ORDER OF WORSHIP

Virtual Worship Service
9:00 a.m.

8:55 – Five-Minute Countdown
Song – Come, Now is the Time to Worship
Welcome – Mike James
Prayer – Theo Westbrook
Song – Holy Ground
Communion & Offering – Don Hood
Song – The Joy of the Lord
Scripture Reading & Prayer – Deuteronomy 1:9-18 – Chris Mitchell
"Growing Deeper by Going Smaller" – Noel Whitlock
Shepherd's Prayer – Tim Westbrook

ELDERS MEETING SUMMARY FOR MAY 2020

This month the elders:

- Prayed for specific needs in the church family;
- Prayed specifically for God to bring more young families and children to the congregation and to help us reach the lost, locally and around the world;
- Held virtual meetings of the elders on Zoom;
- Approved continuing the procedures in place for streaming services through May 31;
- Discussed, and then after two weeks of further input and review, approved the Steering Committee suggestions for procedures for services when the building is re-opened for worship;
- Discussed the timeline for re-opening the building for worship and set June 7 as the date;
- Heard a report on Disciple-Making ministry and the Mission: Love Searcy project;
- Learned about the Drive-through celebration for graduating seniors on May 24 as well as recognition for the graduates during the worship service;
- Approved an unpaid summer internship for Henry Li with Ed Higginbotham as his sponsor.

LAST WEEK

5/24/2020:
Worship—virtual service / Bible Classes —dismissed
Children's Worship — dismissed
Worship p.m. —dismissed / Worship 7:15 p.m. —dismissed

FINANCES

Budget for 5/24/2020.....$45,500.00
Giving for 5/24/2020.....$37,431.02
Budget through Week 39.....$1,835,250.00
Giving through Week 39.....$1,830,104.38

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F
Closed daily 12-1 p.m. for lunch
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

May 31, 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.



COVID-19, The Fallen World, and God

How do we view an infectious viral pandemic such as COVID-19?

From a scientific point of view, it would be difficult to identify anything more insidious than highly contagious viruses. They are submicroscopic and can be visualized only by extraordinary means. Unlike living organisms, they do not reproduce. In fact, since they also lack a metabolism or capacity to grow, most authorities do not consider them even alive. These invisible zombies are indeed sinister in the human body.

COVID-19 is a small particle of RNA (protein-making stuff) encased in a capsule of "sticky" protein. It effectively attaches itself to a living cell (in the lungs, for example), injects its contents into the healthy cell, and causes it to begin making large numbers of virus particles. Unless the process is interrupted by medical assistance, the normal cell is overwhelmed, erupts, and spreads new viral particles throughout the organism. Eventually, the host organism may succumb.

It would be easy to conclude that COVID-19 is devilish in its stealthy attack. When we add in the suffering and death it has caused, some might even see it as an agent of Satan.

I do not see it that way. As Paul reminds us, we must contend with the likes of this virus because we live on a fallen earth: "The creation (because of sin) was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it . . ." (Rom. 8:20). COVID-19 is a natural, global disaster; it is not the first to visit our planet, and it will not be the last.

Yes, it has caused great suffering, but in Luke 13:1-5, Jesus makes clear that God does not use natural disasters to punish us for sin. Instead, He tells us that God wills repentance as a response to calamity. The Book of Job echoes this wisdom, as does Paul, who saw the thorn in his flesh as a God-given message from Satan to keep him from becoming conceited after receiving extraordinary revelations from God (2 Cor. 12:7).

Scientific investigation and research are essential in dealing with this pandemic, but introspection and repentance by all are needed. To paraphrase C. S. Lewis, tribulation can be "God's megaphone" that calls us from our prideful ways back to Him.

Don England

LIVING WAY: AN UPDATE

In March, Living Way church of Christ marked its second full year as a congregation.

Sunday attendance is typically around 75 in the summer, and 250 during the school year. Members range in age from infancy to over 70. Our children benefit from mentoring groups on Sunday mornings, and we are growing our cradle roll and nursery. During the school year, many Harding students share in the ministry and add a youthful face to the church. Our young singles and marrieds are strong as well, forming the core of our year-round Searcy residents.



