



Central
Christian
Church

Banner



May 2020

A Note from our Pastor, Rev. Bill Russell

As we begin another month of social distancing, sheltering at home, and uncertainty, I know that we all miss many aspects of our lives that heretofore we took for granted, and, perhaps, we may be understanding a little bit better just how very blest we all are. Out of milk? Go to the grocery. Want a special meal? Go out to eat. Need a haircut? Go to the beauty salon. Bored? Go to the movie. Miss your kids or grandkids? Call 'em up and tell them to come on over or that you're on your way to see them. Nope, not now; none of the above. And we can't go to church, at least not as we have always done it. Drat. And yet, there's a silver lining. We are discovering God isn't confined to a church building, and that His message of truth and grace is just as real on a computer, an I-pad, or other electronic device as it is from a pulpit. We can feel connected to each other when we know that we are joining with our friends, singing hymns and receiving the Lord's Supper, even if the setting is different. We are blest with new possibilities, with more time to read God's word, with more opportunities to check on our family and friends, with more time to serve. The hope and the silver lining are there. Feel the hope, look for the presence of God, let's use this time to be His people. I look forward to being with each of you soon. Until then, we hold hands, and we hold each other up, in new ways, and I find that very exciting. God is Good. Remember that.



QUIET ON THE SET! AND ACTION!

Hollywood California would be proud of the cast and crew who helped with video taping Sunday services for viewing on YouTube. With the help of an anonymous photographer, extra lighting was provided for filming. John Rainey and Mark Rutledge have been providing “set designs”, George Goodnight providing “direction and camera work”, and Layne Wilson providing the wonderful “musical score”. Videoing included our minister, Bill Russell, bringing the Easter Sunday spiritual message along with sermons each Sunday thereafter.



You can see the videos by going to www.cccmemphistn.org and click on Sermons. You will then see a screen where you may click on “YouTube archive”. This will bring up a YouTube screen from which you may select a Sunday service or a video of a Bible study.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Many, many thanks to George Goodnight, Mark Rutledge, and Layne Wilson for the time, effort, and energy they are spending preparing for and producing our Sunday morning worship service and Wednesday evening Bible study on YouTube. Technically, we are learning something new each time a service appears on your device. If you haven't been with us electronically, join us on YouTube at 9:00 on Sunday morning and at 6:30 on Wednesday evening for Bible study. We have had great response from folks in our congregation and from visitors to our web sight as well. If you need help getting the services, call George Goodnight and he will give you a quick, easy to follow tutorial that will get you there in less than 30 seconds. We need to stay connected, friends; this is a great way to do it.

The Lamb of God

John 1 Vs 29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"



COMPASSION CLINIC

During the early stages of the Corona Virus Compassion Clinic completely shut down their three time/month operation here at Central. After much thought and planning they devised a method to disperse medications from our parking lot. The Lang's, along with Mark Rutledge and John Rainey, came up with the flow of traffic through the parking lot to safely get much needed medications to people. This is currently being done on a bi-weekly basis and the Lang's hope to get back to their normal operations soon.



GOING THE EXTRA MILE!

Two of Central's members are not letting this COVID-19 virus interrupt the needs of church members. Mark Rutledge and John Rainey donned PPEs (Personal Protection Equipment) to take needed items to John and Connie Bennet, and to Floyd and Carol Scarberry. Mark, using one of the 10' aluminum poles used to hang Christmas wreaths in the Sanctuary, and John, using a 6' fishing rod and real, completed the delivery in accordance with CCD recommendations - basically. Of course, there was a bonus for the delivery to the Scarberry's lake-front home: John and Mark took time to go fishing. (Side note: Floyd caught the most fish and the biggest fish!)



Above (left) Mark delivering needed items to the Bennett household. Above (right) John at Snow Lake bringing Floyd his care package.



Floyd showing off his talents as a world-class fisherman—notice the *minnow* he's holding.

A MESSAGE FROM MARK

Having talked to several members of Central's congregation, I heard more than once how much everyone misses being at church on Sunday morning; and how everyone misses seeing and talking to members of church family. We are keeping in touch with one another by phone, by email, and even by "snail mail", but it is not the same as seeing each other in person.

Even though "sheltering in place" is the suggested norm, our custodian John Rainey and our Administrative Assistant Diane Senger have been coming to the church to ensure that the needs of the church are met. John has seen that necessary clean ups are done in the Sanctuary, the gym, and throughout the church. Diane has ensured that bills are paid, tithes and offerings are deposited in the bank, and that emails, paperwork, and communication are completed in a timely manner. Central is truly blessed to have such a dedicated and loyal staff.

The big question still remains: When will the church open again? That's a good question, and the answer is simple: Not yet. Even though some business within the Shelby County area may reopen, Central will remain closed until it's safer to have services. As I type, I believe that none of our members have been affected by COVID-19 virus. If so, let's keep it that way. Having Sunday services too soon may cause more problems than we would want.

That said, I am looking forward to the first Sunday that we can open up the church doors, shake hands or give each other a hug, be inspired by Bill Russell's sermons, and hear Layne Wilson playing that wonderful music. Do you think she could play the *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Handel's Messiah*?

May God bless us one and all and keep us safe in His arms.

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May at Central

Sunday 3rd
Worship Service at 9—YouTube

Service Leader:
Loaf:
Cup:
Refreshments:

Wednesday 6th

Bible Study—YouTube

Sunday 10th
Worship Service at 9—YouTube

Service Leader:
Loaf:
Cup:
Refreshments:

Wednesday 13th

Bible Study—YouTube

Sunday 17th
Worship Service at 9—YouTube

Service Leader:
Loaf:
Cup:
Refreshments:

Wednesday 20th

Bible Study—YouTube

Sunday 24th
Worship Service at 9—YouTube

Service Leader:
Loaf:
Cup:
Refreshments:

Wednesday 27th

Bible Study—YouTube

Sunday 31st
Worship Service at 9—YouTube

Service Leader:
Loaf:
Cup:
Refreshments:

Church Calendar for May

5-Cinco de Mayo
10-Mother's Day
12-Compassion Clinic
25-Memorial Day
26-Compassion Clinic

Birthdays

John Bennett
Dorothy Feimster
5/11

John Rainey
5/28

Michael Simmons
5/29