



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS' OFFICE

### How the Work of the Church Continues

BY PASTOR JOEL SMIT

All of life as we once knew it has been interrupted in 2020. Plans and routines have been completely thrown out the door and we are still trying to figure out the new normal and how to adapt to it. All of this newness has caused us to feel uncertain and uneasy, and tension is at an all time high. During such times it is critical that we go back to the things in our life that are foundational. Aspects of life that do not change and need not change. These pillars become as anchors for our life and soul so that we are not so easily shaken by the uncertainties of our present circumstances.

One such pillar of our soul is church. Church is a regular part of our life and routine – and ought to be. God created us to be relational beings and to live in community with one another. With our salvation it is no surprise that God puts us into community, a family that loves and cares for us. Your church is, therefore, a needed and necessary part of your life and cannot be neglected. Sure, the present circumstances have interrupted church life as we once knew it, but the core pieces are still intact. Now more than ever we need to participate and treasure these blessings of the Lord and praise Him that His work continues. Let me give you a few examples of how the work of the church continues through this pandemic.

#### Corporate Worship

Back in the month of March, it became apparent that we needed to close in-person corporate worship for a time as this unknown virus infection began here

in the US. Yet we never missed a Sunday of singing and preaching. We simply switched over to live stream broadcast of our worship service and continued to do what we did the Sunday before. While this was the appropriate response at the time, it was not the same as being able to gather in-person for the corporate gathering of God's people. So as it became fairly clear that this disease was not as deadly as first anticipated, we opened up the in-person worship once again with the needed precautions. Even though the sanctuary has not been as full as it once was, the joy and encouragement of being able to worship with other brothers and sisters in Christ has been immeasurable. The restoration of worship has been like a refreshing drink on a hot day.

Let me encourage you, unless you are in the highly susceptible group, come back to the in-person worship. You will be blessed and will be a blessing to others with your participation. Is there a risk? Yes, there is, but no more risk than going to the grocery store, which we still do because we need food. Corporate worship is the nourishment for our soul and is as needed and essential as the food we put in our bellies. Let's praise God that the corporate worship of God goes on despite the pandemic.

#### Officer Nominations & Elections

Some might think that because of everything going on maybe suspending officer nomination and elections for a year might be needed. The elders of the

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The elders of the church think otherwise. The work of the church continues on and we need bold and godly leadership more than ever. This is the time of year that we nominate those in the church that are participating and doing the work of the church already. Those that God has gifted with the spiritual calling to be elders and deacons of His church. Join me in praying that the Lord would give us the leaders that we need. This nomination and election period demonstrate that the work of the church continues on.

### **Men's, Women's, Youth, & Children's Ministries**

One of the blessings of the quarantine has been the additional time that we have been given with our families. However outside of our families, our connections with others have suffered. This is true especially within the church as our face to face contact has been lessened. However, as we begin to emerge from this time, restoring our Christ-centered fellowship with others is a priority. That is why I am very excited to have the men's and women's studies and fellowship restored. The men already had a kick-off event in July and the small groups of men are continuing to meet. The women have plans to begin a new study of the book of Galatians in September. These virtual

and in-person gatherings of men and women around the study of the Word and fellowship is so needed. If you are not a part, please put it into your schedule – you will be encouraged. Furthermore, what is needed for us is also needed for our children and youth. Plans are formulating for what it looks like for our children and youth to have times to see each other and engage in bible curriculum and studies. Please stay tuned for more details.

God has not been slowed down or thwarted by the pandemic or any circumstances of life. His church, though impacted by all that has taken place, ought not stop doing His work in the world. How we do it might look a little different, but what we do remains largely unchanged. These aspects of the church “being the church” become anchors for our soul that reorient us away from the ever-changing, frantic world to the One who is never changing, nor need not change. His sovereign care and control of the grand details of life to the very minute is a comfort to us. Likewise, the continuing work of His church demonstrates that He is at work in our midst. Be a part of that work as we conclude the summer and move into the fall months and reestablish the God-ordained rhythm of life that He would desire us to have.

## **Wednesday Night Online Devotion & Prayer**

Smyrna Pres is continuing taking its Wednesday night devotion & prayer time online. Pastor Joel is hosting weekly Zoom calls in an effort to connect the church body while we are apart.

Details and reminders for the meeting are sent by email. If you know anyone who would like to be added to that list, they should let us know at [info@smyrnapres.org](mailto:info@smyrnapres.org).



# CHURCH NEWS

## Lord's Day Service

Smyrna Pres continues to offer in person and virtual worship on the Lord's day at 11:00a.m. Please remember there are measures in place to limit person-to-person contact. You can find more in-depth information on our web-site. If you plan to worship by watching the live-stream or through the Listen Line (712-432-3410, church code 04410). You can also find the service on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Sermon Audio. Links to all of them can be found on our website's Live-stream Page <https://www.smyrnapres.org/live-stream> or by clicking on a link.

## Monthly Bible Verse

GOD'S MERCIES  
*are new  
every morning*

## Bible Verse Trivia & Word Search

Y I S B E C A U S E W E N Q T  
H R S T H E R E F O R E U H L  
T S E I C R E M T E O I O N O  
W E N V Y T M X F T E F O T R  
B T L M E A M O N T W I O S D  
O A U T O E R U L X T C N N X  
T H F S H R Y Y S R G O O D H  
H T H T A G M E O H I N R H T  
M Y T I A G L N P H S O S O O E  
H T I A S N V O S T I U F P K  
W F A I L S I A I E L M L E E  
W A F R O M P N T O W E Y D E  
I H I U E M A N R I A D O I S

## Molly Jackson's Bridal Shower Saturday, August 8th

Please join the celebration from 10am-12pm in the Smyrna Pres Fellowship Hall. Molly and Aaron Liwanag are registered at Bed Bath Beyond & Wayfair.



## Grocery Help

If you or a member of our church community that you know is more at risk of sickness and needs someone to shop and deliver groceries for them, we'd like to help.

We can connect you with a volunteer shopper, so you can let them know your grocery needs. All you have to do is call Caroline Wesley at 205-601-8818 or send her an [email](mailto:caroline.n.wesley@gmail.com) ([caroline.n.wesley@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.n.wesley@gmail.com)). Please have cash or check to reimburse your volunteer for your groceries once they deliver them.

# August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	3	4	5 7 p.m. On-Line Devotion & Prayer	6	7	8
9 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	10	11	12 7 p.m. On-Line Devotion & Prayer	13	14	15
16 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship	17 Men's Night Gathering 7:30 p.m.	18	19 7 p.m. On-Line Devotion & Prayer	20	21	22
23 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship	24	25	26 7 p.m. On-Line Devotion & Prayer	27	28	29
30 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship	31				<b>NOTE: All events and activities outside of 11:00 a.m. worship will be canceled/postponed until further notice.</b>	

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Minnie Powell  
2 Stiles Hudson  
4 Rick Cash  
4 Jennie Powell  
5 Lisa Ogburn  
6 Jim Ogburn  
6 Maria Pettus  
7 Julie Crompton  
8 Virginia Boyd  
9 Haley Holland  
9 Margaret 'Sis' Howell  
12 Amy Stiles  
14 Alice Smit  
16 Dan Hall  
22 Earle Harrison  
26 Robert Boyd  
30 David Osborne

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**