

Interim Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dwight Basham



Dear Arden Church Family,

Do you know why the Coronavirus is called the Coronavirus? It is because “corona” is the Latin word for “crown” and coronaviruses have crown-like spikes on their surface. Isn’t that interesting?

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, that fact should actually encourage you, because it should

remind you that Jesus is King — not the Coronavirus. There is only one King of kings, Lord of lords, and God of gods (Deut. 10:17; Ps. 136:3; Dan. 2:47; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:16).

While the Coronavirus may dominate the headlines, be named for a crown, and rule the world’s media coverage, no one and nothing supplants the almighty reign of our sovereign King Jesus. Therefore, I want to make the following suggestions:

Trust God

Since Jesus is King, you can do something that those who don’t know Jesus can’t do: put your trust in a God who deeply cares for you and loves you, since God “did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all” (Rom 8:32). He is worthy of our trust.

Jesus himself assured us that we don’t have to “worry about tomorrow” because our heavenly Father already “knows” our every need. If God takes an interest in providing for birds and plants, how much more does God take an interest in our lives, we who are valued “much more than” they are?

Our Ultimate Objective

Moreover, such worrying will add nothing to our lifespan. So let’s not be afraid but trust in our loving heavenly Father. Being anxious only distracts us from what should be our ultimate life objective: seeking God’s rule (“kingdom”) in and over the world (Matt 6:25-43).

Know that every circumstance in life is an opportunity for God to manifest the life of Christ in us as we “die” in relation to our own fears and desires. Affliction in life forces us to rely not on ourselves but on God who brings

life out of death. And it helps us to realize that God’s grace is enough for us, and that God’s power is brought to completion precisely in the midst of life’s pressures and our own weaknesses (2 Cor 1:9; 4:7-11; 12:9-10).

Pray without Ceasing

Christians are praying people because we serve a God who hears, cares, draws near, and desires communion with his children. He instructs us to pray and listens to our prayers. We should constantly be in prayer (1 Thess 5:17) and bring all our concerns before his throne. Here are a few specific ways to pray during the Coronavirus pandemic:

1. Pray that God would stop the spread of the Coronavirus. The Bible tells of times when God stopped the spread of disease and death in its tracks (Num 16:41-50). Let’s ask him to do the same today.
2. Pray that God would fulfill his purposes for and through the Coronavirus. We cannot presume to know all the detailed plans and purposes God has for this illness, but we know nothing occurs in this universe by accident. God uses everything to bring himself glory and to transform his children to be like his “only Son” (Jo 3:16; Rom 8:28-30).
3. Pray that the light of the love of Christ and the gospel would shine brightly through his church.

Love One Another

Trials bring opportunities to demonstrate love. The larger the trial, the more ways love can manifest itself through the body of Christ. Jesus identifies the singular characteristic that signifies his followers to the world as love for one another (Jo 13:35). As Christians, above all, we should be known for our love, especially the love we demonstrate toward other believers. How can you love and serve those around you during this time?

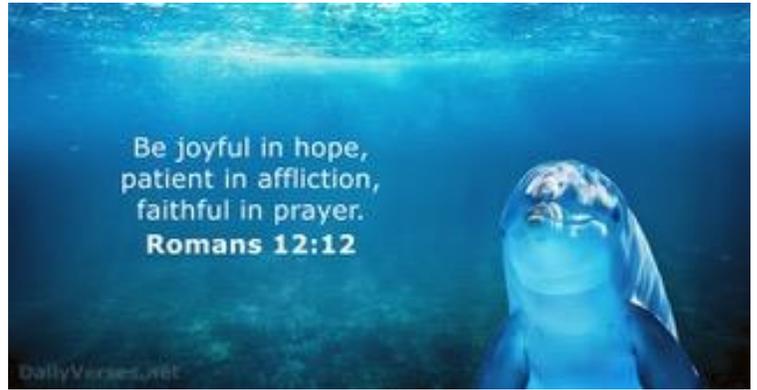
Let us pray that God would stop the spread of the Coronavirus. Let us take wise precautions to stop the impact and spread ourselves. Let us trust in our almighty and all-knowing God. Let us live for God’s kingdom by loving one another, serving those in need, and proclaiming the good news of our King Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. He is risen!

