



Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye

May Pastor's Column

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This has been one of the strangest months I have ever seen. I have never eaten so many meals at home. We have only gone through a drive thru fast foods 10 times in our whole married life and 4 of them were this month. When we shop instead of talking with people we try to stay away from people. I could go on and on but I think you get the message, its been different.

I have kept you all in my prayers and I consider no news is good news that you all are doing alright. As we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel we must prepare to reenter the real world as it is now. The coronavirus has changed the world and we are not sure what the new normal will be. So, we will ease back slowly and with caution.

Our first attempt will be a drive in service on Sunday, May 3rd. Please read that article in this newsletter. Secondly, we will start small with Monday Bible Studies and 2 movie nights as each of those are from 8-15 people. The 2nd or 3rd Sunday in May we will attempt to have worship back in our sanctuary. Welcome Center will not resume until sometime this summer. We will follow social distancing practices at worship. We will space ourselves 3-6 feet apart (families sit together). Once you are in you will remain for the whole worship. We will not pass God's peace for a while. No offering will be taken during the service, but the offering plates will be at the back of the church on the table so you may leave your offering as you leave. There will be no hand shaking or elbow bumping (I know it was fun) for a while as well. You may exit at your leisure. One important thing I left out was appropriate attire. For a while masks and gloves will be appropriate attire. I have asked Merry Jo Bell to make some masks in case you don't have one.

One of the major things we can do for each other is to respect the social distancing and it will be hard because we haven't seen each other for over a month. The second thing which is just as important is if you're "feeling sick" we recommend staying home from church. If you have allergies please take your medication before coming to church and we all should stay quite safe even though we are together.

Finally, I found out why the Facebook Live did not work well. When I tried to transfer the recorded session to Facebook I found it was 2.5 GB, that is a huge amount of data. Our streaming capacity at church or home could not keep up. Sorry about that but we live and learn.

Let's ease back into a new normal. Be safe and may God's Blessing be with you!

Pastor Jack

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Scriptures for the Month of May

Sunday, May 3: Acts 2:42-47 • Psalm 23 • 1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Sunday, May 10: Acts 7:55-60 • Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 • 1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 17: Acts 17:22-31 • Psalm 68:8-20 • 1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 24: Acts 1:6-14 • Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 • John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 31: Acts 2:1-21 • Psalm 104:24-34, 35b • 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 • John 7:37-39



Bible Study



Starting May 4 the video from RightNow Media will be shown at church at 10:30 a.m. and anyone who wishes may join me at that time. We will be following the social distancing guidelines stated in my article. At 11:30 we will discuss what we saw and heard Pete Briscoe say to us. If you are not here join us on the Bible Study page of Facebook as we have done for the past month. Little by little I hope we get back together for our weekly Bible Study. The sessions for May are

May 4: Love Your Enemies

May 11: Issues of Truth and Grace

May 18: United in Spite of Difference

May 25: Eligible for Redemption

We have had some good discussions even though we had to do them via Facebook.

Thanks for being involved with the study.



Janice's Ministry House



The basement level is done except for the bathrooms. Once they are done we will work on the outside landscaping around the house. My May 31 "Hope to be finished with major projects!" agenda does not seem realistic at the moment. The coronavirus has really changed a lot of things in our world.

Therefore, I really do not have an agenda for finishing our projects at the moment. Janice's Ministry House is almost done and the gazebo patio is half done. So, we will keep progressing forward and finish when we are able.



Financial Update



Meetings

Usually it would be July 1 before I would give a financial update for the first six months but due to the crisis situation we are under I felt you needed to know how things were going.

The following is a summary of what has happened in the first four months:

General Budget
Income: \$24,975.24*
Expenses: 23,432.11
\$1,543.13

Balance from 2019: 4,999.32

Balance as of 4/30: \$6,542.45

Designated funds still available: 3,333.00*

Actual Balance 5/1: \$3,209.45

*Income-\$5,000 was designated for Pastoral Support during the crisis of the coronavirus. Using that designated giving for 3 months is \$1,667 a month.



Unless it is necessary to make a decision we will not have meetings for the month of May. At the moment things seem to be holding together as we progress through the crisis. I am hoping and praying that by June 1 some if not most activities will resume. This month would be our garage sale and we have enough items to have a good sale but it will be rescheduled in the early fall. Items are still being donated but our storage area is getting quite full. Thanks for all the donations!!



