



GRACE NEWS & NOTES



April 1, 2020

Online Worship!

By Pastor Casey Taylor

Millions of churches are embarking on a new ministry frontier thanks to “the corona crisis.” Social distancing means no in-person worship gatherings so churches are turning to online options, especially live stream worship. Live stream worship definitely fills a need but it’s...weird for many people. How can we worship well online? Here are my tips.

What would you add?

1. **WORSHIP, DON'T WATCH.** We gather to worship, not to watch. Words matter. The people on screen? They're only there to help you worship, not get your eyeballs on them. A teacher once compared pastors and other worship leaders to docents, the people who guide you through a museum to make you go “OOH!” at great works of art. You're here to go “Wow, God!” While we're on the subject, “worship” is the whole service, not just the music: sermon, prayers, offering — all of it.



2. **FOCUS!** Be fully engaged in the worship service. Drink your coffee but don't try to multitask. Minimize distractions and temptations before you gather for worship. Prep like you're actually “going to church.” Take notes! Show up on time. Say a prayer.



3. **SING!** Yes, sing out loud! I know how hard this will be for some.



Let's be honest: some of us don't sing much when we're in a normal service (I'm looking at you, men). Guess what: God doesn't care! God calls us to make a joyful noise. What better time to get over your inhibitions on singing? Also, if you're a parent, your kids are watching. If you think it's weird to sing out loud, they will, too. So get over yourself and let loose.

4. **BE SOCIAL...IF YOU CAN.** If you live with a spouse, children, or roommate(s), gather together. This is especially true for parents and kids. Don't let everyone wander to their own corner of the house with a separate screen. If you can, watch the stream on your TV (Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire Stick — all let you watch YouTube and other sites on your TV). If you know someone who lives alone and you can safely share a living room for an hour, invite them over!

5. **GET THE KIDS INVOLVED.** One of the positive side effects of the “corona crisis” may be unlearning the lie that only “The Religious Professionals” can help our kids be disciples of Jesus Christ. WRONG! Studies show again and again that the most important people to shape the religious beliefs and practices of kids are...parents (especially dads). Encourage them, sing with them, help them follow along, take notes together, talk about the message and scripture reading after the service. BONUS: Nobody cares how squirmy your kid is because nobody can see them!



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A Message from Dan Simonton

Hello everyone!

We greet you with a holy wave today in order to promote social distancing and we pray that all of you have been healthy and safe out there during this unprecedented event of having to shelter in place. We know everyone's situation is different and we know this is going to be a difficult time for many. We are plowing new ground as we learn to adapt to this new reality.

This last week Pastor Bill and Daniel have been working to provide online content throughout the week as well as a Sunday morning worship experience. We have had a few bumps and glitches to work through but have gotten better at getting the bugs out. We will have a Sunday morning worship experience this Sunday morning at 10:15am.

We are thinking of other ways to connect as well and we have a solution. We would like to call this Grace's Small Groups - Social Distancing Edition. After spending some time looking at different programs we have found one that is very simple to use without having to download any programs or set up any accounts. We are encouraging those who would like to start a virtual small group to do so through this program called Lifesize.

Lifesize is a video conferencing program that is completely online and completely free. It allows for groups of 8-10 people to converse with one another. It is simple to use and requires no accounts to be set up. These groups can be a time to share a Scripture, devotional thought, sing a hymn, pray for one another, or just check in as a church family. If you need ideas you can talk with Pastor Bill or Daniel for conversation topics if you would like. If you are interested in starting a small group or being in a small group please email the church or contact Daniel Simonton to get set up to lead a small group.

Daniel Simonton can be reached at djsimonton@gmail.com or 618-201-7152.



BIRTHDAYS

April 2	Elaine Garlich
3	Tim Chambers
8	Danielle (Chambers) Therrian
9	Vivienne Harre
12	Mark Styninger
14	John Szopinski
17	John Luessenheide
19	Joshua Roetemeyer
20	Pat Box
24	Shirley Buhrmester

ANNIVERSARIES

April 24	John & Jennifer Szopinski
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Congratulations everyone on your milestones! If your name was not included in our list, please inform the office so that we can update our records.



Grace UMC Endowment Board Scholarships— \$1,000 each

Required: Application, Essay, Proof of Acceptance or Transcript showing courses and grades from previous semesters, Proof of Enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student for the fall semester, Member of Nashville Grace UMC.

