



From the Pastor...A Different Re-Gathering Plan?

Several weeks ago, just before Christmas, I attended another church on a Sunday morning. This was during the time that the May Memorial regathering team temporarily paused worship in our sanctuary. While in that worship service, there was no congregational singing and there were no “unison spoken words,” like the Lord’s Prayer. But, there was communion, and for communion, the worshipers walked to the front of the sanctuary and were served the bread and the cup directly from the hand of the pastor. I really liked having communion this way. But I thought it strange that speaking the Lord’s Prayer was too risky but walking forward and receiving the Lord’s Supper was not. I don’t know the thought process behind that decision, but I’m sure it was not quick or easy.

There are some churches in our county and in our nation that have yet to regather in their sanctuaries. There are some who have regathered and in their worship service one would never know there is a global pandemic happening around us. No distancing, no face coverings, and full congregational singing. And then there’s churches like us, somewhere in the middle.

When I was in the sixth grade my best friend was Cliff. Cliff was in my class at school, and we started spending more time together away from school. I would frequently go home with Cliff on Friday afternoons and spend the night at his house, and sometimes Cliff would come to my house. Cliff was a good friend, but a problem started to surface.

I wouldn’t say that my parents were “strict,” but they would not allow me to do things that Cliff’s parents allowed him to do. I’m sure my parents grew tired of hearing, “but Cliff’s parents are letting him go!” I don’t know if my parents said it this clearly, but I began to understand my parent’s position: “God gave Cliff the parents he has for a reason, and God has given you your parents for a reason. And, we are responsible for you, and Cliff’s parents are responsible for him.” Cliff’s parents were good parents, and my parents were good parents. But each set made different decisions based on their child and what they thought was absolutely best. (continued on page 2...)



Worship in the Sanctuary on Sunday

Please join us this Sunday, February 7, at 11:00 a.m. The children will meet for Extended Session and we will have a nursery. Safety measures are in place.

If you are planning to attend would you let us know by calling the church office at (804) 598-3098. Thank you.

From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

So, why has May Memorial's regathering team made the decisions they have when (insert name here) Baptist Church is doing something different? And my best answer is that God has uniquely formed us and given us our members and God has given other local churches their leaders and each must do the best they can for that church family.

Cliff was an only child. Cliff also had leukemia. (I was first place in the Leukemia Society of America's Bike-A-Thon when I was in the sixth grade) Cliff's dad was retired military, and Cliff's family were members of a church that was different than our church. Cliff's parents were good parents, they were just different than mine. And they made the best decisions for Cliff as mine made the best decisions for me. I don't know that either would look back now and say they did everything exactly right (I'm sure they wouldn't), but each set simply made the best decisions for their family at the time. As do church regathering teams.

I don't know how the regathering team at that other church (they actually call it a task force) could decide that not speaking the Lord's prayer and communion by intinction is consistently safe. I don't think our regathering team would exactly go along with that. But I know this, that task force (and our regathering team) is trying to make the best decision for each of their families.

May Memorial and COVID 19

In April the Board of Deacons appointed a Re-Gathering Team to guide May Memorial through the decisions dealing with our Church Family's safety and COVID 19. The Team meets regularly and is made up of Gary Cowles, Chair, Michael Edwards, Dawana Sheppard, Ed Utt, Matt O'Quinn, Nancy Wood, Lisa O'Donnell, Debbie Howard, and Jay Givens.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is May Memorial Worshiping in the Sanctuary? Yes! We are worshiping in our sanctuary and online each Sunday morning. Since regathering in August the Re-Gathering Team has cancelled sanctuary worship a couple of times because of increased cases of COVID 19 in our church family and COVID test results that were pending. Online worship has happened every Sunday.

Will the Re-Gathering Team cancel sanctuary worship again? No one knows the future, but the regathering team senses that sanctuary worship will not be canceled again.

Are any safety precautions being observed in Worship? Yes. We keep a distance of at least 6 feet and everyone is asked to wear a face covering. We also have found other ways to reduce the risk of transmission such as not passing objects from one person to another and refraining from congregational singing during this time.

When will other church activities resume? The Re-Gathering Team meets regularly to evaluate the COVID metrics, state guidelines, and our safety. As the numbers and positivity rate improve more and more activities will be "in-person" at May Memorial Church. In addition to in-person worship, we also are providing other "in-person" gatherings such as a nursery during worship, Children's Extended Session meets during worship, and the youth meeting each Sunday evening. All of these "in-person" activities are following suggested and ordered guidelines.

What if I don't feel comfortable in a group of people? You can join us for Sunday school each Sunday morning on Zoom at 9:15, online worship each Sunday at 10:30, view our "Sanctuary Worship" livestream at 11:00 (both of these are available after they "premiere"), and be a part of our midweek Wednesday night gathering on Zoom at 6:30. While we miss being physically together, these are all great ways to stay connected with God and God's people at May Memorial.

What can I do to help us in regathering? Be patient, wear a face-covering, and help the ushers by cooperating with our safety plan together. And, get your vaccine when available to you!

Connecting to God...Worship



Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 17

6:30 p.m., Church Sanctuary

Join Us For Sunday School on Zoom

To join the Zoom session at 9:15 a.m you may join by phone: Call (312) 626-6799 Enter: 871 7487 0259



Connecting to Each Other...Fellowship



Wednesday Night Gathering

Lenten Series Led by Bob Kruschwitz
Wednesdays at 6:30 via Zoom
February 24 – March 31

To join with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799 Enter this code: 286 978 612



Kingdom Kids Zoom Meeting

Every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. we meet online for our Kingdom Kids program and fun! Join Zoom Meeting by clicking this link, then follow the directions by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2770321474>

To join with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799

Enter the meeting code: 277 032 1474



Youth Soul Food

The youth meet each Sunday at 5:30 at the Youth House. All youth are welcome to join!



