

This is, once again, a long Mid Week Update, but I hope you'll read the whole thing! This is one of the chief means we have of communicating with you during this time of social distancing.

25 March 2020

Hello Church Family:

I hope this Mid Week Update finds you safe and healthy! I have missed seeing you all for the past 2 Sundays, but we are making the best of the current situation and trusting God to lead us through it.

To those that joined us this past Sunday for our first-ever on-line worship service . . . thank you! According to the statistics from Vimeo, the video was viewed 562 times, and 130 of those were complete views (from start to finish). I thought that was pretty good for the first time ever. I trust the video was a blessing to you and your family.

I really appreciate the effort of those who pulled together on somewhat short notice to make the video service possible. Thanks to our Worship Team and Pastor Jesse's leadership. Thanks also to Dave Crouse (camera and video editing), Aaron Dymond (sound), and Doug Herrmann (camera) for providing the technical expertise we needed to make it happen. These guys worked hard to create a very nice finished product. Special thanks to our "website guy" Tom Stark for going the extra mile for us, too.

Our plan is to continue on this track until further notice. You probably saw or heard that Governor Hogan announced that public schools across the state will be out until at least 24 April 2020. I'm not sure how this will affect our worship service schedule, but it may serve as a guideline for us, too. We will be constantly evaluating the situation based on daily information. The health and safety of our people are certainly among our highest priorities, and we want to do what's best for our church family as we move forward. We will be sure to communicate our plans as they develop.

So, we hope you and your family will do the same this week – we hope you will watch (and participate in!) the service at 10:00 AM this Sunday, 29 March 2020. We will once again be led in worship by our Worship Team, and I will bring the second message in this short series called "The All-Time Greats." This week we will look at "The Great Confession" in Matthew 16:13-16. You can join the service by going to our church website (www.gracebiblechapel.org) and clicking on the button that says, "Watch this week's worship service."

Being unable to meet in person doesn't mean we stop connecting with one another and growing in our knowledge of God's Word. **During this time apart, ABCs are also moving online!** Tune in to a live, virtual ABC session with Pastor Jesse on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM before the online worship service. During this session, you'll be encouraged through God's Word and have the ability to connect with others through a "Question & Answer" time. You'll

also be informed about what ABCs will look like during this time of social distancing. Click here ([Virtual ABC](#)) on Sunday at 9:00 AM, then choose to join the event through either your web browser or the Microsoft Teams app. Tune in on Sunday to be encouraged and informed and to stay connected. If you have any questions, please email Pastor Jesse at ineustadter@gracebiblechapel.org.

These are definitely “unique” days. We will all look back on them one day with our own perspective. My daughter (3 young children at home!) shared something this past week that I thought presented a thought-provoking perspective.

In 2030

College kid: “In history class, we learned that the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 was really bad. What was it like?”

Parent: “Well, everything was shut down in an attempt to kill the virus, but not everyone followed the order for social distancing, so it lasted longer than anyone expected. Many people died who shouldn’t have. Grocery stores were out of a lot of stuff because people were hoarding as much as they could. We were scared of economic failure for our country and for ourselves because we couldn’t work. Don’t you remember it? You were 8.”

College kid: “All I remember was the school closing and being homeschooled. I remember doing scavenger hunts in our yard. I remember eating meals as a family. I remember getting great sleep because I wasn’t up late for homework or getting up early for school. I remember board games as a family. I remember watching our pastor on our laptop. Honestly, it was the happiest time of my childhood.”

Don’t lose perspective.

--Wayne

Worship songs this past Sunday:

1. Glorious Day
2. King Of Kings
3. Cornerstone
4. Lord, I Need You

GBC KIDS MINISTRY PAGE - Parents, we now have a GBC KIDS MINISTRY Facebook page you can join. We will be posting some lessons there and we are working on a Bible story video challenge along with some other good information. You can simply search GBC KIDS Ministry to join the group or send an email to Allyson Zanes at azanes@gracebiblechapel.org to join. (word this any way you like). Here is a link to the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/830953860681298/>

Kids Ministry Needs - Kids Ministry is looking to restock frequently used items. Items can be left in the orange bin in the foyer marked Kids Ministry Donation items. We will be collecting until the end of March. For those of you who don't work directly with our GBC children but would like to help in some way, here's a good opportunity.