Trusting Christ with you, *Dwight*

—Adapted from C. Solomon, “Jesus Is King—Not the Coronavirus,” and “R. Gagnon, “A Biblical and Pastoral Reflection on the Coronavirus Pandemic.”

APC MISSIONS – April 2020

February 26, 2020 was a night of “walking by Faith”! What a way to kick off our 2020 FAITH annual missions conference with more than 60 people of all ages. May our prayer for the world continue to fan into flame both personally and corporately. I know of two young people who have coveted to pray for the world daily, country by country. They are using Window on the World, an Operation Mobilization resource.



<http://www.operationworld.org> Another source I use for daily prayer alerts, involves the Joshua Project. They have a great app for your phone. Every day I get an alert at 10AM. Interested? Checkout: <https://joshuaproject.net>

Have you asked yourself, “How does COVID-19 impact world missions?” Lloyd Kim, Director of MTW, (Mission to the World) gives us some helpful ways to pray:

- Pray for our missionaries who are on the front lines, ministering to the needy all over the world. Pray for strength and encouragement, protection from disease, for safety and wellness.
- Pray for us at MTW to serve and respond wisely and well to our missionaries and staff around the world and at home.
- Pray for those who are sick and dying, and for the healthcare workers who are risking their lives to minister to them.

Pray that the gospel would go forward and for God to draw many to Himself. There are many who are hurting, sick, or fearful, and we know only God can bring about true and lasting redemption.

Lastly, our Session has approved to collect a special offering for MTW on Easter Sunday. This is a compassion fund for global disasters. For more information visit MTW’s website. <https://mtw.org/projects/details/compassion-fund> or contact me at jbuckner@psmail.net.

Praying for “all” people with you,
James





Alexis Zanias

Graduated from Grove City College
BS in Biology/Secondary Education,
Montreat College with
a Masters in Environmental
Science Education
Colson Fellow
Teaches: Biology, AP Biology,
Environmental Science and
Biblical Apologetics at
Asheville Christian Academy.



Rooted & Grounded

A Biblical Worldview of Sex and Gender

A biblical perspective on sexuality and gender development, tracing the history of our changing culture. Scientific/environmental influences will be addressed, as well as practical advice in navigating interactions and conversations with our friends and neighbors.

Saturday, April 18

Arden Presbyterian Chapel

(9am-12pm)

Coming Soon

to



**October 9 & 10,
2020**

Friday Night: Concert

Saturday Morning:
Women's Gathering with Laura



APC Women's Ministries



An Antidote to Anxiety and Worry

A 30-Day Scripture-Writing Journey

Write out the selected Scripture in a notebook or journal. Then write a 2-3 sentence response to what you have written. What does this passage tell us about the Savior and of His care for His children? What hope is offered to the child of God who is fearful, worried, or anxious? What response is called for on our part?

