



Be Strong and Courageous

Moses, the great leader of Israel was dead. The weight and responsibility for leading the nation of Israel now fell on the shoulders of Joshua. Can you imagine how he must have felt?

They mourned for Moses for thirty days and then God spoke to Joshua.

“Moses my servant is dead, now get ready to cross Jordan and take this land I’m giving you.”

“Be strong and courageous and lead these people.”

“Be strong and very courageous and be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you.”

“Keep the book of the law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it.”

“Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you.”

These quotations are from Joshua 1:1-9.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33 NIV)

Be strong and courageous. We have even greater promises than those given to Joshua.

-Dewayne

Upcoming Events:

- **All events have been cancelled until further notice.**

Hold On or Let Go

Eric Gott

Several weeks ago Leah and I were enjoying a snack with our kiddos and we asked our little boy to pick up all the trash and throw it away once we finished eating. Our little boy stopped and picked up all the pieces of trash, approximately 8 to 10 pieces. However, because his hands are small, and because he is a preschooler, he continuously dropped trash while trying to pick up another piece. Each time he bent over to pick up trash a different piece would fall out of his hand, and this happened over and over and over again. Eventually I stopped to help him as it became clear that the job was too much in that moment. He did not realize he could ask for help or take more than one trip to the trashcan.

After watching our little boy struggle to carry all the trash I began to wonder if sometimes I look the same way to God. How often am I walking around juggling so many items that I could so easily ask Him to help me carry. I often walk around with unnecessary burdens: fears, worries, doubts, questions etc. I try holding all of them and end up like my little boy- they don't stay put. These trash items take over. I keep struggling to hold them instead of looking up and asking for help. Instead of giving them to someone bigger who can handle all my problems.

Over the past few weeks there have been more worries, doubts, and sad moments hit my family. Two relatives passed away days apart from each other. We are having to make adjustments to our daily life with the social distancing. We are trying to keep from going crazy while taking care of our two kids who love preschool and Bible class and are now at home 24/7. Yet, each day I get to choose whether or not I want to carry all of this garbage around with me. Do I want to sit in worry and fear, or do I want to embrace the slowness and sweet moments with my family? I am choosing to let go of the trash. I'm choosing to look up and say, "I need help." I'm choosing to find joy in the small moments and in the slowness that we have welcomed into our house.

"Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved."
Psalms 55:22

Community

Scott Pruitt

My niece, Paris Harrell, lives in North Carolina and is a second-grade teacher at a school with a high number of immigrant families and low income. They are shut down with the rest of the world due to Covid-19. Seven of her friends reached out to her with one question, *"What can we do to help the kids in your class?"*

It has been evident throughout Paris' life of her deep love and compassion for people. She is constantly coming up with ideas to develop a healthier community. Through all the years I have known her, she has been blessed with talents of thoughtful giving, support and focus.

Paris suggested to the seven friends of hers to contribute to a grocery fund for students and families in crisis. Paris made her first delivery a few days after the schools closed down. She has created a google doc form that her colleagues and administration could submit food needs of school families. Rather than a food pantry where people are just given what is available, Paris hoped to provide specific requests which allow more dignity through choice. The requests that came in were far from wants, but absolute necessities to survive: Rice, bread, milk, bologna and cheese.

Requests are coming in each day. Paris and her fiancé, Avery, are the deliverers of the blessings. They are trying desperately to maintain a healthy social distancing, but distancing is extremely difficult. This is why... when the children see their teacher coming, they come running to her. They wait at their window and swarm her car. The children want to know one question - *"When can we come back?"* She has also been blessed through extraordinary ways. The other day her app sent her down one street, and she thought she was lost, but after finally arriving at the apartment of low income housing, one of the residents heard what she was doing, and he donated fifty free loaves of bread.

This is what Paris has learned that deeply touched my heart... *"Even when things seem so wrong, they lead us to a beautiful place. Coronavirus is terrible, but we are seeing a lot of God moments through it as well."*

Community: Read Luke 6:31-36.

