



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 57 No. 04

May 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What now?

I am writing to you from the midst of our quarantine and social-distancing. We have not seen each other for several weeks and will not for several more; by the time you are reading this, we either will be coming out of this period or will be looking at a few more weeks of it. Regardless, the question many of you may be asking – and have been asking me – is: what now?



Where will things stand when we are past the crisis? Is everything going to be different or are we going to go back to normal?

I do not imagine we will hear a cosmic finger snap and everything will return to the way it was before we went into quarantine. It will take some time to re-establish patterns and begin anew. That said, there are some things that we can know:

1. God is still sovereign. God has always been sovereign, is sovereign, and always will be sovereign. We know this intellectually and conceptually, but we are now reminded viscerally and materially. Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8, anyone?) The chief end of humankind is still to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. If this crisis has revealed anything, it is the transience, the impermanence, and the limits of human power. It has highlighted that ultimate hope in government, science, money, or any other human institution is not warranted; thus, where do we find our hope? What good news it is to know that God is real, God is good, God's will is working out, and that we are called to *enjoy* God forever.

2. We continue to live and bear witness in a broken world. God's kingdom has been proclaimed and ushered in through the love, person, and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In God's time and God's way, that kingdom will be fully realized. We are not there yet.

The world stopped when this virus took hold. If we look with eyes to see, we realize that we are witnessing how "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:18-21) Does that not describe what we have been experiencing: creation waiting to be set free from bondage to decay? Then, consider how Paul describes the bigger picture of that suffering:

(continues on next page)

From the Pastor's Desk

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8:22-25)

3. We will gather to worship, fellowship, study, and testify to God's great deeds of power. The how's of all that will still need to be worked out – for example, we may be bumping elbows as a greeting from now on. Those things are details; the larger blessing of fellowship among those called together by Christ will be renewed. We have good news to live out and share. We have hope in Christ. We have joy in Christ. We have life in Christ. That's the message and testimony we have to share with each other, with our community, and to the world at large.

So, to recap: what now?

We remember whose we are. We remember God's great love for us in Jesus Christ. We remember the blessing we have been given in each other. We renew our commitment to one another in Christ and look forward to sharing in whatever next steps God has for us. In short, we do what we always have done: glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Even now.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis

Pastor's Perspective



Duct Tape and Rubber Bands

Worship videos was not something I had aspired to do. In fact, if you would have asked me in February where producing videos ranked on the priority scale, I probably would have responded, "worship what?" It was not a blip on the radar.

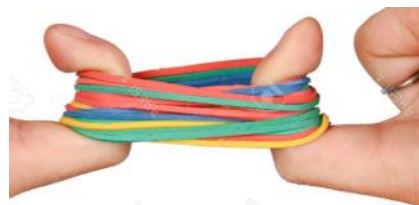
And then it was. And then it was *all* we could do.

I have been calling this season the "Duct Tape and Rubber Bands Tour." We are using equipment that is *somewhat* designed to do video. We are using software on machines that are *kind of* able to process the massive files involved. In the first weeks, there were multiple (as in five or six) complete computer crashes. Video files disappeared from hard drives. Microphones failed and broke. And yet, somehow – some way – God gave us the technology and tools to be able to put together worship each Sunday thus far.

Special thanks go to Karen Dahlen for making sure we have music and musicians each week; to our liturgists for leading the "congregation" in our service, to our Elders of the Day who have looked out over the broad sanctuary, to the Mission Committee for staying in touch with all the ministries we support; to all those who have helped with the technical support; and, finally, to all who have offered words of encouragement and support. I am grateful we have been able to do this. I am looking forward to the day when we no longer *have* to do it.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



Family Ministries

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RONALD BOWEN AND SAM CHENIN



What is the greatest thing about being you?
How nice I am.

Where is your favorite place in the world?
Hawaii because I just like tropical and the beach.

What does prayer mean to you?
Talking to God, praying to Him for forgiveness.

There is a lot of behind the scenes work happening in Family Ministries right now. Lessons being prepared, studies being fine-tuned. When we are back together again, we will get back to having fun and worshipping God with joyful hearts!



What are you looking forward to the most? Kayaking? Hitting golf balls at the driving range? The poker run bicycle ride? Some things may need to be rescheduled, but they will still happen? What else would you like to do? Let me know at: sherri@fpc.carsoncity.org!