These are anxious times. Let God's Word be the anchor for your soul. We begin with the words of Christ from the Sermon on the Mount, drawing our attention to the Father's care for His creation. We close with Romans 8, whose repeated assurance to believers is that, in Christ, we are eternally secure in the loving hands of our Father in Heaven. We see that the message to ancient Israel and to believers in the first century—and to us, today—is the same: the Savior cares for you! Cast your burdens on Him and believe His promises for you, His child.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1— <i>Matthew 6:19-21</i> | 16— <i>Colossians 3:1-4</i> |
| 2— <i>Matthew 6:22-24</i> | 17— <i>John 14:1-3</i> |
| 3— <i>Matthew 6:25-27</i> | 18— <i>John 14:25-27</i> |
| 4— <i>Matthew 6:28-30</i> | 19— <i>John 16:26-27, 33</i> |
| 5— <i>Matthew 6:31-34</i> | 20— <i>Philippians 4:4-7</i> |
| 6— <i>Proverbs 3:5-8</i> | 21— <i>Philippians 4:8-9</i> |
| 7— <i>Isaiah 41:8-10</i> | 22— <i>Romans 8:1-4</i> |
| 8— <i>Isaiah 41:13-14</i> | 23— <i>Romans 8:5-8</i> |
| 9— <i>Isaiah 43:1-5</i> | 24— <i>Romans 8:9-11</i> |
| 10— <i>Isaiah 55:8-11</i> | 25— <i>Romans 8:12-17</i> |
| 11— <i>Matthew 11:28-30</i> | 26— <i>Romans 8:18-21</i> |
| 12— <i>Lamentations 3:19-23</i> | 27— <i>Romans 8:22-25</i> |
| 13— <i>Lamentations 3:24-30</i> | 28— <i>Romans 8:26-30</i> |
| 14— <i>Lamentations 3:31-33</i> | 29— <i>Romans 8:31-34</i> |
| 15— <i>1 Peter 5:6-11</i> | 30— <i>Romans 8:35-39</i> |

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8



CALL TO PRAYER

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

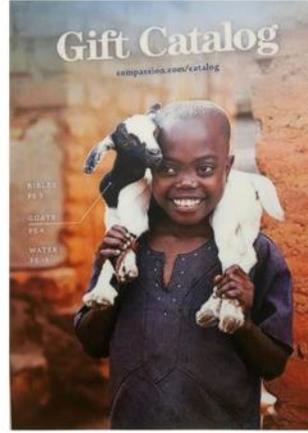
Psalm 50:15

God is so gracious that he condescends to converse with poor, sinful, dust and ashes. Prayer is one of the most pleasant ways he has appointed for children of men to walk with him. His children whisper to him in the ear, and open their minds and hearts as his intimate friends. Prayer is our chief duty and brings heaven down to man. There is no duty that has so many promises attached to it, gives more honor to God, or which receives more honor from God. It is a guard to secure the fort of the heart, a porter to keep the door of the lips and a shield to protect the hands. It perfumes every relation and profits every condition. No one can deprive you of this privilege. You can pray with Peter on the house top, with Jonah at the bottom of the ocean, walking in the field with Isaac, with our Saviour on the mountain, or in a prison with Paul. Every saint is God's temple and may pray anywhere. Every house is a house of prayer. Prayer is pouring out the soul to God in the name of Christ, crying, 'Abba, Father!' A prayer in moment can fly to the highest heavens. It is a sweet savor to God, a terror to the devil, and a shelter to a Christian. Bernard calls it the conqueror of him who is invincible, and Luther says that it is omnipotent. By prayer fire has been quenched, water divided, the mouths of lions stopped, iron gates opened, the course of nature overturned, diseases removed, health restored sin subdued, grace bestowed, kingdoms supported, enemies scattered, the blind restored, and devils cast out. Prayer is the midwife to bring mercies to the believer that were conceived in the womb of promise. God commands his people if they are in any perplexity to call upon him in the day of trouble and he will hear.

George Swinnock Voices From the Past



The results are in!



Sunday, March 1, marked the end of Missions Conference. We had a great time during Sunday School; singing and listening to the missionaries. Mr. James smashed all our "banks" except one—the pig survived. The children gathered up all the monies from the floor, and after counting, we collected \$94.23!!! At the end of Sunday School, Beth Kraft donated \$6 to make our total \$100.23. Mr. Dan said there was \$100 from a previous special offering to add to ours, so we had \$200 to send to Compassion International. Sunday, March 15, we had the children vote on what to send. Miss Kim made up three packages of items for the children to choose from so it wouldn't be too overwhelming. The teachers described each package to their class. The vote was close, but this is how the children chose to best help: \$10 for Bibles, \$30 to meet an urgent need, \$60 for water wells, and \$100 for goats. I think they did a pretty good job, don't you?

Have you been wondering about the next Children's Fellowship?



