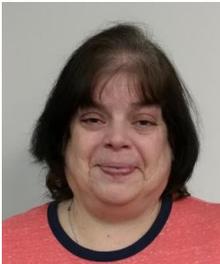


Disciples *Digest*

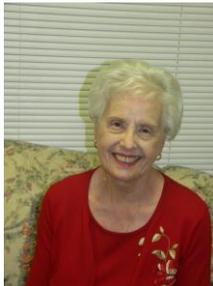
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN CHURCH | MAY 2020

Easter Parade

Although we were not able to celebrate our Risen Savior in person, it was very special to be able to hold an online Easter Parade! Thank you for submitting your beautiful photos!









*Sister's**Mother's** Daughter's*



*Jaimie** Mom** Sissy*



Is God “Upstairs?”

Neither shall thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.
Exodus 20:26 King James Version

Dear Ones,

The verse that I have cited above is the last verse of the famous chapter in which God gives Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai after the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Yesterday and today Exodus 20 was in my daily devotional, as I take my three years to read through the Bible. I will admit that Exodus 20:26 had never meant anything to me before now. But today it has. It tells us that God is not the “Man upstairs.” Wherever Heaven is, it is not upstairs.

I grew up in an area where stairs and climbing were very integral to the worship of the gods. The great Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan, outside of Mexico City, had 215 steps to the top (I know, because I counted them many times). All over PreHispanic Mesoamerica there were great temples built far above the plain of human existence. Monte Alban oversees the Oaxaca Valley, Palenque’s temples rise above the jungle, and Chichen Itza has a great observatory on one of its pyramids. Other, less affluent tribes than the Aztecs and Mayas, built their small pyramids on great bluffs. I vividly remember climbing up to the Tepozteco, one of these small pyramids on a soaring cliff not too far from Cuernavaca.

I don’t think this association with mountains was limited to ancient Mexico. The Greeks had their gods atop Mt. Olympus. The Jewish prophets were forever decrying the “high places”.

But the LORD seems to have refused to dwell above his people. No stairs are described in the fashioning of the tabernacle. It is true that the Temple was on a hill over Jerusalem, but this hill is below the Mount of Olives nearby. King Herod flattened the top of the hill in such a way that the altar of God is on a level with the courts of the men, the women, and even the gentiles.

The reason that Exodus 20 gives for this lack of steps is a curious one, that thy nakedness not be discovered. The Living Bible says it this way, “so people will not see your nudity.” Since people wore skirts, God seems to want them shielded from “peeping Toms”. I don’t think that this is to keep God from unpleasantness, but to keep us from embarrassment. If I can express this my own way, God wants us to approach him in humility, but not in humiliation. We do not come to God as dignified beings, but we do come as beings with dignity.

And God is not elitist. There is a lot of talk right now of “social distancing”. In light of the rebellious sinfulness of Israel, God did appear to them on a mountain—on mount Sinai. They could not go up to Him, and He could not go down to them. But that was not God’s desire. His desire was to be “on a level” with them. He wanted to touch them, to talk with them, to get dirty with them. God is such powerfully and perfectly love, that He could never be conquered by evil, but He so desired to come to us as to be exposed to its temptation. He fulfilled that desire in Jesus Christ. In Jesus we see that we do not climb upstairs to God, but God climbs down to us. He comes down to be with lepers, children, and to wash the feet of his disciples. And on occasion people come down to be with him—the paralytic through the roof and the tax collector from the Sycamore tree. Ah, yes, there is that one occasion when Jesus does climb . . . up the hill of Calvary . . . where his nakedness was uncovered . . . for us all.

MAY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
						02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May Birthdays

05/01 Wayne Sellers
05/13 Steve Montgomery
05/13 Steve Randolph
05/14 John Bauman
05/15 John Owsijuk
05/17 Kathee Bauman
05/19 Chuck Adams
05/20 Scott Randolph
05/24 Tyler Ward
05/30 Michael Abele

May Anniversaries

05/15 Ed & Susan Mayhall
05/31 David & Cecilia Huegel





May 10, 2020



"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**

PACN- Pregnancy Assistance Center North

Dear Churches,

As more needs arise in our community, we want you to know that we are here to help! Please help us spread the word to your congregation, serve ministries, and community. We are providing free material assistance at our *Conroe location* as well as free pregnancy and STD testing at our *Spring/Woodlands location, by appointment only*. Please see the attached flyer regarding our free assistance. You are welcome to post it, print it, or forward this email to any of your contacts.

