
TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

May 2020

THINKING OF DORIS SPAID

All of us have had to restrict our activities during this pandemic, but it has been especially difficult for Doris as she cannot have visitors and is confined to her room. Please think of her and others like her by sending her a card or writing to let her know you are thinking about her. Her address is Doris Spaid C/O HMH Long Term Care Unit 363 Sunrise Blvd Romney, WV 26757.

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 missed sending it to us from last month's newsletter and 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 or timberridgechristianchurch@gmail.com and we will add you to our list.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| MAY 2 - | DWAYNE SELDON'S BIRTHDAY |
| MAY 3 - | NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP SERVICE |
| MAY 7 - | GRADY BRADFIELD'S BIRTHDAY |
| MAY 10 - | MOTHERS DAY NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP SERVICE |
| MAY 13 - | JUNIOR SELDON'S BIRTHDAY |
| MAY 17 - | WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM (SEE ARTICLE) |
| MAY 22 - | PASTOR MIKE AND LORRI'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY |
| MAY 24 - | WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM HOME MISSION OFFERING |
| MAY 28 - | BRIAN SPAID'S BIRTHDAY |
| MAY 25 - | MEMORIAL DAY |
| MAY 31 - | WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM |

MEMORIAL SUNDAY

Our annual Memorial service will be on Sunday, June 21st. Our plans for the services have not been discussed or finalized at this point in time. The circumstances will probably dictate our decisions about services. We will keep you informed in next month's newsletter and also in the annual letter which will be forthcoming by mail.

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

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Our Plan for Returning to Church

The deacons are sure everyone is wondering when the church will open again for services and what this will look like when we reopen? So, we thought it would be good to relay some thoughts. First, it is becoming more apparent that each state will be moving toward opening back up in different ways. Timber Ridge Christian church will be following the rules set forth by West Virginia Governor Jim Justice. Phase two of the Governor's plan will go into effect on May 4th. This means churches will be allowed to meet again using social distancing practices beginning May 10th. However, the deacons think it prudent to allow two weeks' notice before beginning worship services. That means we will return to church on May 17th.

The next question we need to answer - What will that look like? First, we would require individuals from separate families to sit in every other pew. This seating arrangement would leave one empty pew between different family units. There would still be no close contact, no hugging, and no handshaking. We will be suggesting (but not requiring) that everyone wear a mask, especially as they travel through the foyer since this is the hardest place to remain 6 feet apart. Of course, if you are feeling ill you should remain home until you have recovered. We will not be using the choir for now or holding any fellowship luncheons. We long to get back together, however, these extra fellowship opportunities bring additional risk. We will be avoiding this extra risk for now. Finally, when you use a hymnal or bible please leave it on the pew instead of putting it back into the rack. Someone will wipe down the books we use during the week to prepare for the next Sunday.

The deacons would also like you to know that we realize not everyone will feel like it's safe to return to worship at the same time. Some are ready now. Some will feel the need to wait longer before gathering with others. Some may wear masks when they return. Others may not. We want you to know that your individual decision is OK. We don't want anyone to feel pressured to return too soon, and we also don't want anyone to feel like we are leaving you behind. To show our solidarity, we will postpone communion until the fellowship of saints at Timber Ridge Christian church is united in one body. We will also continue to make recordings available for anyone who needs to get the Sunday School lesson and sermon from online sources. Keep in mind these audio files may not get posted on the church website until at least 1 pm.

The Governor has said that his re-opening strategy is fluid. This means our decisions are subject to change based on State requirements. During these uncertain times, we remain committed to putting our trust in the Lord and working to wisely discern the best course of action for God's people at Timber Ridge Christian Church.

For the Lord's glory,
The Deacon's Board

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Letter of appreciation for our Pancake Breakfast sent to the church from Ashley Horst, Hospice of the Panhandle

Dear Alan and Timber Ridge friends,

Thank you so much for your support of hospice patients and their families (and for the wonderful food 😊)!

Your compassion towards our patients means that their caregivers know how to care for them at home - confident in their ability to meet their loved ones needs and comforted by the fact that help is just a phone call away.

You make this possible by providing doctors and nurses who address the symptoms of our patients' illnesses and who will teach their loved ones how to help their loved one and what to expect as the person's illness progresses.

Our patients' families often express how grateful they were that they could keep their loved ones at home and be confident that they were capable of caring for them.

You really deserve some of this gratitude. Every year you partner with us to care for our patients and their families. We value you and hope you know how much your support is appreciated!

With gratitude,

Ashley Horst

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PASTOR'S PEN

Celebrating the Ascension May 21

R.C. Sproul, a theologian who lived into the 21st Century, told a story once of driving to play golf with a friend. It was a Thursday. As they traveled down the road, they happened by a Greek Orthodox church. Cars packed the parking lot. Dr. Sproul's friend suddenly exclaimed, "Pull over, pull over, I can't play golf today." Surprised by this sudden outburst, R.C. pulled over and asked: "What's the problem?" His friend then announced that he had to attend church. "On a Thursday," asked Dr. Sproul. "Yes," his friend replied. "Today is the day we celebrate Christ's Ascension in the Greek Orthodox church. Seeing the parking lot full of cars just reminded me."

I grew up celebrating the two Christian holidays of Christmas and Easter. Of course, there was also the occasional mention of Pentecost, which took place fifty days after the resurrection. But I have never followed the Church calendar to the extent of marking every critical event in church history.

The Ascension of Christ is one of the crucial facts of church history that is often overlooked by God's people. Although Christ's departure holds meaning for the church, the event itself, which happened between Easter and Pentecost, is often overlooked. The Ascension takes place forty days after the resurrection. The gospel writer Luke tells us in Acts 1:3, "He (Jesus) presented himself alive to them (the disciples) after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. Luke then tells us that after Jesus teaches about the coming of the Holy Spirit, "He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight" Acts 1:9. In this same passage, Luke reveals that two men in white robes then said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into Heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into Heaven." If this isn't enough to convince us that Jesus was taken to Heaven, we also read at the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7:56, Stephen saying, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

All of this information gives us reason to continue the celebration of Easter. We tend to know a lot about the life of Jesus, leading up to the resurrection. However, the life of Jesus after the resurrection is just as important. Jesus showed Himself to the disciples for forty days after He rose from the dead. The disciples saw Him depart for Heaven in bodily form. Stephen saw the living Christ standing at the right hand of the throne of God, indicating He is presently reigning on high. Finally, the men in white robes from Acts 1:10-11, announced that Jesus would return one day.

So, this year on May 21 (that's a Thursday), take some time to celebrate the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Celebrate His bodily arrival in the throne room of Heaven. Rejoice over the announcement that Jesus Christ is presently reigning over the universe, over our world, over your heart, and over His enemies. Jesus won the battle at the crucifixion. The resurrection proclaimed His victory. We are given the promise of everlasting life, peace, and joy by the testimony of the disciples who saw Jesus ascend to Heaven.

Take time to celebrate the departure of Jesus, knowing that it means we now await just one thing, His return!

~ Pastor Mike