Plans are underway for our next gathering, and we are very excited! It's going to be so much fun!



"What is the Church? Most people who believe in Jesus meet together every week. They read the Bible, sing songs, pray and encourage one another. That's why we go to church. Church is a great place to worship God and make new friends." Everything a Child Should Know About God We will not be meeting together for awhile, but we are thinking about you and praying for you, and looking for ways for us to stay connected!



Y
O
U
T
H

N
E
W
S

**INSIDE THE PUTT
-PUTT VENUE,
FUN AND
GAMES!**



TABLE TALK AT THE MALLOY'S



TABLE TALK AT THE MALLOY'S



**MISSIONS PRAY-
ER MEETING
WITH JAMES
BUCKNER**



ABCCM

Our partners at ABCCM are experiencing some real challenges because of the coronavirus pandemic. They serve the county through 4 crisis centers and one is here in Arden. They anticipate a heightened need for food and volunteers. They are already seeing that here at the Arden location. There are three ways your church could help:

1. **Food donations.** School is out and that means more family requests for food. Items they especially need include canned fruit, vegetables and meat. self rising flour, cooking oil, sugar, cereal, peanut butter, jelly. They also would appreciate any gift cards to fill in the food gaps, including milk. Please drop all donations off at ABCCM South.
2. **Volunteers for packing food boxes and sorting donations at our Arden location.** Safety precautions are in place and those coming for service and not allowed in the building. They still get food, clothing and help for utilities and rent.
3. **Volunteers to deliver food to those choosing to isolate.** This is an important service and low risk to the volunteer. Food can be left at the door step.

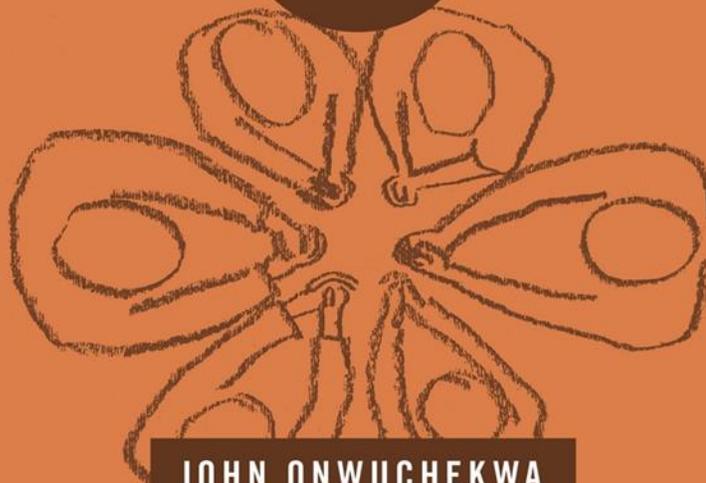
For more information please contact Tammy Walsh at ABCCM South Crisis Ministry, tammy.walsh@abccm.org (828) 398-6971 10 Buck Shoals Road, Arden NC 28704, www.abccm.org



Rev. Dwight Basham uses technology to worship virtually with all of our congregation, even to the smallest. "The Lord is our Shepherd and there is nothing we lack". Will you join us each Sunday morning at 11:00 am at www.ardenpres.org/sermons. Please continue to pray for our pastors and staff as we all navigate the uncharted waters of COVID-19.

PRAYER

HOW
PRAYING
TOGETHER
SHAPES THE
CHURCH



JOHN ONWUCHEKWA

What is the role of corporate prayer in the church?

Prayer is as necessary to the Christian as breathing is to the human body—but it often doesn't come quite as naturally. In fact, prayer in the church often gets subtly pushed to the side in favor of pragmatic practices that promise tangible results.

This book focuses on the necessity of regular prayer as a central practice in the local church—awakening us to the need and blessing of corporate prayer by examining what Jesus taught about prayer, how the first Christians approached prayer, and how to prioritize prayer in our congregations.