Building Fund

Designation Amount
for monthly mortgage: \$2,304.78

Women's Ministry: 231.00

Ministry House Construction: 729.39

Ministry House Reserve: 1,724.00

Deep Cleaning set aside: 200.00

\$5,189.17

Mortgage: \$54,530.51

(This will pay mortgage until October)



Under the circumstances we are doing okay. Since we have not had church for 5 Sundays, I think we are doing quite well. With that being said it is because of your continued giving that we are getting along so well. Thanks so much!!! We also had a donation designated for pastoral support which meant both Debra and I could keep working. As you see in the above information the gift would last 3 months at \$1,667.00 per month. Hopefully we are back being the church together-Together!

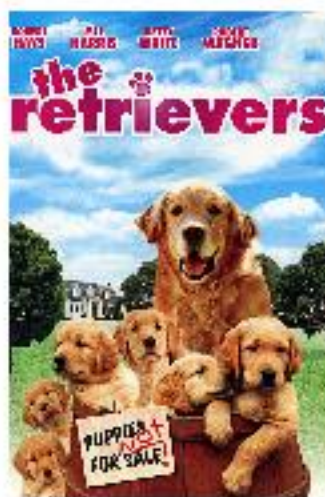
Thanks for caring about your church during this time.

It means a great deal to Peg and I and to Debra.

MOVIE NIGHT

We will schedule two movies for May. We average 10-15 people a month so we will be within the guidelines for social distancing. Because we can space ourselves out in the Welcome Center it will be an opportunity for those who are comfortable with coming to be together safely.

Our first movie night will be on Wednesday, May 13 and we will be watching "The Retrievers" and on Thursday, May 21 we will see "In My Dreams". Both movies will be at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!



Drive In Worship

May 3 we will have a drive in worship at 10:30 a.m. We are able to use our sound system but the gathering will be in the back with you safely in your cars. I will be at the back door below the cross and candles. We ask that you park facing the church and keep a 3 to 6 foot distance between cars so you can have your windows down. With two or three rows we should be able to accommodate you all. I am excited about seeing you all even if it is just through your windshield!!

We may need to do this again on May 10 but we are only taking one week at a time. Stay tuned!!



This newsletter is published monthly. If you have an article for publication please get it to the pastor before the last week of the month. Also if you have an address of someone who you think would like to receive this newsletter please leave that information in the church office.

We have a Facebook page, please go to our page and "like" us. You can post suggestions, pictures or anything you would like. It is also a great way to find out what is going on and see the pictures of events already taken place.





April

May

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>Drive In Worship 10:30</p>	<p>Office Hours 9-1 Ministry House 1-5</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30</p>		<p>Office Hours 9-5</p>	<p>Office Hours 9-5</p>		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Drive In Worship 10:30</p>	<p>Office Hours 9-1 Ministry House 1-5</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30</p>		<p>Movie Night 6:00 "The Retrievers"</p> <p>Office Hours 9-5</p>	<p>Office Hours 9-5</p>		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>Worship Time 10:30</p>	<p>Office Hours 9-1 Ministry House 1-5</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30</p>		<p>Office Hours 9-5</p>	<p>Movie Night 6:00 "In My Dreams"</p> <p>Office Hours 9-5</p>		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Worship Time 10:30</p>	<p>Office Hours 9-1 Ministry House 1-5</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30</p>		<p>Office Hours 9-5</p>	<p>Office Hours 9-5</p>		
31						
<p>Worship Time 10:30</p>						



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	
3	4 Monika Bennett	5	6	7 Randy Wagner	8	9 Jane Fentress Susan Wilson
10 Sean Phillips	11	12 Beverly Gunther Art & Sue Cella	13	14 Cole Riggs Ben Johnson Alex & Katie Williams Jerry & Frankie Oldani	15 Dave Shroeder	16 Jerry Oldani
17 Sybil Mitchell	18 Bob & Debbie Lyon	19 Becky Babler	20	21	22 Cody West	23
24 Dwane Smith	25	26	27	28 Tammy Walker Mike & Shelly Fransen	29 Jonathan & Makayla Blake	30 Neva Mielke
31	