities all over our country have reported shortages of medical supplies, and our local health clinics are no exception. As a result many facilities are now putting out a call for donations of homemade masks and gowns.

These homemade masks are simple to make. While not nearly as effective as the N-95 masks for preventing someone from catching COVID -19, they are effective at keeping a sick person from spreading COVID -19. Giving a sick patient a homemade mask helps clinics save the medical grade masks for the health care providers. For this reason, we building a collection of homemade masks to hand out to patients at local rural health clinics. Instructions and a how-to video can be found at www.goochlandchurch.org/outreach-opportunities. For more information, you may also contact the church office at 804-749-3522.

We are working on more opportunities to help our community during this time. Please stay tuned!



JOURNEY TO
THE CROSS

Download your free Holy Week Guide at:
www.goochlandchurch.org/publications



THANK YOU

George and Janet Koch for working hard to keep our church looking great.

APRIL 2020

THE COMPASSION EXPERIENCE

In March our Seekers Sunday school class and their families went to The Compassion Experience at another local church during the Sunday school hour. Compassion International is the world's leading authority in holistic child development through sponsorship. Learn more at www.compassion.com.



Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Join us online **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm** for a real-time gathering for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. Curt is teaching from Jesus' last words to his disciples before his crucifixion. Jesus knew his disciples' lives were about to change drastically, so he gave them some important teaching. In a season when our lives have changed drastically, Jesus' teachings may be especially insightful. Login info is emailed out weekly. To be added to the email list or learn more, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com or call 804-749-3522.



Join us online for a time to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and to take communion together on **Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 pm**. Have some bread and juice on hand if you'd like to take communion with us.



Sunday sermons are available by email and on Facebook and Youtube **Sundays @ 9:00am**. You can also watch past sermons at www.goochlandchurch.org/sermons

Prayer Requests

Please pray for our medical professionals, first responders and others whose work requires contact with large numbers of people during this time of social distancing. Please continue to pray for all those affected by COVID-19.

Allen and Ann Bowles—health issues

Doug Brandmahl—health issues

Joyce Carlton

Jackie Eby—Brookdale

Janet Faudree—health concerns

Barbara Fillion

Carolyn Heath—in pain

Waverly Heath

Selma Herweyer

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

Connie Long

Daphne Longenecker—foot/leg issues

Hazel Melton

Rebecca Michels—health concerns

Mike Nicholas—broken back and getting treatment

Sandra Nuckols—home

Amy Robinson—kidney infection

Bob & Adelaide Stanley

Mary Stanley—Beth Shalom

Jessie Stewardson—broken toe

Wanda Waldrop

Bob White—health concerns

Julia White

Family & Friends of GBC Members

Lynne Andrako—Janet Koch's friend, beginning cancer treatment

Breana—daughter of Jordan Padgett's coworker who has a growth on her brain

John Bartlett—Linda Moore's brother.

Tony Ciofani, Richard Ciofani's uncle; he suffered a severe heart attack; in Hospice Care.

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

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

Janice Hanner—undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer

Claudia Hicks, Ebu Brown's sister

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

Hazel Jane Melton—pancreatic cancer (Member of Joy Club)

Rebecca Michels' Mom

Rebecca Michels' Nephew, **Berkeley Kellum**, LCH cancer

Roger—Linda Moore's uncle.

Joyce Morgan (cousin of Phyllis Toney)

Anne Nuckols, widow of Lawrence Nuckols and sister-in-law of Iris Nuckols—health concerns

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

Wayne Parent (Hazel Melton's Brother in Law)

Mrs. Calvin Porter diagnosed with non hodgkin's lymphoma. She will begin chemo 1/13/20. Her husband just passed recently.

Rhonda Powell—friend of Daphne Longenecker, has esophageal cancer

Lee Proffitt's sister in law, **Pearl Turman**, bladder cancer

Lee Proffitt's brother, **Raiford Turman**, home

Sue Snead (friend of Ann Bowles)

Violet Spence—Linda Gibbs' sister

Brian Sweeney (Kevin Dunne's nephew)—kidney failure

Barbara Tester—received a good report from her surgery follow up visit.

Shannon Tyler—Bailey Anderson's mom

Tom Zaninno (friend of Daphne Longenecker)—fell and injured neck.

More ways to give at www.goochlandchurch.org/give



ONLINE



MAIL



TEXT TO GIVE



BILL PAY

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT
1

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT
2

For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT
3

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT
4

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT
5

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

