ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR ONLINE SERVICE

Virtual Worship Service
9:00 a.m.
8:55 – Five Minute Countdown
Song –
Welcome –
Scripture – Psalm 95:1-7 –
Song –
Prayer –
Song –
“” – Noel Whitlock
Song –
Communion –
Shepherd’s Prayer –

WEDDING SHOWER

Please join us in celebrating the wedding shower of **Halle Maddox** and Grant Smith on April 26, 1-3:30 p.m. at the home of **Amy Koch**, 171 Virginia Way. In lieu of the traditional wedding shower, we are hosting a drive-through shower. Gifts purchased ahead of time can be sent to the hostess’ house, or you can drive-through and deliver your gift to the bride and groom that day. Halle and Grant are registered at The Boutique, Target, and Amazon. Halle is the daughter of **Brian & Amy Maddox**, granddaughter of **David & Genny Lawyer**.

PRAYER & PRAISE

PRAYER CONCERNS

Louise Ganus is in the Crossing.

LAST WEEK

3/29/2020:
Worship—virtual service / Bible Classes —dismissed
Children’s Worship — dismissed
Worship p.m. —dismissed / Worship 7:15 p.m. —dismissed

FINANCES

Budget for 3/29/2020.....$45,500.00
Giving for 3/29/2020.....$43,947.87
Budget through Week 31.....$1,457,750.00
Giving through Week 31.....$1,497,503.15

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. M-F
Closed daily 12-1 p.m. through April 5
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Searcy, AR 72143
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College/Community Outreach 268-4191

April 12, 2020

COLLEGE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Facebook Live streaming at 9:00 a.m.



In a gathering of fewer than ten people, Noah and family were quarantined on a ship for one year. Joseph languished in an Egyptian prison for at least two years. While his son was ill, David refused to eat with anyone. Running from his enemies, Elijah avoided human contact as he hid in the caves. Paul was under house arrest for two years. Exiled to the island of Patmos, John spent his final days encouraging the faithful from afar. Jesus spent nearly six weeks alone in the desert, and in his ministry, he often sought moments by himself. Even when he craved company the most in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus found his best friends asleep and thus had to pray alone.

While temporary solitude can be a spiritual blessing, humans are not meant to be alone for long. Scripture says as much: “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against sound judgment” (Proverbs 18:1). “Two are better than one,” says the writer of Ecclesiastes (4:9). Yet over and over in Scripture, the people of God have found themselves alone, isolated, and unsure of what would happen next. And again and again, God has been present. He did not prevent all their suffering, but He heard their prayers and brought them through. Even a forty-year banishment of the children of Israel eventually ended in deliverance.

Though we have tools to bridge the distance that our ancestors did not have, we are in a season of isolation. There is so much anxiety and so much fear. Thankfully, God has promised never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

Paul perhaps voices best what we feel when we are apart from our brothers and sisters in the faith. In his first letter to the Thessalonian church, he wrote, “Brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you . . . when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith” (2:17—3:5). No doubt we have the same “intense longing” to be together, and probably just when we think we “can stand it no longer,” deliverance will come.

T

Cathy Wood never expected to be working at a nursing home during a pandemic.

In fact, when she moved to Searcy in 2010, she had just retired from 28 years of social work and never expected to re-up.

Six years ago, however, realizing she wasn't ready for retirement, she became the Social Services Director of Rehab at The Crossing, a facility with a staff of 154 and resident population of approximately 135.

This week she spoke about what it's been like since the facility banned all visitors three weeks ago. Sanitation efforts are obviously more stringent. For example, cards and letters are still welcome but are now opened and read aloud to residents by staff to avoid possible contamination.

The shutdown has also meant fielding a lot more phone calls from family members, some of whom in normal times visited every day. "They mostly want reassurance from someone who has actually laid eyes on their loved ones," she says.

Cathy is proud that her co-workers have gone the second mile to help residents adjust and cope: "I've seen them at their best in this crisis." The staff monitors each patient's emotional condition very carefully, and are creative in adapting activities to requirements of social distancing.

One popular pastime is hymn sing-alongs, now done with each resident hall rather than the full group. The old gospel tunes are comforting echoes of family and church.

Cathy points out that many of the residents are Christians who, if asked about the current threat, answer with familiar phrases: "God is in control." "I'm ready to go."

Their attitude has actually "had a calming effect" on her, helping relieve the burden of safeguarding vulnerable lives: "It strengthens my faith to see people of that age who are so at risk but so unafraid because they trust God."



Nevertheless, increased isolation has its dangers. She urges us to write or call College Church members who are in The Crossing. With advanced notice, the staff can even use donated iPads to set up FaceTime visits.

According to Cathy, some thwarted visitors simply stand outside a window and wave. Whatever it takes in these strange times.

T

THE SCOOP

Senior Sunday is on hold until we are given permission to resume meeting. We are planning to host our Senior Sunday the first Sunday we are able to meet.

Huddles: Each week I send out a Zoom Invitation link on Wednesday morning via email and Remind. You can find that connection and join us, anyone can!

Sunday Morning Worship & Bible Classes: Facebook "live" streams our worship service and can be accessed anytime for your family worship. We are posting videos for our students & families to watch and discuss.

Nicaragua (July 18-24) is on hold. We will wait and see what everyone's status is once the travel ban is lifted.