Times like this require extremely creative thinking to stay safe, but even more so - to reflect Jesus. I love you all.

Trust in God

Psalms 34: 19 and 22The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;.. 22The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned (NIV)

How are you handling the situation we are going through? This is a perfect example of how we all go through the same experiences in this world. Just because we are Christians we are not exempt from the pain and suffering that the rest of the world goes through, however there is a difference in how we respond. If you have ever traveled by plane, you basically are putting your trust in a pilot and a computer. Airplanes are still the safest way to travel but we don't think about it, or at least try not to. We sit, we read, we relax, we watch tv and play games and in rarest occasion we talk to the person next to us. Every so often you are reminded you are flying, when your ears start to hurt, and turbulence shakes your stomach.

We need to live everyday trusting in God. We need to trust in His grace and mercy. We need to trust that He will fulfill His promise, and that He will come to our rescue. We need to live everyday with the thought that we are heaven bound. Although we are in this world and we will suffer, this is not the end for us. We are just passing through. Trust in God and take refuge in Him!

David

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Susan Mealer** and our dear brother, **Bill Mealer**. A memorial service will be at a later date.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Mark, Diane & Kate Snow** in the death of their son, **Matt Snow**. A memorial service will be at a later date.



Special Contribution

Because of your generosity, we were able to send an additional \$8,390 to the Church of Christ Disaster Relief in Nashville to help with the tornado destruction.

Announcement from our Elders

With regard to the COVID-19, Corona Virus concerns. In keeping with recommendations from medical professionals and the CDC, the Eldership, in an abundance of caution, will be implementing some temporary precautions for the next several weeks. Our gatherings:

At this time, we will suspend our regular meeting times here at the building. Instead, we ask that you join us, as of now, via our live streaming service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning and we will provide a recorded devotional for Sunday night and Wednesday night All other assemblies, classes, fellowships, gatherings are postponed until further notice.

The office will remain open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Feel free to come by the church office to pick up communion supplies sufficient for the next few weeks, and worship with us on the internet Live Stream at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning. Please keep the church office informed so that we can assist with any immediate need. The current condition will present many opportunities to serve one another and our community, use those opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ.

Finally, we encourage you to stay informed by credible sources. Make sound health decisions based on fact rather than panic. Communicate with us if you have concerns. Watch for frequent updates from us, this situation is rapidly changing.

Again, these are temporary measures being taken in an abundance of caution. Disease is ever present in our sin-sick world. The Elders encourage every member to pray we will benefit from God's protection, be guided by His wisdom, and that He will bring this situation to a safe and prompt resolution.

For the Record

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Bible Study	---
Early Worship	---
Late Worship	---
Total Sunday Morning	---
Sunday Night	---
Contribution	\$6,482.00
YTD Average	\$35,894.08
Budget	\$37,500.00

Dear Riverchase Family,

Words cannot express how appreciative we are for all the kindness shown to us in the death of my brother and sister-in-law.

Thank you for all of the cards, texts, food and flowers. We are so thankful for our family here at Riverchase.

Love,

Ron & Lynne Selby

Dear Livewires,

Thank you so much for the donation to help my nephew, Travis, after the terrible loss from the tornado. He was appreciative and wanted us to tell you how thankful he was. You all were so kind to think of him.

Love,

Ron & Lynne Selby

Dear Riverchase Family,

Many thanks for the prayers, phone calls, messages, visits, food, cards, flowers, plants and donations to and in memory of my brother, Walt Brown. A special thank you to those who traveled to Ashland to say good-bye and comfort us. As our hearts grieve, God, your support and precious memories see us through. Having a church family when our physical families get smaller becomes even more important.

Sincerely,

*The family of Walt Brown
Rodney & Helen Rardin*

Ladies' Ministry

Since we cannot meet together, we have a project that we have been asked to participate in for our local community. Our sister nurses Charman Harper, Paula Davis and Lori Fornwalt have asked if we can make surgical masks for their hospitals. We are in need of 1/8 - 1/4 inch elastic and cotton fabric. You can drop the supplies or the made mask off at the church office Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Mount (205-470-4540).