THANK YOU, CHURCH, for the donations you've provided to help make this possible! You are making a tremendous difference to ease the burden for our community and helping us share the love of Christ. As we pass out donations, we are honored to have the opportunity to pray with them and give out Bibles to the ones who want one.

Again, please help us spread the word about our free services. Here is an updated list of our most needed items:

Diapers size 5 and up and pull ups
Baby wipes (for babies, not sanitizing wipes)
New Baby Clothes size 12-24 months
Sippy Cups
Toddler baby food
Baby cereal
Baby lotion, diaper rash cream, baby wash
Pop-up baby laundry hamper or over the door hanging organizer for children
Comfortable fuzzy socks with no skid bottoms
Nursing scarves
Toiletries for mom
(lotions or moisturizing soap unscented/calming scents,
sprays, nail polish, pumice stone)
Granola bars, trail mix, pretzels single serving size
\$15-\$25 Gift Cards from HEB, Walmart or Kroger
Clorox Sanitizing wipes, Lysol disinfectant spray

Blessings,

Ashley Coggins
Administrative Assistant-PACN

Outreach Opportunities:

The Outreach Team hopes everyone in our TWCC family is doing well, and we miss you. Since we are temporarily out of our building, we wanted to make sure everyone has the resources they need and know there are still ways you can help make a difference in the lives of others while we are apart. Below are opportunities to help others in need and connections if you or someone you know is in need of help. Please pass this information on to anyone who might need assistance. We encourage you to participate safely, many items can be ordered and shipped directly to avoid unnecessary contact. We want all our families to be safe but continue to help others as you can.

Interfaith- As like most places, Interfaith is trying to help the families in our community. They are continuing to meet with clients and have set days and hours. Please read the flyer provided below for hours and ways you can help!

PACN - The Pregnancy Assistance Center North has postponed their annual Baby Bottle Drive to start on Father's Day running till July 19th. Since we normally run this from Mother's Day to Father's Day, we will not be distributing baby bottles at this time, however, we encourage you to save your change (in a sock, zip-lock bag, box or whatever you have) during this time period. We will collect these from you at a later date.

Another option is to send your funds directly to PACN. Please see the list included in this newsletter for locations and times, or mailing address. Please send check donations directly to PACN and note in the memo TWCC Baby Bottle Campaign on your checks this allows them to track how our church is helping. They are currently working on setting up an online donation process.

Hope's Path - The young men at Hope's Path would like to say thank you for the Easter Goodie Bags that were sent over to them. Harriett the House Mom prepared an Easter Feast with the help of Zach who made 2 Lemon Cheesecakes! Yum! Most of the Intern's are working as essential employees and staying busy. They look forward to when things clam to allow visitors to return to help with their Friday Night Meals and Game Nights. We will let you know the dates and times when they become available. Intern Sam will be celebrating his birthday on May 7th if anyone wants to send a card.

Montgomery County Women's Center - If you would like to help support the women and children who are at the shelter they are in need of paper products such as plates, napkins, silverware, cups, paper towels and toilet paper. Please contact Karen Townsend for drop off information.

Grace Pointe Dance - Stacey has been holding classes online and trying to keep her students uplifted during this difficult time. At this point in time she doesn't have any updates to share about the May recital as there are too many unknown factors at this time. Please help by showing her your support and praying that answers will come soon. You are welcome to contact her on any further assistance that you may be able to offer.

