

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
587 Mt. Vernon Road  
Newark, Ohio 43055

**NEXT NEWSLETTER:**

April 22 printing, so please get your May 2020 info in by April 20th!

**Looking ahead . . .**

April 5 - Palm Sunday - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 & Matthew 21:1-11  
"Ride On, King Jesus"

April 9 - Maundy Thursday - I Corinthians 11:23-26

April 10 - Good Friday - Matthew 26 & 27

April 12 - Easter Sunday - John 20:1-18 & Matthew 28:1-10

April 19 - John 20:19-31 & I Peter 1:3-9 "Our Living Hope"

April 26 - Hebrews 9:11-14 & I Peter 1:17-23 "All About the Blood"

This is a tentative schedule, subject to change but it does give us ways of worshiping together while we are apart with common scripture to read and reflect on. A way to be together until we are again.

April 2020  
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# The Newark Christian

Serving God's Transformation of Licking County

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

newarkcentralchristian.org

Our mission:

- To lead people to faith in Jesus Christ
- To work through the Holy Spirit, and
- To understand through the Holy Bible.

We seek to:

- Grow in knowledge,
- Cultivate the grace of Christ,
- Strengthen the unity of all Christians, and be
- Always moving towards the Kingdom of God.



## The COVID -19 Pandemic

In ministry I really only thought there was one thing we really had not control on timing over and that is death. While this still remains true, death still does not wait for the timing to be right, it is no longer the only thing we have no control over. Now we have a global pandemic to deal with and my friends we have absolutely no control over it. The only control we have is the isolation and shut down of most of our lives to try and prevent it. And as of right now we have no idea if even that is going to work. We have no control and we are being told we have to live into this new way of being, even if temporarily.

We are making the best of it. We are doing what we can to limit the spread, to keep ourselves and those around us healthy and safe. We are finding new ways of being community, whether within our own neighborhoods or within our church community and we are trusting in God to see us through, we are trusting in God to give us what we need in this fearful and anxious time.

Proverbs 3:24-26

If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

May the Lord will be your confidence!

How to Pastor a Congregation in the Midst of a Global Pandemic

The last ten days have been sort of a whirlwind. Actually the last three weeks have been a whirlwind for various reasons, one of which, we couldn't really determine nor believe what was coming our way in regards to COVID-19. We kind of saw it coming but in reality we were in disbelief that things would actually start closing, until the governor actually did start closing things. And then the chaos of things closing faster than we could adjust started happening and churches had to adjust on the fly. It wasn't day by day changes but moment by moment changes, so much that it left me breathless.

So many questions being asked and no one knowing the answers. How does one pastor a congregation in the midst of a global pandemic? My friends we are still looking for that answer. I have had so many conversations with colleagues over the last week as we try to determine how we all approach this with our own congregations. What does pastoral care look like? What does worship look like in light of services being cancelled? How do we care for a congregation from afar? We can't get into hospitals and we can't get into nursing homes. We can't care for our most vulnerable, making us feel as if we can't care for the flock God has entrusted to us. However in the end the best care we can offer is to keep as many as we can safe and healthy.

Making the decision to close churches and cancel services is no easy task. There are so many factors to consider, the most important, how do we keep church going with the building closed? For some churches this is an easy task. They already live stream, already have online giving and they have built a virtual audience on social media. Sure the task of caring for the congregation is still there but how to "give" the church a worship service is not. With a few adjustments, like no one in the sanctuary it is Sunday worship as usual. But for so many others, like us here at Newark Central Sunday worship was anything but "normal".

By the time things settled in to place we had already gone one Sunday with only links to other worship services. As the following Sunday approached the task at hand was to figure out if video recording was even possible and if so what would it entail. After many test runs, setting up a youtube account and many hours recording and uploading to try it out I was able to get it done. I was thrilled to be able to bring you all at least something that was familiar, even if it was from my office at home. I will continue to do this for as long as needed. Though it is not the same there is familiarity.

There are other things too that have had to change. We can't put our offering in the plate every week. It's not something we probably ever think about but here we are faced with not being able to participate in this very important piece of our personal Sunday worship. We have a very specific system of processing our offerings and at this time there is really no feasible way for us to process the checks and record them properly. We are asking that you keep track at home, knowing that we will be back together for worship. This will not last forever.

Working from home is a challenge, doing pastoral care from home and over the phone is a new experience and it is hard. It's still powerful praying with someone over the phone but it's different than the face to face contact. It's different than being able to hold someone's hand and offer support. Trying to get thoughtful and encouraging emails out takes time and thought and a lot of prayer. This is a very fearful and anxious time and it is important to of-

fer what I can to the church. I'm not sure I've ever prayer so much in my life, because truthfully it is only God and His faithfulness that is getting me through this and it is His strength that is sustaining me.

For so many reasons these last ten days have been challenging. I am thankful for the group of colleagues that I have. It has given me a space to talk through ideas and thoughts but more importantly a place to share how I am feeling, knowing they are all feeling the same thing. That they are facing the same struggles. I am grateful for those in the church who have stepped in to help, making phone calls and checking on most at risk people. I am grateful for the church still being the church, in a new and very different way.

With God we can get through anything. WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS! But for now, we look at what we can do and we do it to the best of our ability and we carry God with us through it all. God has trusted me to care for you all in this time and that is what I intend to do

Much Love & Many Blessings,

Pastor Karen

**Since we are holding off on releasing a calendar here are the birthdays and anniversaries. We know that this is an important piece to our fellowship that we want to continue.**

**April Birthdays**

- 1 Susie Morris 17 Brenda Combs
- 1 Ken Fry 21 Brittany Wallace
- 2 Sue Rintamaa 24 Kristie McCoy
- 4 Cole Buchanan 24 Judy McNeish
- 5 JoAnn McPeek 26 Margie Goodin
- 6 Idabell Koontz
- 7 Jean McDonald

**April Anniversaries**

- 8 Charles Rhoads 6 Tom & Julie Quickle
- 9 Donald Lacy 10 Mark & Kristie McCoy
- 9 Rene Pierpont 21 Todd & Monica Broceus