

April 26, 2020

Elders

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Schedule of Services

Bible Study
Sun 9:30am, 5pm & Wed 7pm
Worship
Sun 10:30am

Connect

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A Word from the Elders

We pray you are remaining safe from the effects of COVID-19. As our nation moves away from the grips of this dreadful virus, we look forward to a time we may be together once again within the physical walls of the church building. Even though we all have been impacted by COVID-19, the eldership continually prays for your safety and healing. We pray you draw closer to God as you lean upon His wisdom, and that you accept His will throughout these times of trials. We pray you look to God for the answers and not to the confusion of the world. If you need us to pray with you, please feel free to contact the leadership team and we will be glad to pray with you as we discuss your needs. We would also like to thank you for your cooperation as we have had to physically distance ourselves during these trying times. We also thank Ronnie, Jeff, Mickey and George in all they have done. In closing, we are reminded of last week's lesson based upon Joshua 1:9. The eldership prays that you will "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." As the nation travels away from the effects of COVID-19, we pray you lean upon God "wherever you go". God bless you!

Online Worship

Join us online each Sunday, from the comfort of your own home, beginning at 10:30am. Each week we will post a sermon in both audio and video formats. The video worship is a mini version of our regular worship service including songs, prayer, communion and a message from God's Word. You can access these by visiting our website, Facebook, YouTube or our church app.

Shults Lewis Commodity Drive

Even with the quarantine in place, we are still collecting the following items: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash & toothpaste. Items were scheduled for pick-up this week; however, due to recent events, it has been postponed. So, there is still time to collect the items. In addition, all monies collected during the commodity drive will be directed to the payment of the milk, meat & fresh produce bill. Contact Ronnie Hewitt for drop-off or pick-up.



www.whitelandchurchofchrist.com/offering

Please be mindful, although our doors are closed, the work at WCOCC continues. We have utilities & other expenses along with missionary work where our financial responsibilities must be met. You can give securely at our website or our church app. On the app, go the menu, select "More" then "Online Giving". When giving online, be sure to select the appropriate fund (i.e. General, Missions or Building). If you would prefer, you may also mail your offering to the church office.

Celebrations

Apr 28
Ronnie Sutton

May 2
Bill Dollens

May 3
Angela Leisure
Kara Littleton



Congratulations!

Sam and Briana Miller are expecting baby #2 this October. Join us in congratulating them.

Prayer Requests

We believe in the power of prayer & are a praying family. To request prayer for you or someone you know, please message us: www.whitelandchurchofchrist.com/prayer-requests.

Kim Scalf's mother, Mickey Dew – She is in a nursing home in Greenwood and is being tested COVID-19. (The Scalfs are part of Homework Help)

Jill Lafary's former in-laws – Her former brother-in-law, Richie Kennick, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday.

Julie Miller – Recovering from a blood clot that traveled to her lungs.

All those working on the frontlines during this time and those unable to visit loved ones due to the restrictions.

Locked Down but Looking Up

by Wahid & Laila Wahba | Guest Writers with Wisdom Hunters

And the Lord closed the door behind him (Noah). Genesis 7:16

Social distancing; new normal; lockdown; words that we hear everywhere we turn: social media, news, friends, and relatives. There is not a conversation or a phone call that is devoid of those words. Americans are not used to being locked in. We cherish our freedom, our eating out, our socializing, and shopping.

Laila and I have experienced lockdown three times in our lives:

The first time was in 1967 during the war in Egypt. We were locked in for months at a time. We could not even go out to the grocery store or to the pharmacy. At night we had to put off all the lights by 5 pm. My father, an officer in the military, was on the front lines. Laila's father had to go down to the TV station daily to read the evening news.

The second time we were locked in for close to six weeks was during the Arab Spring (I honestly don't understand why it is called Arab Spring!). There was no internet. We could hear riots and gunshots all around us as Islamists were trying to take over the country, which they eventually did for 18 months, the worst 18 months in the history of Egypt. People running around with machine guns was the norm. It was scary.

The COVID-19 pandemic is our third lockdown. And honestly, this is heaven compared to the last two times. We are staying in our air conditioned homes, with our dogs and well-stocked pantries. The weather is generally good, and we can go out for walks or sit on our deck. What more can we ask for? We are so blessed to be locked down under such conditions. All we hear is birds chirping.

Did you notice in Genesis that it says that it was God who locked the door behind Noah and his family? For 370 days and 370 nights in the Ark, Noah's family is locked in. No windows, decks, internet, cell phones, TV, Youtube, Facebook, or Netflix. Mrs. Noah could not go out for walks or go to the store. They could not take the animals for their daily walk.

All they heard was the sound of rain for forty days and forty nights. They spent their time fellowshiping, praying, loving on one other, and caring for the animals. God provided for them. I wonder if Noah fretted that maybe the amount of food he took with him would not be enough for eight people and hundreds of animals, especially that he did not know how long it would be before they would disembark the Ark. Can you imagine that Noah did not think of opening the window of the Ark except after 264 days? That is over nine months!!

I am not against you watching the news, but if you are surfing from one channel to another 24/7, you are leaving the window open for far too long. The rain can flood your Ark with anxiety, fear, doubt, and disbelief. Even though there is an ocean of viruses and life seems chaotic, God is watching over you! God is in control.

Do not be afraid! Be faithful to Him and wait patiently. The rain will stop, and the rainbow will shine again. Don't let the coronavirus shake your Faith. Don't panic, don't fear. Pray and believe that it is God who locked you in to save you from the raging storm of COVID-19. As my daughter-in-law Lauren told me yesterday, "Crisis takes us either to the pinnacle of faith or the abyss of disbelief."

Hold on to Jesus because all your provision comes from the Lamb.

"In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise" (Revelation 5:12)!