

Good morning New Life.

The elders and Steve met Sunday afternoon via Zoom for a meeting to try to make some determinations. That was a weird experience for someone not too technically inclined. The weekly and daily announcements by the president and governor seem to require constant adjustments. We decided we would each write a paragraph of updates and decisions and encouragement. Those follow below.

We also want you to know that our church is in good shape financially, however we felt like a reminder to continue to be faithful as in the past may be in order. We do not want to beg or make it "all about money" as churches are sometimes criticized for. Sometimes rightly so. We all know however that our giving is just another form our worship. It becomes too easy to neglect that when we are not meeting like we are used to. So we thank you for being faithful.

For some of you who are or will be facing hardships, we have to know. We are supposed to help people but especially those who are of our own family of faith. How can we if needs are not known. Please, please let someone know. And please be checking on your neighbors. It is an opportunity to be generous.

-the Elders

As we look ahead to our Easter observances, we all agree that every day is Easter Sunday for believers in Christ. With that in mind, we will continue with livestream gatherings for both Good Friday and Easter Sunday as they fall on the calendar. Setting the calendar aside, our hope and plan is to have a larger Easter Sunday celebration on the first Sunday when we can all safely meet together again, however far in the future that may be. Based on the information we have in hand as of Monday afternoon 3/30, that looks to be sometime in May.

-Jon

Easter 2020

We all hold memories of Easter Day when we were younger. There are all the standard memories: Easter Baskets, dyed eggs, candy, and don't forget the grass from the baskets that we picked up until July 4.

The most difficult memories are the new clothes we had to wear on that special day. I agonized over whether to tell you this, but here it is; one of my Easter outfits at about age 5 was a pink sport coat with black slacks and black and white saddle shoes. OH, the indignity!

However, we do get older and our important memories change. I remember the story told in different ways. The God-Man Jesus Christ getting up from his stone-cold slab under the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving His tomb to be with His friends, carrying the eternal message, "Peace be unto you!" What stunning news, what transformation, what stunning reality, and what a message for all people. The lives of our first century brothers and sisters were never the same. The Believers changed to the Knowers. "I know my Redeemer lives!"

Now, we have Easter, 2020, and we are not the same. I am checking on it. I'm hearing it. The brothers and sisters at New Life are closer to God and to one another than ever. We are calling and checking on each other. We are praying for each other. We are gathering online, closer at times than we were when we shared the same walls on Sunday morning. We are listening to the Lord, "Fear not, you believe in God. Believe in Me also!" We are believing in You and listening to You Lord Jesus; and

our actions show it! This is an Easter that I will not soon forget. The year that saw us draw nearer to You, God, and closer to each other. ...and because of it, we also will never be the same.

Thank you brothers and sisters. "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

Happy Resurrection Day!

-Eric

Our dgroup has contacted quite a few people in our church. Debbie and I have talked to over 20 of our members and some friends and neighbors. I wanted you to know that not one of our New Life people that we talked to expressed fear or panic or hysteria. That is very gratifying and pleasing to me. It seems we are trusting God and not allowing this virus to "infect" our minds! I want to remind you all that this is an opportunity for the church to shine. Guys we are supposed to be salt and life everywhere. So be bright and salty! Each of us has relatives or friends or neighbors who are handling this in a less than ideal way. Share with them why you are not living by fear. To me there is a very real possibility that this is going to last a bit longer than most people think.

This is an idea that I stole and modified, that I thought had a great deal of value. A way to stay positive.

1. Create a text group of 2 to 3 people who you would like to stay connected to during this time of not going out and about like we are used to.
2. Set an alarm on you phone to remind yourself to text 3 good things about your day to the group. Maybe include a Bible verse that you have gained fresh insight from. Something that has been especially meaningful to you.
3. The others in the group reply sharing their 3 good things.

I want to leave you with this II Timothy 1:7. This has been especially meaningful to me this month.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. (CSB)

-Scott

We all need to trust fully in the Lord. We need to understand that when it is our time, it is our time. Be joyfully ready to meet Jesus. I am praying for all of you to be at peace. Reach out and share Jesus with everyone, God Bless and Press Onward and Upward.

-Lyle