THE SCOOP

Here are some ways to connect and serve:
1. Prayer groups via technology, school lunch help with **Angela Adams**, buy groceries for the elderly keeping them out of the markets, FaceTime/Call everyday & use other media options like Facebook Live & Zoom to connect.
2. Nicaragua is on hold.
3. Senior Sunday is still on for April 5 p.m.

PRAYER & PRAISE

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bob Allen is at home, but may not have visitors for one more week; **Louise Ganus** is in the Crossing; **Susan Watson** is in Oakdale 605.

SYMPATHY

We are saddened at the passing of **Mary Brown's** sister, Louise Eddy, on Thursday, March 12, in Texas.

TIMOTHY HILL RANCH DINNER

To be held at Harding University, it will be rescheduled for a later date.

SHOWER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The baby shower for Ean & Sophie Myers, son of **Eddie & Amy Myers,** on March 22 has been canceled. If you'd like to purchase from their registry and ship to their house, they are registered at babylist.com. If you need to drop off gifts, please take them to the College Church office.

LAST WEEK

Attendance 3/15/2020:
Worship—virtual service / Bible Classes —dismissed
Children's Worship — dismissed
Worship p.m. —dismissed / Worship 7:15 p.m. —dismissed

FINANCES

Budget for 3/15/2020.....$45,500.00
Giving for 3/15/2020.....$25,523.37
Budget through Week 29.....$1,366,750.00
Giving through Week 29.....$1,418,839.78

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. M-F
Closed daily 12-1 p.m.
712 E Race Ave, HU Box 10798
Searcy, AR 72143
www.collegechurchofchrist.org
ccoc@collegechurchofchrist.org
or elders@collegechurchofchrist.org
501-268-7156 FAX: 501-268-2684
College/Community Outreach 268-4191
Bulletin Deadline - NOON, THURSDAYS

March 22, 2020

COLLEGE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Intentionally connected to God, His Word, His world, and to each other.



"DOES JESUS CARE?"

Frank Graeff wrote "Does Jesus Care?" in 1901. He raises questions about Jesus. His are the questions of Everyman. In the chorus between each verse, Graeff rings out the answer to his own questions saying, "O yes, He cares; I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares, He cares."

Who hasn't voiced the poet's concerns or, at least, felt them during times of uncertainty and distress? As the winds and waves of the coronavirus pandemic batter us, some may be asking even now, "Does Jesus care?"

I am confident Jesus cares because of his promises. He said, ". . . And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This promise was not limited to missionaries, but was intended for all his followers. In Matthew 11:28, he reached out and said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (ESV in this article). He also said, "I am the good shepherd . . . and I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:14-15). Jesus promised to care for, even die for, his sheep-and he kept his promises.

I am confident Jesus cares because of his actions. He gave up his rights as the Son of God, left heaven, came to this corrupt world where we sometimes act worse than animals, took the form of a man, washed our feet, and died on a Roman cross in order to save us from eternal punishment. When questions like the ones raised by the song writer torment our minds, let us go to the cross. When we remember Jesus' life and death, we know he cares.

I am also confident Jesus cares because he lives and intercedes for us. The Scriptures say that the Savior "is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" and that "he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for [us]" (Hebrews 7:25; 12:2). Jesus knows us, and he knows just what we need. He "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Does Jesus care? "O yes, he cares; I know he cares, His heart is touched with my grief."

--- **Howard W. Norton** (3/22/2020)

COPING WITH OUR NEW (TEMPORARY) REALITY

How does a church function without corporate worship, classes, or any significant gatherings? In the early days of what may be an extended crisis, here is what a few College Church members are saying and doing right now:

Leadership: One-Day-at-a-Time

For church leaders it was a week of trying to stay one step ahead of rapid changes. Those we talked to said that it's likely to remain a "read and react" dynamic for a while, "trying to insure the health of our members while doing what we can to maintain our ministries."

Worship: Streaming the Word

Streaming may not be ideal, but as deacon **Greg Laing** told us, "it meant a lot to us last Sunday as a family." What the Communication ministry had in mind for the homebound few is now a blessing for the homebound many.

And what about neighborhood worship? Some families met in small groups at home to watch live streaming or conduct their own service, in one case featuring a child-friendly discussion of how Christians should respond to the crisis.



Greg, Kim, Jordan & John Laing

The Social Network

Several of our Bible classes and ministries long ago adopted social media as a way to stay in touch. Now that school closings have made home-schoolers of several young parents in the Faithful Families Bible class, they are sharing curriculum and teaching tips on Facebook as together they seek the best for their children.



Ellen Walker

Hunkering Down

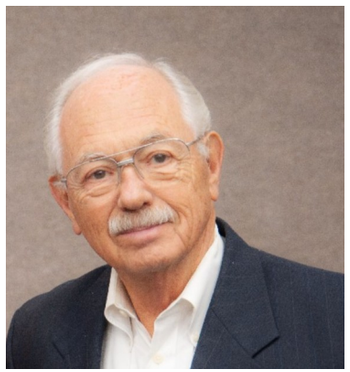
Widows, shut-ins, and nursing-home residents all face the possibility of greater isolation. The Rock House, Senior, and Young-at-Heart ministries are cooperating to increase the flow of cards and letters to them. Missionaries face their own confinement. Avanti Italia work in Scandicci is on hold because of the national lockdown.

COPING CONTINUED

While they wait to share the gospel, new Avanti workers spend time improving their Italian. In Tirana, Albania, **Ellen Walker** manages, for now at least, to meet with students who live nearby.

Delivery or To-Go

Several ministries are cooperating to deliver food to vulnerable church members and, when possible, those outside our fellowship. **Charles Raley** of His House says, "As long as we have resources, people can contact me if they know of any church member needing food." Caring and Sharing cook, **Steve Cooper**, says they are looking to establish a "to-go" system and perhaps a limited delivery service. He too urges people to contact him for help. The Original Rock House and Young-at-Heart are providing groceries for needy church members**.**



Charles Raley

Thanks to **Angela Adams**, College Church has a role in next week's "Spring Break Meal Distribution," a joint effort of local churches to aid in providing meals for children while schools are closed. The congregation's response to Angie's call was immediate and overwhelming. We have food and finances for the entire week at Sidney Deener School.

Original Rock House: Disrupted Lives

What is the psychological impact of a disrupted life? For some college students on the threshold of their futures, the answer to that question may be "considerable." That's why, even as **Todd and Debbie Gentry** meet the physical needs of Harding students who remain on campus, they are already seeing the need for some counseling—and not just for those on campus, but those who will eventually return. Only time will reveal the full impact, but the Original Rock House is planning now to be ready.



Todd & Debbie Gentry

One Body and One Spirit

While not everyone will need professional guidance through these uncharted waters, many will need emotional support. More than ever we must care for each other: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction . . ." (2 Cor. 1: 3-4).