

## A Note from the Pastor

During this crisis known to us as Covid-19, many have been forced to work from home; some at home due to lack of "essential work". Students are remotely continuing their studies from home. I have a 4 year old and a 20 year old being "home schooled"! During this time of home isolation, family members can feel emotionally disoriented, emotionally stressed and feeling anxious. We are in uncharted waters. Let me offer up some suggestions to stay calm and focused.

1) Keep a normal routine. That would include not staying up into the wee hours and sleeping in. If working from home or retired, try not to stay in your pajamas all day! I know this is Spring Break for Mattoon, so kids will be staying up late and sleeping in, but after the break, get back into a normal routine.

2) Exercise and get some rays! If you have been cooped up in the house all day, you will be tempted to sit and veg out. Don't. Exercise will boost your mood. Endorphins are chemical messengers that reduce stress as you exercise. Do not neglect the healing power of the sun. The sun is a major source of vitamin D. Get out for a walk, a bike ride, or spend some time in the garden.

3) Unplug Social Media, Plug in the Word. We are all daily plugged into social media. You cannot get around it. But you cannot let it dominate what you allow to occupy your mind. Put the phone down, turn the news off, and for a time allow, yourself to hear that Still Small Voice. You need to hear from the Source of Truth.

**Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."**

*Pastor Morgan*



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jim Whetsell who passed away on March 20th.

We also extend our sympathy to Martha Nale and her family on the passing of her son.

## Important Information

### April Board Meeting is Cancelled

Due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home order issued by the governor, the board meeting scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> is cancelled. After consultation with the committee chairs and staff, we do not have any pressing items to be brought to the board for approval this month and do not have the need to conduct a virtual web-based meeting.

-Mike Brand, Chairman of the Board

### Online Services

Our worship services will continue to be offered online through April 26<sup>th</sup>. We currently have two ways for you to access the services. If you are on facebook we encourage you to watch the services live at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. If you miss it at 10:30 it will still be available for viewing later. However, watching it together at 10:30 allows us to praise God in unison as one body. We also incorporate communion into the service. What better way to take communion than taking it together. So be sure and have bread and juice available and prepare your heart to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you do not have facebook, but you do have internet access, you can open a facebook account. It is free and fairly simple to set up. If you need assistance doing so, please call the church office and we can arrange for someone to help you.

If you're online, but do not want to create a facebook account, you can listen to the sermon after it is uploaded to the church website ([www.mattoonfcc.com](http://www.mattoonfcc.com)). Please be aware, the sermon is not uploaded on the web site until later in the week and it only includes the sermon.

### Phone Tree

Are you receiving phone calls from the church about important announcements? If not, your number may not be on our phone tree list. If you would like to be "in the loop" when we make important announcements or emergency prayer requests, please call the office and let us know. We will add you to the list.

### Staff Appreciation

Our staff is working hard and maneuvering a lot of obstacles they haven't had to face before. And we are grateful for their perseverance! They need encouragement too. Give them a shout... however you do best. Text, call, email, high five, ... well, better not high five!

### Giving

The church continues to work diligently to build the Kingdom. And God's work depends upon your continued financial support. Therefore we have provided a new option for you to make your contributions electronically. You can go online to [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) or you can download the [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) app to your smart phone. This app allows you to sign in and make contributions one at a time or you can set it up to make automatic recurring contributions from your debit or credit card, or via ACH checking from you bank.

If electronic giving is not your "tithe thing", don't forget about the reliable USMail.

If you take advantage of online banking, you can set up First Christian Church as a biller and your bank will print and send your check for you.

### Good Friday

Service online! Watch us on facebook live this Friday at 7:00 p.m. If you are on the phone tree or following us on facebook you know we have postponed our Good Friday drama. A lot of work has already been expended on this drama presentation. Prayerfully, we will be able to perform this drama in the not so distant future.

### Resurrection Sunday!

is coming, virus or no virus. We can celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior every day, and we should. However, the one day of the year we set aside for this special celebration is near and we will not be in the church building. But the building is not the church; all the believers are the church. **And the church will not be kept silent proclaiming Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!** Be sure and join us for a special online service on Facebook on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

### How Are You Doing?

We want to know how you are doing, what you are feeling, and what you need. Do you need help or do you need an...

opportunity to help someone else? Please make contact with us. We would love to hear from you! You are a child of God. We are children of God. As brothers and sisters in Christ let us encourage one another.

### Shoes for Journey

Journey Campton is a 2 year old girl from Mattoon that is currently fighting stage 4 cancer. Our church is participating in a fundraiser for her by collecting gently used shoes. An organization called Funds2Orgs will then donate money based on the weight of the shoes into her account. Shoes can be taken to the Ed. door of the church and follow the prompts in the window. To learn more, go to Facebook and search her name. If you would like to donate money, there is a benefit account at First Mid set-up under her name. If you have any questions you can contact Donica Brand. Thank you.

1 Arlene Betty  
3 Kamdyn Dunn  
8 Jean Bergfeld  
11 Bob Clark, Gretta Kearney, Dianne Porter  
13 Bob Morgan, Michelle Mathews  
14 Sally Dickerson  
17 Tom Dickerson, Gary Gergeni  
18 Steve Lane, Ernie Webb  
22 Joey Dickerson  
26 Mitchell Gergeni  
29 Julie Nichols



6 Fred and Kayla Grissom  
14 Ron and Annetta Kerans  
27 Jack and Jan Little  
31 Phil and Marilyn Purcell



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