



The Clen-Moore Messenger

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

Christ
The Way, the Truth,
and the Life.

April, 2020

Dear church family,

We are writing this letter on March 23. By the time you receive it, who knows how many more times our “new normal” will have changed? More than ever, we are living in a world where things are changing by the day, by the hour, and even by the minute. Just a month ago we all probably had very different aspirations and plans for our family and personal lives, our career and educational endeavors, including the life and ministry of our church. In the blink of an eye, our priorities have more than shifted—they’ve changed dramatically.

Our ability to digest the sheer amount of change we are experiencing may be the most difficult aspect of it all. We’re concerned about what this virus could do to our health, especially to those who are vulnerable. Those are legitimate fears. We’re anxious about how this will impact the economy and our own personal finances. It’s not a stretch to say that our country and the world haven’t faced something like this since the last world war. And yet...

Though we are unable to be physically present with one another, our hope and prayer as the church is to find ways to create a “new normal” that we can share together. It may take a while to find comfort in unfamiliar patterns of life and ministry, but at this point we have a choice—learn to embrace it, or suffer spiritual anemia. We know that no one would consciously choose the latter, so pray for the work of the Holy Spirit to lead you through the former. May we find ways to embrace where we are here and now, rather than where we would rather be.

Our goal as leaders in the church is to provide a regular pattern of “events” in a given week that we can all participate in.

1. First, we plan to set aside the hours of 8:19-9:19 AM and 8:19-9:19 PM every Wednesday for prayer, and we invite you to join us. You don’t need to pray the entire hour (although you might feel called to!). But the goal is to know that during those times, our church will be connected and united in prayer.
2. Borrowing an idea from our friend Pastor Jordan Rimmer at Northminster Church, we will offer “drive-thru” pastoral care from 12:00 PM-1:00 PM every Tuesday and Thursday at Clen-Moore Church. Pull under the covered entrance in Circle Drive and we will come to your car (at a safe distance, of course!) to talk and pray with you. You are welcome to make an appointment if these times are not convenient for you.
3. We also plan to share videos and other devotional material, first from Aaron and Michael, but hopefully from other church leaders and members as well. The goal: to stay in touch, love one another, and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ. Ideas include to write a short note, share a one-minute hello video, or record you singing a song. (If you prefer to sing in the shower, audio only please!!) All joking aside, we know that not everyone is on Facebook. We are working on creating a blog page that will include links to Facebook videos and other resources we’ll be sharing on a daily basis.

We’ll also be emailing these, so please make sure the church office has your email address.
(You can send it to clenmoorechurch@gmail.com.)

There are so many situations in the Bible that we could turn to for words of hope, peace, provision, assurance of God’s presence and so much more. This truth will sustain us as we navigate our “new normal”. Consider these words from the prophet Jeremiah. Remember the situation—the Jewish people were forced out of their homeland by a foreign invader and made to live in a strange and new place. This should resonate quite a bit with how we are living today. Here is Jeremiah 29:5-7:

⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

This “new normal” may pass more quickly than we expect, but we simply don’t know. Even on the other end of all this, when things get back to “normal” (and they will!): what might our new normal look like? One thing we do know is that God wants us to live faithfully for Him, no matter the circumstances. Jeremiah seems to be saying, “Live your lives as normally as you possibly can, because this is the life you have to live.” Only then does the later verse ring true with more power: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

We can admit that our present circumstances are hard while simultaneously living in peace and hope. Just as Jeremiah spoke words of hope, Jesus too left us with similar words. When He was teaching the disciples in John 14:27 near the end of His earthly ministry, He said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

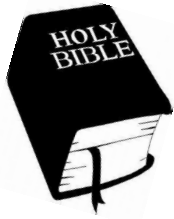
Though peace may seem like a rare commodity right now, it is one of the great gifts Jesus offers to His believers. While we cannot manufacture it, we can surely share it. And much like the disease that has rocked our world, it is contagious. So for those who have commented, shared, and reached out to your pastors or on our Facebook page with positive comments and feedback—keep them coming! We’ll keep sharing them. Our ability to share the peace of Christ with each other and the world may be one of our greatest strengths moving forward.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

Aaron and Michael



DAILY BIBLE READINGS



APRIL

- 1 Luke 20.1-19
- 2 Luke 20.20-47
- 3 Luke 21.1-38
- 4 Isaiah 58.1-14
- Palm / Passion Sunday*
- 5 Luke 19.28-48
- 6 Luke 22.1-38
- 7 Luke 22.39-71
- 8 Luke 23.1-25
- 9 Luke 23.26-56
- Good Friday*
- 10 Psalm 23
- 11 Psalm 17
- Easter*
- 12 Luke 24.1-12
- 13 Psalm 18
- 14 Luke 24.13-35
- 15 Luke 24.36-53
- 16 Psalm 130
- 17 Isaiah 59.1-21
- 18 Isaiah 60.1-22
- 19 Isaiah 61.1-12
- 20 Isaiah 62.1-12
- 21 Isaiah 63.1-19
- 22 Isaiah 64.1-12
- 23 Isaiah 65.1-25
- 24 Isaiah 66.1-24
- 25 Psalm 115
- 26 Genesis 24.1-27
- 27 Genesis 24.28-67
- 28 Genesis 25.1-34
- 29 Genesis 26.1-35
- 30 Genesis 27.1-29



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IN MEMORIAM

Russell Gibson
Grace Lyon



- Reminder that all church activities for April are cancelled.
- Sunday Worship can be viewed live or recorded by going to:

www.clenmoore.org, and click on the blue box that says "Watch Sunday's worship service"

or on Facebook live.

- We will keep you informed and updated as things change, please continue to check the church website, church Facebook page and your emails accordingly.

**MESSENGER DEADLINE FOR
MAY IS APRIL 17TH.**

facebook.com/clenmoorechurch



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M&E

The Mission & Evangelism committee would like to thank Lou and Diane LaGatta for their visit on 2/23 on behalf of Caleb International Ministries. Lou and Diane shared their story and revealed their heartfelt passion for serving and equipping church leaders around the world. They are one of our closest mission partners, and we are grateful to be a part of their support network.



CAMP LAMBEC

In these nervous times, it is easy to forget that life will return to normal and that we can look forward to the coming summer, including reuniting with friends and family at Camp Lambec. "Wet & Wild" adventures for campers from 3rd to 12th grades begin on **June 28** and feature water games, water slides, the Lake Erie beach, paddleboats, sports and a trip to Waldameer Water World in addition to campfires, Bible study and worship.

Be ready to sing or bring you own instrument & a music stand and join old & new friends at Music Camp on **July 5** for a week of learning new songs, water slides and sports, Bible study and worship. Family Camps begin on **July 19** and run for 3 consecutive weeks. On-line registration is now open and brochures are available with information about the specific dates for camp, additional activities and what supplies to bring to camp.