What is your happiest memory?
Getting Tribble because I like Tribble. (Tribble is our cat that we got last July. He was a surprise to Sam.)

What advice would you give your mom?
Keep doing what you're doing. (Smart kid! LOL)

What's one thing you'd like to ask God?
How could I cure the novel Corona virus?
(He wants to be a genetic engineer.)



Isaiah Speaks to us Today -

First, I want to say that I miss seeing you all face to face. But, I realize we may be in for a few more weeks of this “virtual reality” as churches might actually stay virtual for sometime to come. No matter, we can adapt as we always have. We can continue to bring glory to the Lord through our services online.

Some of you may have seen the meme on Facebook or in your texts back and forth, that goes something like this:

“The devil said to Jesus, ‘I have won! I brought this virus into this country and by it I have closed all of the churches here. I have won!’

Then Jesus replied, ‘Yes you have closed all of the churches, but I have used your virus to bring church to all of the homes in this country.’ ”

When we think about the trial we are experiencing right now in quarantine, it is worth pondering whether we think God is bigger than the COVID-19 virus. Most of us would give an unqualified “Yes!” to that question. But then think about those who have depended on the economy, the normalcy of everyday life, the money in their bank accounts, the blessing of good health (and the list goes on) to supply their every need and want.

Isaiah calls this idolatry! Isaiah, throughout the book, constantly brings the vision of God, Himself as the One who does all things for His glory! We are the recipients of the blessings He does for His Name’s sake. Isaiah, through the prophecy, constantly defines everything in the context of God’s abundant blessing for his own sake (Isaiah 48:11). God is the center of all reality, virtual or otherwise!

How interesting then that God would take this negative (the worldwide pandemic) and use it for the good of all people. He has used the virtual world to bring church into every home (let those who have ears to hear), and, by extension, bring it to those who NEED to hear the Good News, but who haven’t necessarily been listening because they’ve been so busy working and accumulating those things that they think they must have in order to be successful in life. Since life has come to a complete halt in most places, “perhaps they’ll listen now” to quote Don MacLean in his song “Vincent.”

Chapter 43 of Isaiah speaks about the Davidic Savior (whom we know as Jesus), and declares that ALL nations will hear about Jesus.

Isaiah 43:19 - speaks of the “new thing” that God is doing. Surely to the initial listeners of the prophecy, they heard in this the Savior that God would send. But the prophecy, like all prophecies applies to our day as well. God is sending His message through the digital download to reach near and far, those who might be questioning and therefore open to His Word in a new way. And because we are “locked down” to a great degree, my hope is that ALL nations are listening to His message because we NEED to. To some degree, the pandemic might be seen as “encouraging evidence of God’s sovereign salvation intercepting a sinful world.” (Comments from ESV)

So while we chafe and complain as Americans that we are being imprisoned, maybe we need to see a larger picture, one that includes the work of God over and above what we experience in our microcosms. Isaiah has many key themes but the overarching theme is that God, Himself is the center of everything. God is actively using creation and history, and even the wrongs of man, for His own glory!

The question forced upon Judah and us in our current circumstances, in this prophecy of Isaiah is, “in what will God’s people trust for salvation — in human strategies of self-rescue, or in prophetic promises of divine grace?” (Comments from ESV)

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (43:19) God will reclaim His people for His glory and He will revive His people for His glory!

He is able,

Karen





Well, it's sure been QUITE a time of not being able to meet together but doing everything online instead! I sure have missed listening in as all of you would gather on Sundays and during the week (it's been slim-pickins on leftover food tidbits for me to nibble on too!) However, I thought I'd give you a little peek behind the scenes of what *has* been going on!



I've watched as many hours have been put in to revise plans, coordinate equipment and people, and put together the videos to post on YouTube so it could feel like we were participating in one of our regular Sunday morning worship services! There's been lighting, cameras, even a "congregation" to talk to (they were very good about observing social distancing!). Pastor Bob, the elders of the day, the liturgists, and other speakers have all done a great job!



