

Who, Not What

Sometimes you hear something that just resonates with truth. I had such a moment when I read an article that came to me from the Creekwood Church of Christ in Mobile. It was written by their minister, David A. Sargent.

He was writing about one of their members who recently passed away. Her name is Margaret Gill. Here is a portion of that article.

*Although Margaret was legally blind, she had keen insight. I remember visiting with her on one occasion when she said something that I want to always remember. I asked her to repeat the statement so that I could write it down. She repeated the statement that she had heard and had helped shape her perspective: **"It's not what the world is coming to, it's what – or Who – is coming to the world."***

She noted that so many ask in frustration, "What is this world coming to?" But, she said, we should be looking forward to Who is coming to the world. She was referring to the Second Coming of Jesus, when He comes to judge the world and to take God's children home to an eternal, heavenly home. It was to His coming and that eternal home that Margaret placed her hope. Please read Titus 2:11-14 for a divine expression of that blessed hope.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope-- the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

(Titus 2:11-14 NIV)

-Dewayne

Upcoming Events:

- All events have been cancelled until further notice.

This Is The Day

Eric Gott

Psalm 118:24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

How are you using your time each day? The past several days have felt repetitive, but there have also been small moments of pure joy. Our kids are coming to understand that school is not going to happen for a long time, and they are also deeply missing their Bible class. However we are also watching them use their imaginations more, learn new dances and songs, they are witnessing the importance of family dinner time, and our favorite moment of each day is hearing the simple moments for which they are thankful.

Because each day is a gift from God, I do not want to wake each morning feeling like I am living the same monotonous routine. Leah and I decided to make a list of things we could do to embrace the quarantine and social distancing more positively until we can return to normalcy.

Here is our list:

- Read a new book
- Start a new painting
- Complete a puzzle
- Finish a quilting project
- Memorize a favorite passage of scripture
- Read through the Gospels
- Cook a new recipe
- Hike at Oak Mountain, teach kids to ride bikes
- Help kiddos with handwriting and letter recognition
- Bake cookies, brownies and pies
- Send cards to friends
- Clean out closets, plant flowers
- Watch favorite movies with kids
- Plan a family vacation
- Dance parties with the kids
- Play a board game, draw with sidewalk chalk
- Doodle or watercolor for fun, make crafts with kids

Our list could go on and on. Sitting down and thinking of ways we could use our time each day has made the idea of being stuck at home more exciting. We get to spend time with our kids. We get to spend more time together. So today I will repeat *Psalm 118:24*, "This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it."

Challenge

Scott Pruitt

Challenge: A call to take place in a contest or competition.

As we all have been deeply impacted by everything involved with Covid-19, I would like to challenge us all to participate in a church-wide challenge. Here it is for this week.

1. Write an encouraging note to a family who has experienced the loss of a loved one and mail it.
2. Share your favorite Bible Verse that has brought you comfort during this time of uncertainty and post on social media.
3. Facetime at least one person per day and tell them one reason why you appreciate them.
4. Take a family walk outside and enjoy the outdoors. Rain, Snow, Sleet, or Shine... you can walk anytime. We all know that we aren't having to get all dressed up for much of anything these days.
5. Pray for our church family, for your neighborhood, and those affected worldwide by not only the Corona virus but also those affected by natural disasters.
6. Play a family game together and discuss 1 goal that you would like to accomplish, together, as a family in the next week.
7. Take a selfie of you smiling and send it to someone who could use a smile, and also share the best thing that has happened to you this week.

²⁰ *Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.*

²¹ *You will increase my honor and comfort me once again.*
(*Psalm 71:20-21 NIV*)

Take Refuge In God

Psalms 5:11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. 12 Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. (NIV)

When is tornado season in Alabama? Sometimes it feels that we have warnings all year. And every time I hear it is going to rain or that we will have thunderstorms, I worry. I get concerned for those who may not have anywhere to go and for those who might take the warning lightly. I realize that each of us is responsible for ourselves. Each of us need to find a way to find shelter and to stay safe.

King David knew that when he was being persecuted by Saul that it was his responsibility to look for places to hide. David understood that there were people under his command that depended on him, and of their sake, he chose to run and not fight. He took refuge in God to help him find a way to stay safe. Whenever David found refuge, he was glad and happy and thankful. I hope that all of us place our trust in the Lord in these times and that after all of this is over, we can sing and be glad and thankful that it was our God who delivered us!

- David

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Joe, Dana, Jillian and Caroline Carter** in the death of Dana's mother, Agnes Hodges. Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Mark, Diane & Kate Snow** in the death of their son, **Matt Snow**. A memorial service will be in October on his birthday.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Susan Mealer** in the death of our dear brother, **Bill Mealer**. A memorial service will be in November on his birthday.

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).

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 are suspending our regular meeting times here at the building. **Instead, we ask that you join us, as of now, via our live streaming service at 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening. The broadcasts will be available on our Website, Facebook page, YouTube and Vimeo.** 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. 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 29, 2020

Bible Study	---
Early Worship	---
Late Worship	---
Total Sunday Morning	---
Sunday Night	---
Contribution	\$14,217.00
YTD Average	\$34,226.61
Budget	\$37,500.00

Dear Riverchase members,

Dewayne and David Thank you for your participation in mom's (Shirley Wilson) funeral. She loved her church family. May God Bless you all. She will be greatly missed.

Love,

Mike Wilson

and Mona Enstrom

A Message From One Of Our Elders, Tim Parker

It's spring. The calendar says so, and the flowers, grass and pollen all agree! Pollen, that wonderful spring time distribution that spreads across the land causing sniffles, leaky noses, runny eyes and sneezing. And more importantly, the renewal of trees, flowers and fruits. You see along with the good there seems to be a little "bad", or shall we say a little "discomfort."

Now there is an expression that goes something like, "into every life a little rain must fall." Well, currently within our world, our country and our close church family, a little rain is falling.

So, where is the good?

In Romans 8:28 God tells us through Paul's words: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

So let's look for the good.

Pollen, it's outside, we're inside, most of us in air conditioned homes with family. Families who now have an opportunity to grow closer. Put down the "screens" and get reacquainted with your close loved ones.

Furthermore, as it is said, "absence makes the heart grow fonder." We are missing our friends and fellow "church" members. And we are concerned for their wellbeing. So, call, text, email; check on them! Most likely they are missing us as well.

And now we have time, plenty of time to go to God's word. Read the scriptures, meditate on them. Read them together. Get reacquainted with God through his word. He loves us and ... He makes us to lie down in green pastures and leads us beside still waters. And even though we may walk through the valley of death, He will lead us, comfort us.

Remember, God is great, God is good, let us thank Him! For He is always with us.

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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.

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.