



Weekly Newsletter

May 31, 2020

A Note to the Church

Any observer knows that our country is under some stresses right now. We have a role as a priesthood that we can exercise in its behalf. We can intercede with all kinds of prayers for all people. We can draw near to the throne of grace. We can pray that those in high positions may pursue righteousness and justice, and do so wisely. We can ask that conditions be such that we may be able to live quiet and peaceable lives, godly and dignity. Our doing so will help; it will also please God (cf. 1 Tim. 2:1-4). In such a time as this it is especially important that we fulfill our ministry for the sake of all people.

The week ahead is going to be important for us in several other ways, too. Wednesday evening we will begin a different sort of summer series—one that fits our situation right now, and, I think, our need as well. We're going to try to address one of the biggest things we've all been missing through the stay-at-home time, and that's knowing what's going on in each other's lives and being able to encourage each other and build each other up. Our theme will be "We're Part of the Family" (from Lanny Wolfe's song that is meaningful to many of us). I'm going to interview several of our people who've been through things during this time about what we've laughed and cried over, and about what our dreams are now. We'll live stream for now, of course. Please join us Wednesday at 6:30—and help us spread the word if you can.

This week will also be a significant time in our life together because, if all goes as anticipated at this point, the Hatfields will arrive at the end of the week to begin being a presence in our work in this community. Justin has already been helping us from afar, and we look forward to his in-person help. Thank you for already having been praying for their family as they make a significant transition in their lives at a very unusual time. Your warm welcome will be precious to them.

Also, you know that our elders have been in contact with all of us about their work in considering beginning a transition to in-person meeting next Sunday. Please pray for them as they plan. Please also plan—plan to continue to livestream if you are higher risk, to cooperate with the guidelines public health officials ask us to follow, to be considerate, respectful and patient with everyone, and to love the Lord and your brothers and sisters above all.

—Bill McFarland



- **Debbi Ratterree** remains in the hospital at this writing. KEEP PRAYING
- **Oran Green** is back at home with family.
- **Sandra Pingnot** will have surgery Wednesday to remove a suspicious growth on her arm. We are asking you to offer encouragement to her by sending cards. Her address is Spring Valley, Rm. A-5, 2915 S. Fremont, Springfield MO 65804.

- **Ron Stokes'** MS has progressed to the point of needing treatment. It has and he will need to start treatment with a pill. It is treatable, just not curable.
- The Essex's granddaughter, **Victoria Lacy**, has stage 3 aggressive breast cancer. Keep her in your prayers as she deals with chemo treatments.
- **Ruth Reaves** has shingles.
- **Carolyn Young's** knee surgery is scheduled for 6/15 at Mercy Orthopedic Hospital.
- **Julie Alexander's** stomach surgery will be July 27 at Cox South. She has an appointment in St. Louis on July 16.
- **Don Essex** as he continues to deal with irregular heart rate issues.
- **Shirlane Horton** will have dental surgery on 6/22; knee surgery is scheduled for August but she does not have an exact date at this time.
- **Gregory Johnson** as he recovers from a fall that injured his leg.
- **Connie Thompson** as she deals with complications from throat cancer.
- **Marty Long** will need hernia surgery as soon as the hospitals start scheduling again.

Continued prayers for health concerns: Frank Cunningham, Marlene Matthews, Russell Harber, Betty Grabber, Ruth Raines, Dennis Smith, Lynette Schreiwes, Rachel Lilly

Shut-Ins
Ron Bower
Mary Bratcher
Don Essex
Clarence Feeny
Ola Jean Feeny
Cecil Frost
Wanda Frost
Doris Iorg
Debbi Ratterree
Jim Reaves
Ruth Reaves
Doris Tobler
Nursing Homes
Ella Mae Findlay
Ann Freeze
Wayne Harmon
Virginia Morgan
Sandra Pingnot
Nancy Snider

Expectant Moms
Chelsea Thrasher
Girl/August 10
Alison Thurkill
Girl/August 31



We extend our sympathy to Lanae and the Gillespie Family in the loss of Jerry, who passed away last Saturday. Funeral services were held on Thursday.

We express our sympathy to the family of Shelia Ragsdale who passed away Tuesday. A visitation will be held from 12 - 1:00 pm Monday, June 1, at the Brookline Church of Christ in Brookline followed by a memorial service at 1:00 pm under the care of J.D. Lee and Sons Funeral Home.



You are invited to a wedding shower honoring McKenzi Maples and Sawyer Murphy on Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m. at the building. They are registered at Amazon and Target and, of course, money is always a great gift for newlyweds. We hope you will help honor them as they soon begin their new journey. We will observe the social distancing guidelines that have been set forth.

Create
 in me a
 clean heart
 Oh God, renew a
 right spirit
 within me
 -137 Psalm 51:6

June Anniversaries
1-10



- 1 Josh/Lauren Brumfield 18 yrs.
- 2 Tim/Alice Buckner 30 yrs.
- 3 Jon/Makesha Davis 20 yrs.
- 4 Mike/Gena Ussery 16 yrs.
- 4 Brian/Danielle Horton 9 yrs.
- 4 Haden/Lexie Brill 4 yrs.
- 5 Matt/Julie Kelley 16 yrs.
- 5 David/Ginger White 50 yrs.**
- 6 Kenneth/Audra Bowling 16 yrs.
- 8 Kevin/Marla Wuench 24 yrs.
- 9 Dewayne/Carol Jackson 48 yrs.
- 9 Mike/Glenda Thurkill 42 yrs.
- 10 Van/Barbara Barnes 64 yrs.**

Congratulations on Your Retirement



David & Debbie Kern are retiring from Fair Haven and moving to Oklahoma City to be near their family. Thank you for your many years of service to Fair Haven.
Glenda Thurkill is retiring from Williams Elementary!

Connie Westerman is retiring from Westport Elementary.

Thank you Glenda and Connie for your many years of teaching and loving children.

Birthdays

- 31 Deana Asher
- Aaron Loomis
- 6/2 David Nimmo
- Ty Girdley
- 3 Camden Kelley
- 5 Virginia Hayter
- 7 Brendan Carroll
- Josh Luna
- 8 Virginia Morgan
- Scott Barton
- 9 Marty Stockstill
- 10 Lisa Putnam
- 13 Diana Compton