Karen Townsend

Spreading the Love Project

After I received a message that my friend's cousin had died from the Coronavirus and seeing the post from folks on the front lines I started thinking. Everything on the news had become numbers, statistics, and cold. Numbers are not people, these were human lives that had been uprooted, rearranged, and would never be the same. This is all of us. Something Michael had said to me keep ringing in my ears, "Tell your friend that her cousin will be a name in our church not a number". Looking across the room I saw the extra butterflies we had from our 40 days of Lenten Prayers. I became inspired and began to look into how we could make sure these folks had a name and how we could make this project into something beautiful.

So, after talking with our Ministry Team and our Worship Chair, I think we have a plan. Through our connections on Facebook, our church family, friends, and our local hospitals and first responders we will gather up first names and occupations (Dr, Nurse, Grocery etc) for our people on the front lines. We will also have some for those who have had the virus and survived, and some for those who have passed on. Each color will represent a different area and be turned into a work of art on the wall in our sanctuary. A duplicate butterfly will be sent to their places of employment or the families to allow them to put their butterfly in a special place. We felt that maybe the hospitals might want them on a floor or work break room to allow those individuals an opportunity to take photos and share with others. For now, I will start to gather names and cut more butterflies. Once we get a good size list started, we will decide on a design for our church wall. I will be contacting our local hospital and first responder offices to make sure this is allowed and where to send them. The butterflies we send to them will have their name and our church name on them and that we are praying for them. If you have a name of someone you wish to add to our project please contact me (PLEASE GET PERMISSION BEFORE SUBMITTING!**) at 936-828-7566 or 2littletime@sbcglobal.net and I will add them to our list. This will be an ongoing project for the next few months as this will take time to complete. Also, if you have some time and would like to help cut out butterflies please let me know. I can arrange to drop off and pick up with no contact and all items sanitized prior to you receiving them. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you! Karen Townsend**

This is an opportunity to honor our front-line workers, survivors and loved ones who have passed. Lord, help us to see each of these names as an individual, see the love and beauty you have given us and allow us to share that love with others. Amen.

Interfaith of The Woodlands

Service Summary

Interfaith is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9am-4pm to continue our mission of providing basic needs to South Montgomery County.

Our staff continues to serve with great caution and we have officially become a “Curbside” business, working by phone and pull-up services to distribute food and checks for rent/mortgage and gas cards.

The following is who and how we are currently meeting community needs:

For Senior Neighbors (adults over 62 years of age):

- Interfaith’s Senior Grocery Delivery will continue on a weekly basis with the ability to add new Seniors to the program, per their request. Seniors can call 832-615-8224 to be added.
- Seniors will continue to receive information and referral resources by calling 281-367-1230.
- Seniors needing financial assistance are able to call Family Services at 281-367-1230.

For Families and Individuals in Crisis:

- Food assistance will be distributed to individual and families in need by drive through in Interfaith’s parking lot from 10am-3pm. This service is open to all residents regardless of zip code. We do not turn anyone away asking for food.
- Crisis Assistance (including rent/mortgage, utilities assistance and gas card) will be provided to families experiencing job/wage loss by phone. This is a one-time disaster assistance, paid to the landlord, bank or utility company up to \$500. This program is zip code restricted specifically for residents of South Montgomery County and the Village of Creekside Park.

Food Donations for the Interfaith Food Pantry

- Non-perishable food, toiletries, cleaning products and paper goods may be donated at Interfaith on Wednesdays, 9-11am. All donations will be received by drive-thru in Interfaith’s parking lot.

The Hand Me Up Shop

- The Hand Me Up Shop is closed to customers and donations at this time.

Interfaith Child Development Center

- ICDC is closed through at least May 1, following CISD’s COVID-19 response lead and orders by Governor Abbott.

Workforce Solutions Offices and Financial Aid Support Center

- Our Workforce Solutions Offices are closed to the public but continue to do their great work of helping neighbors find employment by phone. Our Montgomery County office in Conroe at I-45 North and Loop 336, continues to serve the unemployed by phone.

Interfaith Community Clinic

- Our Clinic is open Tuesday and Thursday, 8am-2pm. All patients are being triaged over the phone. If there is an urgent medical, non-COVID-19 related issue, we will see a patient in the office to reduce traffic in the ERs. All additional classes, non-essential appointments and outreach is currently on hold.

