

Ridgeway Baptist Church

# Ridgeway News

Volume XLII Issue 4

April 2020

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Who could have foreseen the effects of COVID-19 coronavirus—would have changes our lives?

With that said these days are unprecedented we haven't walked this way before. Some seniors among us may remember WW-2, and the stress of living it brought upon the world. Actually we are at war, the Coronavirus while unseen, and microscopic is a metaphor that is very real to Christians. Your adversary the devil, is continuously at work bringing havoc and disaster. So in regard to this opening paragraph our news letter has a different format at least this month, next month concerning cancelations and worship opportunities each week you will get a call —through 'One Call' your church phone system as to events and gatherings.

### Promotions and Special Days

Youth luncheon, Children's Home Staple Drive, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Mission Groups, Children's Spring Party, GA's Coffee & Donuts; will either be canceled, or extended, watch your weekly bulletin, of listen for announcements. You can call church office if your are uncertain.

### Graduate Sunday—2020

If you are graduating high school, college or tech, etc. please turn your name into church office to be honored Sunday, May 19.

### VBS—2020

Decision will be made in May

### In As Much

Decision will be made by April 26



I am writing this month's newsletter from home. Like many of you, my family's life has been affected by the precautions our city, state, and nation have recommended to curb the spread of COVID-19. Our girls are home from school, my wife's work schedule is modified, and I am concerned for the spiritual and physical health of the Ridgeway church family. These are surely unprecedented times, and if we listen to enough news and rumor, it is tempting to succumb to fear. However, as God's people, let's consider Paul's encouragement in

2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Amidst uncertainty, Christians need not live in a perpetually fearful state. Instead, we can remember that God has given us a spirit of power—power that comes through our trust in Him. We have been given a spirit of love—a love that seeks the good of others before our own. We have also been given the power of a sound mind—a mind that is disciplined in seeking out God's truth and purpose. As we weather this chaotic time, let's truly lean into who we are and what we have been given in Christ Jesus. Let us find power in prayer, exercise love and concern for those near and far, and balance fear and hysteria by staying grounded in the truth of God's Word.

Our desire at Ridgeway is to continue to provide opportunity for worship during this time. However, for caution's sake, our children's choir will not meet until after Easter (at a date to be determined) and our Spring Talent Night, scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> will be rescheduled at a later date. As of now, our adult choir will continue to meet on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM. These rehearsals will be geared to finishing our Easter music, in hopes of celebrating Jesus' victory over death as a congregation. Prayers for you all. You are loved!

Scott



As I am thinking about Easter, which will take place on April 12<sup>th</sup> this year, my mind is taken to the prophet Isaiah, who prophesied Jesus' crucifixion more than 700 years before it happened. Two verses of Scripture come to my mind. The first comes from Isaiah 52:14 which says, "His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men," and the other comes from Isaiah 53:10 which says, "It pleased the Lord to bruise Him."

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was beaten so badly that He was unrecognizable. He was scourged with 39 lashes, which peeled His skin off, beaten across His face countless number of times, His forehead was pricked with a sharp crown of thorns, and He was nailed to a cross all the while carrying every sin that every person in the past, present, and future has ever committed on His shoulders. Yet "it pleased the Father to bruise His Son." That is how much our Lord loves us!! It pleased Him because He was saving us from our sins. Jesus took our place, and faced the wrath of God that we deserve, so that we can have everlasting life.

Jesus died on that "Good Friday," fulfilling all of the prophesies of the Old Testament which goes all the way back to Genesis 3:15. However, He didn't stay in the grave long. On the third day, He rose from the dead and conquered death so that we can conquer death! On that day He took away the sting of death for those that choose to confess Him as their Lord and Savior!

John

**April Birthdays**

- 02 Cliff Johnson  
Jimmy Shipman  
Elizabeth Conard
- 04 Karen Hawkins
- 05 Jim McConnell  
Tammy Barker
- 06 Laurel Ryne  
Tracey Parker
- 08 Jamie Burris  
John Wilson  
Jennifer Barfield
- 09 Frieda Rhinehart
- 13 Kaleb Rice
- 14 Maggie Lynne Cutshall
- 16 Jo Ann Allison  
Carolyn McConnell  
Hayden Braswell
- 17 Helen Greene
- 18 Ruth Whitted
- 19 Donald Hall  
Harold Mintz
- 22 Patti Taylor
- 23 Lori Howard
- 24 Chris Burnette  
Morgan Hall  
Kim Warren
- 25 Kennedy Sprinkle
- 26 Carolyn Sams
- 28 James Brown  
Dale Crisp  
Tia Hixion
- 29 Chad King
- 30 Jeff Jackson  
Jamison Gibson

**April Anniversaries**

- 05 Tim & Tina Trull
- 18 Kaleb & Brittany Rice
- 28 Harry & Pat Powell
- 29 Lee & Sherry Gibson
- 29 Jeff & Cindy Jackson

**Annual Home Coming—June 2**  
Decision will be made by May 17.

**Church Nominating Committee-**  
Committee will begin work in May.  
Pray for this committee.

**Faithfulness**  
Your faithfulness in Stewardship is greatly appreciated during these days.  
Your Budget and Finance Committee

**Help Needed**  
Time to begin mowing church grounds and cemetery,  
If you would like to volunteer see Glenn Wilson.



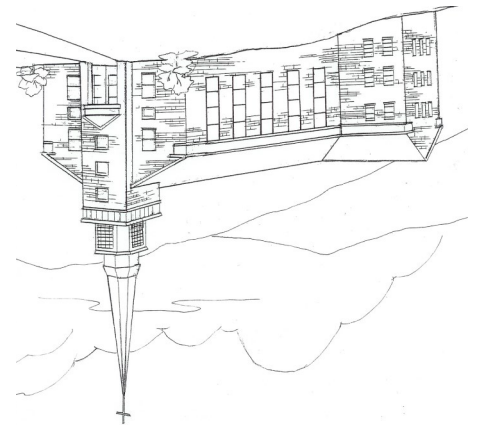
*From the*  
**MINISTER**

I am writing this paragraph, and actually making the outline for April newsletter, on this March 17, 2020. So this whole pandemic with COVID-19 is very fluid, and changing each hour.

I would urge you to pray often for wisdom from heaven, for protection for your family, friends, church family, and nation and world from this terrible virus—our enemy. Then to follow as much as you can to the social rules of hygiene, distancing, etc.

Also, be aware of your neighbors who have needs. Each one of us must be willing to sacrifice to help. Then be mindful of your personal stewardship—for meeting the needs of our budget needs at RBC. Finally, be assured I am always available to serve you and your family—call on me! That goes also for your deacons, Sunday school teachers, staff—we want to help. Praying each day for you, and our government leaders, first responders and health care professionals. Please join me in this. We want to provide some time of worship service on Sunday morning. This will be announced weekly, as in keeping with the safety guide-lines of gathering. As for now, No Sunday PM services until April 19. Prayer meeting/ Bible Study will be held in fellowship hall through Easter—so we can have spacing. Prayer is our life line. Daniel 9:3

Pastor Jackie



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Ridgeway Baptist Church