- Pipe cleaners
- Small glue sticks
- Paper towels
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Whiteboard markers or cleaner
- Markers
- Construction paper

Free Book - The Case for Easter, get your copy at the information counter. Lee Strobel, investigative legal journalist and former atheist examines the claims for Jesus' resurrection. Do we know it really happened? The evidence confirms Jesus was the Son of God who arose from the grave; it changed Strobel's life. Give a copy to a friend, it may change their life.

Hi Impact,

Hope you are all doing well during this time at home. Miss you all!! The leaders are praying for each of you!! I read a great devotional about fear this week by Rhett Walker Band - I posted it down below - great Bible verses to remember during this time! I also received a free resource for parents about discussing anxiety & fear with your youth/kids - attached for your reference. Don't forget we serve an amazing God who loves and cares for us so much!! If you're struggling with anxiety during these unprecedented times, try to surrender it to the Lord. He is the same Mighty God who parted the Red Sea to rescue the Israelites & fed them manna from heaven. He helped David defeat Goliath, kept Daniel safe in the Lion's den, and protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace. He is more powerful than anything we face! Isaiah 55:8-9 Look forward to hopefully seeing you on April 1st, but keep you posted if anything changes.

Enjoy this time at home! Heidi

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” —Joshua 1:9

Fear is a powerful feeling—the type of feeling that can turn a day on its head immediately, the type of feeling that can stop us from trying certain things. None of us can pretend we don't deal with anxiety and fear; we all do no matter our social status, how much is in our bank accounts, or what kind of cars we drive. We all deal with fear on a daily basis and it is up to us to rise to meet it or cower from it and let it overpower us. The biggest thing I try to remind myself is fear is just a feeling. Nothing more. 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us that God didn't give us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-control. We have the power to overcome fear and anxiety because of the spirit God gave us. When we can surrender fear, there is more room for peace.

Many times, we run further into the fear instead of speaking what it truly is, a feeling with no place in our lives. It is a great reminder for me when it says in Joshua 1:9 that *“the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* God is with us. Not sometimes, all the time. Run to that promise today. I challenge you to highlight, write down, and maybe memorize some verses that can keep reminding you that God is in control and there is no need to fear. You do not walk alone.

- *“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”* —John 14:27
- *“When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.”* —Psalm 94:19
- *“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”* —Psalm 56:3
- *“An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.”* —Proverbs 12:25
- *“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”* —Psalm 27:1
- *“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.”* —Psalm 55:22

Encouragement To Pray – Rodney Brewer, leader of one of our prayer ministries here at GBC sends the following to encourage us to remain steadfast in prayer.

Let us continue to pray for our nation and the world in these uncertain times. If you are like me, you have been spending more time reading God’s Word and praying. I am reminded in God’s word: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 -18 - “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”.

During my devotional time this past week, God has given me a word of prayer for you and for myself. It comes from Ephesians 6:19 that I would like to share with you. Paul writes, “Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.” (NIV) Even though Paul is in prison, he still wanted to share the gospel of salvation and do it with boldness.

So, in these times, let us pray for one another. Continue to pray for health concerns, employment, family, relationships, the necessities of life, our nation’s leaders, and world leaders. But also pray that whenever we open our mouths, the Holy Spirit will give us words of praise, rejoicing, and thanksgiving, and that HE, the Holy Spirit, may fill our mouths with His words that we might boldly share the mystery of the gospel of salvation in Christ and Christ alone.

*In His Service,
Your brother is Christ,
Rodney Brewer
GBC Prayer Ministry*

PS: Today 25th March, Our Daily Bread, devotional title 'IT'S TIME TO PRAY ... AGAIN', encourages us to pray.