

Growing the Family of God

May 2020 - Sheltering in Place Edition

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



When I was a senior in high school, we were required to read Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. For extra credit we could memorize the speech "Tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow".

The last line of the speech describes life as being full of "sound and fury, signifying nothing". It occurs to me in the present situation that we are being given the opportunity to evaluate the "sound and fury" with which we surround ourselves. I would suggest that this time of waiting is an occasion for us to evaluate our life's activities and determine where our priorities lie.

Isaiah 40:31 declares, "those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (italics added)

Habbakuk 2:3 indicates that to receive God's vision requires that one wait for the vision to be revealed. "For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay". (italics added)

There is a time to wait for the presence and power of God to make itself known. It is not in the "sound and fury" that we find the strength to run the race set before us. Rather, we need the times of waiting to be renewed physically and spiritually. It is possible that the sound and fury masks the lessons that God would have us learn.

If we want to discern God's vision for our lives and for the community of faith, we are required to learn the lesson of waiting. God has vision and purpose which are revealed in God's time, not ours.

The ancient Greeks had two words for time: Chronos and Kairos. Chronos refers to chronological or sequential time, while Kairos signifies a proper or opportune time for action. While Chronos is quantitative, Kairos has a qualitative, permanent nature. I assure you that God operates in Kairos time not Chronos. We can rant and rave against being told to practice social distancing, and shelter-in-place or we can accept the circumstance in which we find ourselves and, in the waiting, anticipate what God is about in God's time. We are empowered by God's strength. We are inspired by God's vision. We wait in God's time.

IMPORTANT SCHEDULE UPDATES

In an effort to help limit the spread of COVID-19 among our church family and community, we have made the difficult decision to suspend all church activities until further notice. This is not a decision we made lightly and we will be monitoring the situation very closely to determine when it is safe to gather together once again.

Our food pantry continues to be open during normally scheduled hours (Wednesdays 1 - 3:00 pm and Fridays 9 - 11:00 am). The protocol has changed a bit for the safety of our volunteers and patrons. We ask for your patience and understanding.

EMPTY BUILDING - FULL HEARTS

The building may be empty but our hearts and souls are filled! Our pastors have been working hard behind the scenes to connect with our church family and community during this time of social distancing. "Like" us on FB to get the latest in church news and scheduling updates!

Sunday Worship

We welcome our church family and visitors alike to share in an on-line version of worship each week at 10:00 am via our [YouTube Channel](#).

Family Resources

Parenting can be difficult enough but parenting during a pandemic brings its own special set of challenges. As we try to reassure our children during very uncertain times, we've gathered some free on-line resources to help.

[God Takes Our Worries - COVID-19 Lessons for Kids](#)

[The Action Bible Devotions for Family Time Together During COVID-19](#)

[Working From Home? Some Tips to Help Balance Work and Family](#)

[Helping Your Kids Adjust to the "New Normal"](#)

[Other Free Downloads and Resources for Adults and Children](#)

Wednesdays With Wolfe

Did you know that Pastor Jim has a YouTube channel? It's proven to be a great tool for sharing messages of hope, prayer, and a little bit of fun during this difficult time. One of the regular features of his channel is the "Wednesdays with Wolfe" series. Each Wednesday he uploads a new video so subscribe to [Jim's YouTube Channel](#) and tune in for Wednesdays With Wolfe!

Have You Hurd?

Pastor Jay also has a YouTube channel and he's started a new video series called "Have You Hurd?" So hop on over and subscribe to [Jay's YouTube Channel](#) as well and join him for some prayer, learning, and maybe even some music!

HOW'S YOUR PRAYER LIFE!?

As we face another month of sheltering in place, I would suggest that we need a strong commitment to be in prayer for our families, church, and nation. I want to offer you the opportunity to join me for a weekly time of prayer. If you would like to participate in this prayer time, please send your e-mail address to: [**rhonda@fbcpontiac.org**](mailto:rhonda@fbcpontiac.org). When we have compiled a list of those who would like to join me, you will receive an invitation to join a meeting via Zoom. The value in this plan is that it is interactive. You will be able to share your prayer concerns and share in the prayers.

The first opportunity for this activity will be Thursday, April 30th at 11:00 am. I hope you will take advantage of this occasion to join with members of the family for a time of conversation and prayer. Remember, send your e-mail address to: [**rhonda@fbcpontiac.org**](mailto:rhonda@fbcpontiac.org) to receive an invitation to discuss "How's Your Prayer Life?" Thursday morning, April 30th at 11:00 am.

***Please note that Zoom is a free video meeting software. You will have to download it onto your device (computer, tablet, or smartphone) in order to join this event. ***

MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Josh Chehak
5 Alex Beck
5 Reid Cole
5 John and Judy Pohanka
5 Myles Gilliam
6 Joyce Wilson
10 Gordie and Mary Frobish
10 Keith Battleson
11 Mark Highland
12 Michael Schiff
13 Joe Lind
16 Linda Gruen
17 Dan and Patty Gray
18 Doris Williams
19 Payton Borders
21 Kenny Crawford
21 Ruth Ann Peck
22 Linda Green
22 Judy Shepherd
23 Todd and Jan Miller
23 Lori Pemberton
24 Dan Gray
25 Karla Gidwani
25 Amy Levin
26 Steve Walters
26 Gavin Wykes
27 Jan Miller
29 Vickie Nicol
30 Karen Christianson

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

It has been a long and difficult journey and it isn't over yet. However, I want to thank everyone for your cards, texts, visits, phone calls, errand-running, but most of all for your prayers. I could not have come this far without the Holy Spirit and I am so grateful for your prayers.

A special thank you to Pastor Jim, always there when I needed you.

In Christ's Love,

Virginia Asper.