Applications are available on the counter in the church office. Applications may be filled out now. **Deadline: June 15, 2020**

Note: *The Endowment Board meets quarterly—January 8, April 9, July 8 and October 7. **The next meeting is April 9, 2020.** The Board will begin reviewing applications that have already been received.*

From Me to You

We are near Holy Week and the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This year I have a deep sense of urgency. For 30 years I have preached about the hope we have because of the resurrection of Jesus. I know that it is still true and that we have no hope other than that made possible by Jesus' victory over death.

Still some days I feel like a lifeguard that sees people in the water drowning and I have thrown a life preserver toward them but it falls just a few feet short. As I watch the people and encourage them to reach out and grab the life preserver, no one makes the effort to reach for it and instead just continues to flounder in the water until they disappear out of sight.

I want to say it is only a dream or a vision of what may be coming but I really think it is reality. I know that more and more people are growing farther and farther away from Church for various reasons or excuses. Most are restless and dissatisfied because of spiritual issues inside them, but there is a tendency to blame outward things or people.

Just this past Sunday, Rhonda and I went to St. Louis to the hospital and we stopped for lunch. I overheard the ladies sitting behind me complaining about their church building. One said to the other, "That church, the aisles are too long and too narrow." I just shook my head while thinking that they missed the whole point of being in church.

Here's what I have to say about that. I have told many people over the years that the church is not perfect, but we are the body of Christ and this is the best that God has to work with in this place at this time. The only thing that I, as a pastor, and we, as the Church, have to offer people is Jesus Christ, crucified, died and buried. The grave could not hold Him as He rose from the dead and He is alive, now and forevermore. And we should not forget that. Everything else does not carry any weight when it comes to believing or living.

Here's what we need to do: love Jesus as Lord of our life. Quit treating Jesus like a good luck charm you hang on your rearview mirror in your car or truck. Jesus dying for you is reason enough for you to live for Him.

Jesus is the only life-line I can offer. I have nothing else. God has nothing else to give you that will save your soul and keep you in His grace.

So think about that in the midst of this Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Don't stop there, think about that daily. Whether you realize it or not we are in a spiritual war.

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NRSV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Keep Being Faithful!

Pastor Bill



Small Group Studies That May Continue Via Online Video Conferencing

Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name by Max Lucado. Thursdays, 11:30 am, (half hour of physical exercise led by Helen Dude), 12:00-1:00 pm (one hour of spiritual exercise led by Linda Summers). Began February 27.

Grace by Max Lucado. Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, began March 11. Led by Cliff Hake.

To Hell With the Hustle by Jefferson Bethke. Thursdays at 6:30 pm, has not started yet. Led by Daniel Simonton.

Dark Agenda by David Horowitz. Tuesdays or Thursdays, time and date to be announced. Has not started yet. Led by Ron Brown.

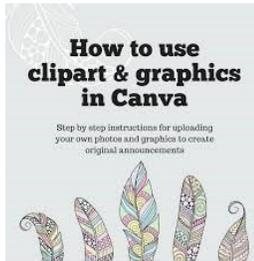
See message from Dan Simonton on page 2.

“Worship Online” continued from page 1...

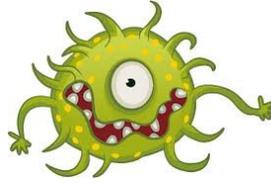
6. TALK ONLINE. The best online worship gatherings are intentionally social. Pastors and worship leaders should welcome people frequently (by name, when possible). “Tom in Urbana just joined us! Welcome!” Comment in the live chat or comment section. Greet other worshippers when they chime in. Your church should have what I call “Virtual Hosts,” or online greeters, who engage people who comment on your live stream’s comments.



7. INVITE, INVITE, INVITE. It’s never been easier to invite someone to worship! No rides to schedule and no hang ups about “going into a church building.” Just invite your friend to worship via screen with you! Your church should easily create a shareable social media invitation card (Canva.com is a free and easy to use media design website). Or you could text. Or (gasp!) call.



Changes in the Midst of the Coronavirus



Due to almost daily changes because of the coronavirus (COVID-19), all church gathering activities and events are suspended at least through April 7th. Consequently, there will not be a Palm Sunday service in our church building, although there will be an online service.

That being said, Pastor Bill Bunnage and Dan Simonton, Associate Minister of Family & Student Ministries, have been working to set up equipment to provide content from the church as well as a worship experience.

You can access information through the following channels:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/nashvillegraceumc>

Website - www.nashvillegrace.net

Youtube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3pCQsZ5pzzFwmMp5ZcaWPQ?view_as=subscriber

However, because we obviously can not foretell what will happen after the next couple of weeks, any church gatherings scheduled for April are subject to change.

We ask that you stay connected online or call the church office at 327-8407. Remember those who do not have access to computers and give them a call to see how they are doing.