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This week at Riverchase:

All Events Have Been Cancelled Until Further Notice

Please continue to remember in prayer:

Patricia Anderson (former member), **Tommie Cleghorn** (Jay's mother), **Joan Harris** (Betz's friend), **Richard Howe** (Steve's dad), **Martha Manwarring** (former member), **Jay Odom** (Kevin Arvin's brother-in-law), **Claudia Sibert** (John's mother), **Barbara Stetler** (Howe/Sims mother), **Kristy Tatum** (Rardin's neighbor).

Please pray for our active duty deployed military:

Riverchase Family:

Keith Dunn (#1) recovering from defibrillator surgery.

Terry Pruitt (#2) recovering at home from shoulder surgery.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS:

FTG #1: Rejetta Balentine, Lynda Cardwell, Angie Dickinson, Keith Dunn, Ollie Scott, Michelle Whitaker

FTG #2: Glenda Arnold, John Bearden, Victor & Glinda Boone, Vonda Cook, Nina Pitchford, Lance Rushing, Bob Smith

FTG #3: David Bath, Ruth Bath, Becky Carter, Billy Gaines, Angie Guffey, Martha Johnston, Nona Miller

FTG #4: Jeff Carroll, Elaine Evans, Gary Evans, Bill Hester, Alan Jackson, Ruby Lakeman, Martha Mann, Everleigh Self, Cindy Snider

FTG #5: Beverly Strange, Ron Waddell

FTG #6: Zane Armstrong, Erick Boggs, Michelle Dichiara, Don & Shirley Genry, Don Greer, Addie Jackson, Grover Jackson, Sarah Wolford

FTG #7: Don & Jan Haefner, Peggy Hendley, Lori Lambert, Candy Parker, Tim Parker, Jerry Sharp

ADD TO YOUR PRAYER LIST OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

Gladys Akers (David Akers mother) health issues.

Noreen Anderson (Jina O'Clair's mother) health issues.

Alice Ball (Michael Ball's mother) acute myeloid leukemia, chemo.

Joe Belmont (Johnny's father) lung cancer.

Toby Blackwood (friend of Ollie and Mary Scott) cancer.

Joy Borland (Twila Bedgood's sister) cancer.

Jessica Brown (Glenda's daughter in law) breast cancer.

Patsy Burks (Rhonda Ball's mother) eye issues.

Randy Chew (Missy Wright's dad) heart related issues.

Cathy Crittenden (Dee Davis' friend) brain tumor.

Jerry Earnest (Handley's friend) cancer.

Bob Edwards (Ron Steen's cousin) MDS.

G. Estes (friend of Pitchford's) chemo.

Jan Hall (Helen Haskew's sister - in - law) health issues.

Eli Hairston (Teen in Chelsea) brain trauma from a golf cart accident.

Jane Harrison (Peggy Hendley's sister in law) heart issues.

Bob Hull (Howe's brother-in-law) cancer.

Valari Lagrone (Cindy Thompson's cousin) 3rd degree burns on both hands.

Becky Morris (Rodney Morris' sister in law) cancer.

Myra Myrick (Pam Wampol's aunt) ovarian cancer.

Lauren Orth (David's sister) health issues.

Cecil Parker (Rhonda Ball's grandfather) liver disease.

McKenzie Ray (friend of Amber Henderson) leukemia.

Ronnie Rogers (CJ Rogers father - college student) brain cancer.

Pattie Ryan (Sarah Pate's mother) melanoma.

Margaret Seagrest (long time visitor) health issues.

Mary Ella Sirmon (The Sirmon's granddaughter) seizures.

Matt Snow (Mark & Diane's son) continuing treatments.

Lisa Wallace (Bath's niece) breast cancer.

Carol Watson (Fred Langdon's sister) lymphoma.

Raymond White (Cindy Thompson's cousin) health problems.

Ann Winsett (Brett Moran's grandmother) heart issues.

Joseph Wright (Stephen Wright's father) health issues.