Volunteer Programs:

- All volunteer activities have been suspended to reduce risk of exposure and encourage our community to stay home.

Current Needs

Funding: Funding to be used for the following:

- To purchase bulk, specific and essential foods, toiletries and paper goods for food assistance for families and Seniors.
- Provide financial assistance (i.e. rent, mortgage, utilities, gas vouchers and prescription assistance) to families and Seniors.

Monetary Donations can be made here:

<https://interfaith-of-the-woodlands.snwbll.com/covid-19-community-response>

Food Donations: We are actively accepting food donations of: cereal, canned meat, dry pasta, vegetables and fruit, snacks for kids, peanut butter, jelly, meal starters, soups, crackers, toiletries, paper goods including toilet paper and cleaning supplies. All donations will be accepted on Wednesdays from 9-11am at Interfaith Central.

Encouragement Cards for Seniors and Healthcare workers: We are accepting cards for Seniors and Healthcare workers to help bring sunshine to their day! All cards donated will be delivered to our Senior neighbors during grocery delivery and to local hospitals. Cards can be mailed or dropped off to our drive through at our office at 4242 Interfaith Way, The Woodlands, 77381.

Dear Ones,

For a long time I have been interested in what the Bible has to say about relationships. There is a treasure trove of wisdom regarding relationships in the life of King David.

Do you realize that outside of the Lord Jesus himself, more of the Bible deals with King David, his life, and his walk with God than with any other character? The book of Ruth introduces us to David's family through his great grandparents, Ruth and Boaz. In 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, and 1 Chronicles there are many stories about David, and the books of 1 Chronicles, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings deal with his descendants. The book of Psalms, the largest single book in the Bible, is attributed to David—and the picture of David's spirit, emotions, and inner life that emerges from the book is unequalled in the rest of Scripture.

But all of these wonderful resources in Scripture all deal with the wealth of David's relationships. There are so many of these relationships depicted that it would take me the better part of a year to speak of them all. For that reason, I have had to choose only eight of them (none of which is a romantic relationship—of which David also had an unfortunate wealth). These eight relationships, I believe, are representative of all the different kinds of relationships that can challenge a Christian. The title of the sermon series is as follows:

The Relationships of a Believer: The Friendships and Enmities of King David

These are the messages that you can look forward to from May 10 to the end of June:

1. May 10, 2020—Luke 1:26-38 *Hail Mary, Full of Grace*” Mother's Day message
2. May 17, 2020—1 Sa 16:1-13--David and Samuel—*Being a Spiritual Mentor*
3. May 24—1 Sa 17:41-47--David and Goliath, *Your powerful enemy*
4. May 31—1 Sa 24:1-22--David and Saul, *When your enemy is the Lord's anointed*
5. June 7—1 Sa 20:1-17--David and Jonathan, *When a friendship becomes spiritual*
6. June 14—1 Sa 3:22-32--David and Joab, *When your good friend isn't good for you*
7. June 21—2 Sa 7:1-17--David and God, *Would you make ME a house?*
8. June 28—Michael Townsend preaches
9. July 5—2 Sa 12:1-14--David and Nathan, *When your friend corrects you*
10. July 12—2 Sa 18:3-19:8--David and Absalom, *Betrayed!*
- 11.

I am very grateful to you for the encouragement and attention that you have given me when I have been led to do previous sermon series. I pray that the Lord will richly bless both you and me as we begin this new pilgrimage into His Word.

In Christ, *Pastor David*



The Official Board of The Woodlands Christian Church is pleased to announce the candidacy of Rev. Joe Hodges to be the new permanent senior minister of our church. Joe is a fourth generation Disciples of Christ minister with more than 30 years of ministry experience, most recently as Senior Pastor of Park Hill Christian Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Joe has been married to Dee Onn for 25 years and they have 6 children and 10 grandchildren. You can hear a greeting from Pastor Joe at this link: <https://youtu.be/CEYHrccAkI0>. You will also be receiving more information soon about Joe and about how you can vote to bring him to The Woodlands!

The Woodlands Christian Church
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Keep up to date with the latest church news at:
www.TWCC.ORG