

May 19, 2020

Dear Church Family:

We have projected June 7 as the date when we can safely gather for worship. But with the recent spike in cases, this date is uncertain. Hopefully, we will receive guidance in a few days from our leaders and medical specialists.

Meanwhile, take note of the special services on May 24 and May 31 which will be pre-recorded and available on our church website.

May 24 is Memorial Day Sunday. As I indicated in last week's letter, the service will have a threefold emphasis. First, we will pay tribute to our fallen patriots. Second, we will remember our beloved dead who have gone to be with the Lord since last Memorial Day. The names of ten precious loved ones will be called as Elton Gray arranges a flower bouquet. (Their names are listed on the back of this letter). Elton will then lead us in a pastoral prayer. Finally, Willard and I will guide the congregation in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. From your kitchen find some bread or a piece of cracker and a small sip of juice or water before you begin to watch the service. Duane Blakley, Ruth Manweiler, and Jerry Hanchey will provide inspirational music for the service.

May 31 will be Duane and Pat Blakley's last service with us. Duane has planned a service around the theme of Grace. He will share "The Touch of the Master's Hand" (spoken, with violin and "Amazing Grace" with Ruth Manweiler at the piano). My sermon is titled "The Fullness of His Grace" and is based on John 1:16-17. There will be a recognition/presentation time for Duane and Pat. We regret that we cannot do this service live. Duane and Pat have promised to return for a special service at a later date.

The Lord continues to bless with our faithful giving. This past Sunday was a third Sunday and we received \$5,618. This brings the three-week budget total to \$37,960. Two Sundays remain to reach our monthly goal of \$48,393. We continue to receive the special offering for Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes (ABCH). You will want to give generously to this important ministry.

The church office shares a prayer list each week by e-mail. Call the office if you want to be added to the list or if you have prayer concerns. Many of you have told me about the importance of your 9'oclock prayer time with others. You may choose another time, if it is more convenient.

On this Memorial Day weekend upcoming, let me close with an appropriate text. John had been exiled to the lonely, island of Patmos as a penalty for sharing his faith in Christ (Revelation 1:9). While there, he received a vision of the exalted Lord. He wrote: "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the Grave'" (Revelation 1:17-18). During uncertain times, we rest our case with the Living Lord.

Your Pastor,

Jon M. Stubblefield