Finally, please continue to financially support the church as we still have bills to pay and staff to support through this time. This can be done online through Vanco or be mailed to the church.

Thank you again for your patience during this trying time!

March Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
03-01	73	\$5,707.10
03-08	74	\$4,844.75
03-10	Online (Vanco)	\$ 399.25
03-15	84	\$1,223.65
03-17	Online (Vanco)	\$ 388.55
03-22	Online Service Only	
03-23	Online (Vanco)	\$ 299.32
03-24	Online (Vanco)	\$ 300.00
03-24	Online (Vanco)	\$1,000.00
03-29	Online Service Only	

“In life, there are many promotions in spiritual growth, but there is no graduation.” —T.J. Bach



Part of the One Year Bible Reading Plan

This is a chronological reading plan that enables one to read the entire Bible in 2020. This may be something you can do while stuck at home!

April

- 01 Deuteronomy 18:1- 20:20; Luke 9:28-50; Psalm 73:1-28; Proverbs 12:10
- 02 Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30; Luke 9:51-10:12; Psalm 74:1-23; Proverbs 12:11
- 03 Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19; Luke 10:13-37; Psalm 75:1-10; Proverbs 12:12-14
- 04 Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26; Luke 10:38-11:13; Psalm 76:1-12; Proverbs 12:15-17
- 05 Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Luke 11:14-36; Psalm 77:1-20; Proverbs 12:18
- 06 Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20; Luke 11:37-12:7; Psalm 78:1-31; Proverbs 12:19-20
- 07 Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27; Luke 12:8-34; Psalm 78:32-55; Proverbs 12:21-23
- 08 Deuteronomy 32:28-52; Luke 12:35-59; Psalm 78:56-64; Proverbs 12:24
- 09 Deuteronomy 33:1-29; Luke 13:1-21; Psalm 78:65-72; Proverbs 12:25
- 10 Deuteronomy 34:1- Joshua 2:24; Luke 13:22-14:6; Psalm 79:1-13; Proverbs 12:26
- 11 Joshua 3:1-4:24; Luke 14:7-35; Psalm 80:1-19; Proverbs 12:27-28
- 12 Joshua 5:1-7:15; Luke 15:1-32; Psalm 81:1-16; Proverbs 13:1
- 13 Joshua 7:16-9:2; Luke 16:1-18; Psalm 82:1-8; Proverbs 13:2-3
- 14 Joshua 9:3-10:43; Luke 16:19-17:10; Psalm 83:1-18; Proverbs 13:4
- 15 Joshua 11:1-12:24; Luke 17:11-37; Psalm 84:1-12; Proverbs 13:5-6
- 16 Joshua 13:1-14:15; Luke 18:1-17; Psalm 85:1-13; Proverbs 13:7-8
- 17 Joshua 15:1-63; Luke 18:18-43; Psalm 86:1-17; Proverbs 13:9-10
- 18 Joshua 16:1-18:28; Luke 19:1-27; Psalm 87:1-7; Proverbs 13:11
- 19 Joshua 19:1-20:9; Luke 19:28-48; Psalm 88:1-18; Proverbs 13:12-14
- 20 Joshua 21:1-22:20; Luke 20:1-26; Psalm 89:1-13; Proverbs 13:15-16
- 21 Joshua 22:21-23:16; Luke 20:27-47; Psalm 89:14-37; Proverbs 13:17-19
- 22 Joshua 24:1-33; Luke 21:1-28; Psalm 89:38-52; Proverbs 13:20-23
- 23 Judges 1:1-2:9; Luke 21:29-22:13; Psalm 90:1-91:16; Proverbs 13:24-25
- 24 Judges 2:10-3:31; Luke 22:14-34; Psalm 92:1-93:5; Proverbs 14:1-2
- 25 Judges 4:1-5:31; Luke 22:35-53; Psalm 94:1-23; Proverbs 14:3-4
- 26 Judges 6:1-40; Luke 22:54-23:12; Psalm 95:1-96:13; Proverbs 14:5-6
- 27 Judges 7:1-8:17; Luke 23:13-43; Psalm 97:1-98:9; Proverbs 14:7-8
- 28 Judges 8:18-9:21; Luke 23:44-24:12; Psalm 99:1-9; Proverbs 14:9-10
- 29 Judges 9:22-10:18; Luke 24:13-53; Psalm 100:1-5; Proverbs 14:11-12
- 30 Judges 11:1-12:15; John 1:1-28; Psalm 101:1-8; Proverbs 14:13-14



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

We're on the Web
Nashvillegrace.net

Dated Material Do Not Delay