Youth Movie Night and Firepit - Feb. 14

The youth will get together at the Wood's home at 5:30 until 8 p.m. All youth are welcome to join!



Save the Date - Youth Mission Madness

Mission Madness in a Box. March 13-14 More information to be shared later.

Connecting to the World...Missions



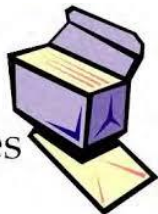
Life Savers for Life Savers! Our new mission project is to purchase stainless steel coffee mugs and fill those with Life Savers for every deputy in Powhatan County. You can bring (name brand) Life Savers to the church office (or worship), you can also donate for the cost of the mugs. They are \$7 each, and you are encouraged to give to buy several for this project. If you write a check to purchase mugs, write "Life Savers" on the memo line. Place cash in an envelope with "Life Savers" written on the outside. Powhatan has 43 full time and 10 part time deputies. Help us be a blessing to our "life savers!"

Announcements



On Sunday, January 17 May Memorial voted unanimously to call Mr. Andrew Snead as our church's Minister of Music. Andrew has resigned from his former church job and is completing his ministry there. Andrew will begin his ministry at May Memorial on Monday, February 8 and his first Sunday in worship will be Sunday, February 14.

2021
Offering
Envelopes
are in!



The offering envelopes for 2021 giving are here at the church for pick up. They are located in the Commons Area, near the magazine rack.


meeting

Church Insurance

On Thursday, March 11, at 2 p.m. Sandra Shelton will hold a meeting to review the Sanford Insurance policy.



COVID Vaccine Phases –

Several May Memorial members have shared that they have signed up to be notified when they are eligible to receive the COVID vaccine. If you would like to sign up, you can call the Chesterfield Health District (Powhatan is in this district) at (804) 318-8207.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2021

Eligible high school seniors and past recipients can pick up an application at the church office to be completed and submitted no later than March 31, 2021 for consideration by the Scholarship Committee. An application can be emailed to you if requested from the church office. Questions should be directed to Jackie Lindsey at prlindsey1@verizon.net or by phone 598-3038.

Scholarship Committee

Lynne Bradbury, Constance Deal, Jackie Lindsey, Juston Sanudo

Financial Information

Our Gifts to our Lord Week of January 31, 2021

Regular Offering	\$ 2,365.00
A Time to Build	245.00
Music	200.00
Total	\$ 2,810.00

May Memorial's Prayer List 2/2/21

CHURCH FAMILY:

Barbara Barden
Joann Cole
Bob Cox
Snead DeNoon
Nick Elam
Ester Fitch and Family
Bea & Rick Gallier
Bill Ketron
Paul Lindsey
Fran O'Donnell
Shirley Stephens
David & Susan Terry
Earl & Janice Worsham

MILITARY:

Danny Myers, Brent Templeton, Quint Sutton,
David Brizendine, Jeremiah Clift, Nelson Sutton,
Justin Donnavon, Austin, Breeden, Caleb Hammer,
Adam and Hunter Mitchell, Conner Terrell

HOMEBOUND CONTACT LIST:

- Audrey Johnston, 3901 S. Fairway Drive, Powhatan, VA 23139
- Audrey Mann, The Laurels of Willow Oaks, 11611 Robious Road, Midlothian, 23113
- Jean Hall, 1748 Old Powhatan Estates
- Nancy Wilkinson, 2116 Eastwood Ridge Dr., Moseley, VA 23120
- Earl and Janice Worsham, 18507 Harrison's Road, Amelia Court House, VA 23002

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Estelle Davis, Debbie Elam's mother
Lacie Baggett
Libby Gregg, daughter-in-law of Carol Gregg
Ami Gregg, daughter-in-law of Carol Gregg
Stuart Yeorge
Ben Spoon, Juli Spoon's son-in-law
Matthew Berger, friend of Joy & Juston Sanudo
Clyde Martin, brother of Esther Fitch
Sheri Sadie, Nancy Flower's Daughter
Justin Yancey, Grandson of Irma Alvis
Stephanie Hay, Karen and Ray's daughter-in-law
Janie Dean
Phyllis Lester, Ed Utt's sister
Shawn Neugent, friend of the Sheltons
Lennox Family
Helen Fitzgerald, friend of Diana and B.J. Smith
Pam Polk Mottley, Ed Mottley's sister
Brian Sullivan, nephew of Mike & Bernice Koelzer
Mary, Annie Sparrow's Aunt
Mary Ann David, Debbie Elam's sister-in-law
Teresa Fields
Kathy Kuhn, friend of Vicki and Bob Kruschwitz
Davin Ericson, friend of the Cox's
Mike Davidson
Randy Blackwell
Jenny Johnson, friend of Kerri Bilthuis
Ruth Boatwright
Kaye Edwards, Michael Edwards mother
Sandra Williams, family member of Carol & Irvin Wms
Freda Kovalchik, Judy Ketron's mother
Family of Patricia Vermillion, Jon Flower's sister
Randy Kope, Grandson of Les and Diane Miller

February Birthdays



8 - Rudy Potter
8 - Ed Utt
10 - Juli Spoon
10 - Mike Koelzer

15 - Debbie Mottley
17 - Judy Martin
23 - Lester Oberg