



NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

— GROWING TOGETHER —

April 5, 2020

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As a result of social distancing, we probably fall into one of two camps: 1) We may be completely or generally isolated from people and long to see, touch and talk to someone...anyone, or 2) We are longing to have a break from full-time isolation with family members in a house with no sure end in sight (The “too much of a good thing syndrome” :).

As always, the Bible offers lots of help. Sometimes it’s through direct teaching, but often it is through stories told of real people confronting real challenges. Consider Elijah and Jesus.

As to social isolation, Elijah’s story in 1 Kings 19 comes to mind. His extreme social distancing was voluntary, but God wouldn’t let him have a pity party. In fact, at one point, God told him about what major tasks (and they would be some crazy important activities) that God still had for him to do. Perhaps his lengthy time alone after the Mt. Carmel-and-prophets-of Baal-episode helped ready him for the next phase of his service in the Kingdom of God. And don’t overlook that during this very period of isolation, he stood closest in the presence of God.

Jesus, in Mark 1, is a powerful reminder that too many people all the time can be stressful. He had been inundated with people in Capernaum demanding his attention and help. His eventual response: get away and pray, reprioritize, then move forward to the greater task ahead (in Jesus’ case it was to preach).

Here is the takeaway. Whether you are feeling too isolated and alone, or are overwhelmed by the constant nearness of loved ones in a confined space, let God use this time to prepare you for greater service in His Kingdom. Be in His presence often in prayer and in the Word. Seek His will for your future. And May He Lift You Up!

-Billy

Prayer List:

- **For the health of our nation**, both physically in the face of the virus crisis and spiritually as we seek God's help and healing.
- **For our Health Care workers** – we have many in our church family actively involved in medical care. Let's pray daily for their health, energy and strength as they serve during this time.
- **For the Economic impact** – for individuals and families in our church family whose financial stability and job security have been upended by the crisis.
- **Colin Cushing**, Janie Elliott's nephew, had successful heart surgery this week in Kansas.
- **James Mayberry** received a stent on Thursday.
- **Margaret Organ** was released from Alcoa Pines Rehab on Thursday and is now at her daughter's home.
- **Eugene Puckett**, Joe's brother, had surgery Friday in Conway to amputate his leg above the knee.
- **Micah Sexson** had surgery on Wednesday due to a hematoma behind his eye.
- **Glenn Sullivan**, Sue Matheny's brother, is in Hospice Care.
- **Sissy Treat** has completed all tests and will receive results from Mayo Clinic telemedicine on Tuesday.

Continue to remember:

Joe Campbell
Charles Caradine
James Chandler
Cash Clancy
Oliver DeSpain
Susan Dorsey
Sue Edwards
Don & Patricia Flowers
Kelley Geurin
Cathy Hagameier
Betty Humphries
Glenn & Sylvia Kays
Rod Kirk
Wilma Lunsford
Sharon Pearson
Diana Richard
Catherine Roberts
Bess Sanders
Johnny Scroggins
Patsy Steele
Phil Stinnett
Letha Styles
Fred & Edith Swaim
Randy Townsend
Billie Wilson
Bartha Wise
Syble Womack

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- *Our sympathy to **Jan Hastings** and family on the passing of Jan's dad, **Bill Loe**. A graveside service will be held on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at Sweet Home Cemetery (between Prescott and Blevins on Hwy 371). Obituary and Memorial information at <https://www.brazzelfuneralhomes.com/>*
 - *Sympathy also to **Alex Smith** on the passing of her grandfather, **D.L. Parker**.*

“Dear Northside Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of goody bags to Saline Memorial Hospital Staff. Your support of our efforts is greatly appreciated! While this is a trying time for our nation, we are encouraged by the outpouring of support we are feeling from our community. Thank you again for your donation!



Saline Memorial
HOSPITAL

*-Your Saline Memorial
Hospital Family”*

Calendar Updates:

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| April 18 | Teen Yard Sale— POSTPONED
until summer |
| April 24-25 | Ladies Retreat— CANCELLED ,
will try to reschedule |
| June 14-18 | Northside Camp at Corin Read
Christian Camp— info and
register your child at
http://www.northsidecofc.info/crc |
| July 12-15 | Vacation Bible School (tentative) |