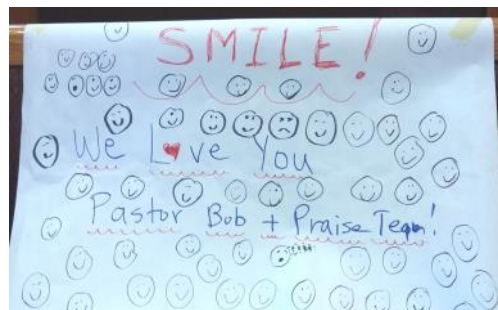
Behind the scenes Ken Pearson, Troy Stansbury, and Paul Weaver have been doing sound and lights; Kaye Keeton was drafted to help with many tasks, plus several folks came by and were cheerleaders (including me!).



Music Director, Karen Dahlen, had to rework much of the music already scheduled – different music, performers, and rehearsals had to be put together - quite an undertaking. A big thank you goes to the Praise Team: Wil Euler, Hallie Kirk, Dennis Richardson, Nina Sattely, Jenny Scanland, Norris Schultz, Dan Skinkis; guest musicians: Ben Crawley, Aleyna and Inori Gilson, Sophia & Jamie Gilson, Jeanne Hansen, Jamie & Faye Wheeler ; the quintet of Jacque Dyer, Alan Jones, Cecelia & Bob Stansbury, and Margo Weaver. The Tenebrae service included Abby Davis, Bob Stansbury and Jeanne Hansen as readers, Susie Zallar has been the April liturgist, Bob Stansbury is May's.

By the time you read this, there may have been even more people giving their talents to bringing God's word – so many gifted people!

The end result has been such a blessing. You participated by going to YouTube or the church website to find the links to the worship services. People who don't normally attend FPC likely have now found us on the web too. While we look forward to getting back to a more normal routine, we know God our Father has been able to use this time to bless many. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE AND PRAISE GOD!**





NAMES & DATES REMOVED
FOR PRIVACY

ON OUR PRAYER & PRAISES LIST Requested as of 4-20-2020
Those doing the heroic work on the various "front lines" of this
pandemic † Those affected by COVID-19

ALL OTHER NAMES REMOVED FOR PRIVACY



NAMES & DATES REMOVED
FOR PRIVACY





As the church will remain closed through most of May, no calendar is included this time. However, assuming all continues on a good track, here is some information for your calendars!



9th—Zephyr Point Work Day. THIS WILL NOT BE HAPPENING. Grace Speicher spoke with Zephyr Point and they are not able to have volunteers, etc. on site until mid-June.
 25th—Memorial Day holiday. Thank you to all of you who have served or currently serve!!
 31st—Pentecost Sunday—in the hope that things are 'back to normal' by the end of May, plan to join us in person for worship at 10:00 am on Pentecost to celebrate The Church's birthday! Don't forget to wear red!!



Hopefully we can be back to a regular schedule of adult Bible Study at 8:45 am and worship at 10:00 on Sundays and all the regular activities that are done during the week! Stay tuned!
 26th-28th is still scheduled to be the Epic Bike Ride around Carson City—this always has some impact on parking to come to church.

TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY IS MAY 15
 Send your info / articles / submissions to margo@fpccarsoncity.org

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING—GENERAL BUDGET			
	2020 Projected Budget Need	Given	Difference
April 20, 2020			
Yr. To Date	\$164,933	\$164,238	- \$656
Current	Income	Expense	Difference
	\$164,238	\$131,263	+ \$ 32,975

YOU ARE ALL A BLESSING!
 DONATIONS ARE COMING IN AND
 STAFF / SESSION ARE KEEPING EXPENSES DOWN.
 THANK YOU, ALL!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of North Division & West King Streets
 Administration Office
 306 West Musser Street
 Carson City, NV 89703

Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Carson City, NV 89701
 Permit Number 173

Return Service Requested

Place Label Here

THE TRUMPET

Published by the
First Presbyterian Church
 115 N. Division St.

OFFICE

306 West Musser Street
 Carson City, NV 89703
 775-882-1032
 fax 775-882-8095

The Rev. Bob Davis
 pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

Worship Services

10:00 AM

Webpage

www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to margo@fpccarsoncity.org and may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by Linda Poole.

This Month's Sermons

MAY 3	What Did Moses Command?	Mark 10: 1-16
MAY 10	How Hard It Is	Mark 10: 17-31
MAY 17	Who Is This Son Of Man?	Mark 10: 32-45
MAY 24	What Do You Want Me To Do For You?	Mark 10: 46-52
May 31	Tongues of Fire	Acts 2

See us and
 "Like" us on