For more information about the book, please visit the church website at Ardendpres.com

April Book of the Month

Of the making of books there is no end Ecclesiasts 12:12b

As a church, though we are temporarily unable to gather in person, we are seeking to use the common grace of technology to do what we can to stir one another up to love and good works. As a Christian Education Committee, this includes promoting and providing solid Christian literature specifically selected for our APC family through our Book of the Month initiative.

Fortunately, during this time of global pandemic many Christian organizations are commendably making some of their digital resources available online at no charge, which in turn, makes it possible for churches to offer these resources to their congregations.

As a result, thanks to the folks at Crossway, we are gratefully able to offer this month's recommended book as a free download using the links below. Additionally, we are still providing three hard copies which will be available for check-out at the Welcome Center in the hopeful event we are able to resume gathering together later this month.

[To download the book in PDF format and read it on your computer, click here](#)

[To download the book in MOBI format to read on you Kindle or Kindle app, click here](#)

[To download the book in EPUB format to read on all other eBook platforms, click here](#)

Ironically, the subject of this month's book examines the need and blessing of physically gathering together for corporate prayer, one of the very things we are hindered from doing during the COVID-19 crisis. Our hope is that God will use this time of being separated from one another to awaken in each of us a renewed longing to gather together in corporate prayer, and that he will use this month's book to instruct our minds and enflame our hearts to this end.

Praying with you,
Your Christian Education Committee

Please call the office at 828-684-7221 ext. 311 if assistance is needed to download and access this month's book.

MARCH 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR

Praying for the kingdom of God all over the world

GO, PRAY, SEND

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Our Church

The World

1. The President/Government Officials
2. Pastor Dwight Basham
3. Elder Jim Wilde
4. Deacon Garrett Pittman
5. Palm Sunday
6. Deacon Mike Neese
7. Elder John Dean
8. New Commandment Ministry
9. Salvation for the Lost
10. Elder David Livernois
11. Deacon Zach Holcomb
12. Easter
13. Arden Presbyterian Church
14. Elder Tony VunCannon
15. Deacon Kenneth Dupee
16. Session & Deacons Meet
17. Elder John Paschall
18. Deacon Bill Miller
19. Elder John Dean
20. Elder Bill Resh
21. God's Pastor for APC
22. Pastor Gabe Malloy
23. Elder Steve Jennings
24. Deacon Larry Kidd
25. Missions Conference
26. Super Saints
27. Elder Kees Auer
28. Our Country
29. Elder Sammy Johnson
30. Elder Monty Baker

Greg & Leanne Doty Scotland / MTW
Ed & Vicki Germann Int. Students, Inc./USA
Rob & Mary Lee Herron ASU/MTW
Scott & Ruth Hill Cherokee / MTW
Joel & Cindy Hlton Prague, CR/ Serge
David & Marcia Jones West Europe / MTW
Scott & Brooke McMinn TN / Young Life
Mountain Area Pregnancy Services WNC
New City Christian School Asheville
Vladimir Nikitenko Belarus Christian Min
Keith & Ruth Powlison Peru / MTW
Bill & Suzanne Scott USA / MTW
John & Elizabeth Sexton Global / MTW
Andrew & Trish Shank WCU / RUF
Third Millennium Global
Jeff & Caroline Thompson UGA / RUF
Dr. Apum Vashum Trinity Sch of Theology / India
David & Bridget Walls New Dir. Mustard Seed/WNC
Gary & Lois Watanabe Japan / MTW
West Africa Reformed Mission West Africa
Donnie & Kara Williams West Africa / MTW
Tom & Lucy Wright Africa/Haiti/USA - MTW
Pastor Yavuz Middle East / Asia Minor Part
Kate Anderson WCU / RUF
Phillip Baron Global / Cru
Jack & Diana Brinkley WNC / Sports Outreach
Brooks & Riva Cain Japan / MTW
Bill & Susan Carr North America / MTW
Garry & Anita Chambers Caribbean/NA - MTW
Charles & Bonita Davidson Mexico / MTW

GO, PRAY, SEND

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46:10-11