
TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Email Addresses

During this very unusual time, we have come to realize how difficult it can be to communicate with our membership in the absence of physical contact. The ability to make contact and to deliver information through email has become more apparent as well. We discovered that we do not have many email addresses, so if you wish to provide us with your email address, we will be happy to use it to contact you in the future, including sending you the newsletter. Please send your email address to us at alanbrill1@frontier.com, and we will add you to our list.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 2 -	OWEN SZELMECZKI'S BIRTHDAY
APR 3 -	LUCILLE SELDON'S BIRTHDAY
	LORRIE VANDERLINDEN'S BIRTHDAY
APR 5 -	PALM SUNDAY
	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP SERVICE
APR 12 -	EASTER SUNDAY
	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP SERVICE
APR 19 -	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP SERVICE
	NANCY PUGH'S BIRTHDAY
APR 22 -	RUBY LA FOLLETTE'S BIRTHDAY
APR 26 -	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP SERVICE
	TIM AND ELIZABETH WINGFIELD'S ANNIVERSARY
	GINGER BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
APR 29 -	EARL THOMPSON'S BIRTHDAY

PRAYER REQUEST

The Chaplain's office at the Winchester medical center is currently asking for congregations to pray for patients, medical workers, and staff at the beginning, middle, and end of shifts. The times are - 7am - Noon - 7pm - Midnight
Please pray especially for healing, for strength, for fortitude and for resilience.
If you know of someone who is working at the hospital, please let them know you are praying for them!

HOSPICE BREAKFAST REPORT

We are happy to report that we had another successful breakfast to support Hospice of the Panhandle on March 7th. We were able to send them a check for \$1,600! Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way.

Thanks Pastor Mike

For everything you have done to uplift our spirits during this difficult time when we are unable to be together as a church family. Pastor Mike has recorded sermons and produced videos and placed them on the church website and Facebook pages. The newsletters are also on the website at timberidgechristianchurch.com. Our prayer is that we can be together again in the month of May.

We welcome any articles, comments or suggestions.
Alan & Ginger Brill, alanbrill1@frontier.com
(304) 856-3635

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PASTOR'S PEN

Lamenting Losses - April 2020

April is here! Normally the arrival of this springtime month would usher in Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations for the church and the community. You would expect to see sunrise services as you drove by churches throughout the county. Families would have Easter egg hunts. There would be new dresses and at least one or two new hats. However, God has providentially allowed much of what we hold dear during this Easter season to be taken away from us. And now we are left trying to decide how we should respond.

First, we need to realize that God is still in control. He is always good, and He knows our plight. It's also essential to remind ourselves that God is not surprised by this new disease or its effects on the world. As you think about the world around you, or watch the news, or struggle to make sense of this new danger to life and freedom, adopting a godly perspective will bring comfort and stability, even though it will not remove the risk involved.

Second, changing your perspective also means looking for ways to minister in the middle of the crisis. I've read lots of articles where the writers speak directly to this issue. They offer lots of sound advice. Look for positive things happening around you. Better yet, take specific actions to promote positive attitudes. Look for ways God is blessing you this week and tell others about it. Call your neighbor or friends. Check-in with relatives.

Most importantly, if you know of someone alone in this, call them first. When you talk with one another, take time to listen. You can also look for 'what's missing' and try to contribute what you can to fill the gaps. It may be giving money, donating non-perishable items for the food bank, or setting aside time to write cards and putting them in the mail. You may even have to give up some toilet paper if you have extra.

Finally, although there are many other ways to attack this crisis, I want to suggest you take time to lament. That's right. It would be OK for you to take time this month and lay all that you feel you've lost before the Lord and then lament.

I know this is not natural or common for us in America, even for Christians. But, there are times in Scripture when God's people turned to lament to express to God their sorrow, and feelings of loss. Let's face it; we've lost a lot this month. We've lost the freedom to go where ever we like without fear. We've lost the pure pleasure of feeling safe when shopping. We've lost personal contact with grandkids and grandparents, family, and friends. We've also lost the chance to celebrate the resurrection of Christ together and take part in the sacrament of the Lord's Table.

If you're unsure of what lament means biblically, you're not alone. Lamentation's most basic definition is to wail or howl. Let's say it can be messy. The book of Lamentations offers some good examples of proper Laments. In this Old Testament book, Israel mourned over the fall of Jerusalem. In turn, they cried out for God to act and restore them. I think we can all relate to longing for God to work on our behalf. We can all relate to longing for fellowship to be restored, including the sacrament of the Lord's Table. As we face the loss of so much, you can stand firm knowing that God hears your lament, and He will act on your behalf. He will work because He is still good and He is still in control.

~ Pastor Mike