The "table assembly" model of worship continues to be a centerpiece of our practice on Sundays. This arrangement allows us to focus on community and communion. It also enhances our Bible study and discussion. Whether we are delving into the Word, singing, or praying, we feel strengthened as an assembly of believers by the Holy Spirit as He lives within the body of Christ.

Sundays are not our only opportunity for gathering. Organic small groups, based on interest, need, and opportunity, meet on various nights of the week. Some are peer-oriented, as with college-student groups, while others are more diverse and meet with purposes such as study, prayer, outreach, or support.

Our vision is to be a "community of God's people, motivated by grace to share Jesus with our neighbors." We are working to do that through partnering with existing ministries in the area and creating opportunities to work within the community. We have an active missions committee focused on supporting short and long-term foreign missions as well as domestic mission efforts.

We are meeting in the Willow Wind facility on Highway 36 just west of Searcy. We intend to continue this lease relationship with the opportunity to purchase it in the next two years. This unconventional "house" on 10 acres provides a strong, versatile platform from which we can continue to grow into our mission to serve the community and the kingdom. **Donny Lee**



Elder Craig Russell and Karen Wright prepare communion

CARPENTER'S KIDS

Registration for Carpenter's Kids for the 2020-2021 school year is open. It is a preschool program for children age 2 (before August 1) through pre-kindergarten, that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-12:30. The cost is $50 to register and $255 per semester. Please go to our website, carpenters-kids.org, download a registration form, and, at your earliest convenience, send it to the church office with the $50 registration fee.

THANK YOU

I want to thank all members for their prayers, cards, phone calls and meals during my recovery. I am home and feeling blessed to have such wonderful people who care about me. **Sandra Thompson**

DRIVE-THRU SHOWERS

All are welcome to attend a drive-thru Bridal Shower for Ann-Marie Gurchiek and Billy Sullivan, daughter of **Jim & Cindy Gurchiek**, Sunday, May 31, at the EAST (Welcome Center) awning of the College church building, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. They are registered at The Boutique, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Amazon.

You are invited to a drive-thru Bridal Shower at the WEST awning of the College church building for **Anna Walker** and Levi Bogus on May 31 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Please enter from Race Street. Anna is the daughter of **Joe & Laurie Walker** and the granddaughter of **Carolyn Priest**. You may drop off cards and gifts early at the church office. They are registered at Amazon, Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and they love all types of gift cards.

All are welcome to a drive-thru Baby Shower for **Molly & Jacob Hale** at their home, 109 Stoneridge, June 13, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. They are registered at Amazon and Walmart. It's a boy!

We want to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Jackie Hill and **Tyler Gentry**, son of **Debbie & Todd Gentry.** Please join us for a drive-thru Wedding Shower on Sunday, June 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m., at the home of **Kim Kirkman**, 810 Golf View Dr. Gifts can be purchased at the Boutique (268-3434), Bed Bath and Beyond, Dillards, and Target. Gifts early please, if convenient.

Please join us for a drive-thru Baby Shower for Shelby Gowen Parker on Sunday, June 14, 2:00 -3:30 p.m. at the EAST (Welcome Center) awning of the College church building. Shelby is the daughter of **James & Michelle Gowen** and the granddaughter of **Jim & Kay Gowen** and **David & Brenda Allen**. Shelby is expecting a sweet baby girl and is registered at http://babylist.com/parkerfam3. Gifts early to 16 Silver Oak Drive, please.

ACCOUNTING JOB POSTING

College Church is looking to hire an Accounting Director. Applicants are preferred to have a bachelor's degree in accounting and/or work experience in bookkeeping. This is a part-time position of 30 hours per week. Everyone interested should contact **Bryan Burks** (bburks@harding.edu) or **Nick McNabb** (nick.collegechurch@gmail.com).

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Moved in town: Mark & Katie Cullum, 512 E. Woodruff Trail.

PRAYER & PRAISE

Baptism:

We Rejoice! **Ellie Adams** was baptized Wednesday, May 27, by **Noel Whitlock**.

Prayers:

Bill Bradley is in rehab at The Springs 119; **Louise Ganus** is in the Crossing; **Norman Hale Jr.'s** mother, Mary Hale, is in UH 1320; his father, Norman Hale Sr., is in UH CCU14 battling pneumonia; **Edwina Pace** is in rehab following a fall.