

FRONTLINES

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4 APRIL 2020

Renewing our families, our communities, and our world by bringing faith and life together in Christ.

WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY IN THE MIDST OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

BY CARTER SANGER

Technology is amazing in that we can continue to worship “together” in the midst of our current crisis, and I encourage you to “not forsake meeting together as some are in the habit of doing” (Heb 10:25).

We will be live-streaming worship in the coming weeks (stay tuned to our website for details) at the same time, 10:30 a.m. Sundays. There are ways to enjoy community in the midst of it with comments and questions in the live-stream comment section.

That’s something we can’t always do even together, so take advantage of it.

Remember that it is worship and not just a “teaching time.”

Add your voice to the songs and liturgy from your living room, and remember to bring your tithes and offerings.

The Lord is still sovereign and delights in our cheerful giving as it shows our trust rests ultimately in Him. You

can give via the cornerstonekaty.org website (look for the “giving” menu option at the top and other ways you can give on page 5).

“Be strong and courageous, Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

Community looks different during such a time. Meeting people looks different though it can still happen. When a

new person joins worship, take the time to greet them in the comments and engage. And now is the time to take advantage of

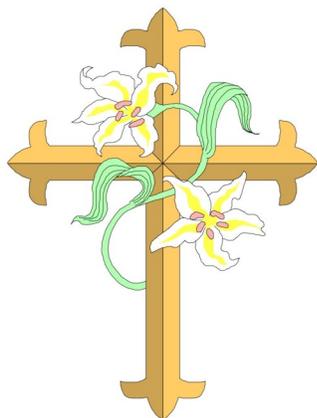
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Our worship services will be streamed live through April 26. Check our website, cornerstonekaty.org, for details.
- Many of our regular Bible Study and Small Groups are on hold now, waiting for word from our city leaders. Contact your group leader if you aren’t sure whether you are meeting or not.
- We are sorry that our annual Easter celebration will not happen this year, but don’t forget—HE IS RISEN!

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EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Even though this year will look different from what we are used to—without the special music, children’s parade on Palm Sunday, egg hunt, and church family gathered for the celebration—it will be important for us to remember that the reason we celebrate Easter is the empty tomb. We celebrate it because our Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT

- Because of the ongoing Coronavirus issue, the Session met, along with the Deacons, by way of Zoom conferencing.
- Carter, during his devotional, reminded us to remember that God is Sovereign in all things, and that He will glorify Himself in this situation. He quoted Psalm 46 in which God says, "Be still, and know that I am God." David goes on to write of God, "I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

He encouraged us to keep in contact with and continue to show care and concern for our people, whose shepherds we are. Keep in touch with them. We are still living in community. Additionally, since Cornerstone has subscribed to Zoom, we can meet as Small Groups through the account.

- The Session and Deacons once again discussed the money that Cornerstone currently has in the Strategic Reserve Fund and also in the Building Fund. It was decided to put off most of the sanctuary upgrade because some of the money might be needed to supplement the Deacons Fund. The amount in the Building Fund, which is designated for that use only, is currently nearly \$47,000. If necessary, we can approach those who have contributed and get the restriction removed.

Jim Kolesar brought up the fact that the electrical box in the sanctuary needs to be

brought up to code. This will be done.

Another issue is Carter's sabbatical, which he will be taking later in the year. This will be financed, along with pulpit supply, etc, by way of the Strategic Fund. Carter will be coming up with a plan for his sabbatical very soon.

- The Session, at Carol's request, voted to continue to pay the nursery workers through this time, plus pay one for cleaning in the buildings.
- As always, the meeting concluded with Shepherding and Care Group concerns and prayer.



We rejoice with Shane and Jessica Jarvis on the birth of their daughter, **Grace Elizabeth Jarvis.**

Big brother and sister Jayden and Ashlyn should be a big help, too.

FINANCIAL PICTURE FOR APRIL

BY JOHN BARRETT

For the first two months of 2020, contributions have fallen below budget.

Fortunately, expenses have also been below budget, however, that has not been enough to cover the shortfall in giving. The Operating Account is fully funded from contributions received last year, but we may need to reconsider long term plans in light of the current financial situation and recent developments caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Our expenses will continue during this time of stress, and we anticipate needing even more for the Deacons Fund.

Please continue to pray that God will give us guidance to use His resources in the best way possible to accomplish His will, staying focused on our mission, our missionaries, and our members.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CANCELLED

BY DEBI BARRETT

We are sorry to say that with the cancellation of our Women's Game Night, we now feel it is wise to do the same for our Spring Fling Garden Party that was scheduled for May 9th.

We are hopeful that this Coronavirus disruption in our daily lives will be over soon, but with its obvious unpredictability, we will go ahead and cancel.

Praying that we'll all be permitted to gather together soon, as I know we all miss being together. Praying for everyone to stay safe and well!



Ladies' events scheduled for April and May have been cancelled.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ And the winner is...

The winner of March's Green Kisses Candy Game is Ms. Kinsey! Her guess of 200 came the closest to the actual number of candies without going over. (The actual count was 241.) Congratulations, Ms. Kinsey!

Sadly, I do not plan to have a candy game for April. Hopefully, by May things will have returned to normal. Let's continue to pray for that.

☺ **Staying in Touch:** I have been posting some videos on Facebook for the kids. I'm sharing some of my favorite books I read to my kids when they were little. Please share some videos of what you guys have been doing at home. Post them on the Cornerstone Katy Facebook page.

☺ Children's Sunday School Lessons:

Something you can do as a family during this Stay Home – Work Safe time is weekly Sunday School lessons. The lessons for March 15 and 22 have been posted on the Cornerstone Katy website under Get Involved and News & Events.

I will post the lessons for March 29 on Monday, March 30. I will continue to post lessons each week for as long as we are not meeting together on Sunday mornings.

☺ **Easter 2020:** At this time, it is quite possible we will not be able to enjoy our traditional Easter celebrations together. Should we not be able to gather I still would like to bless the kids with Easter bags. If necessary, I will announce plans about the date and time for an "Easter Drive Thru" for families to drive through

and pick up an Easter bag of goodies for each of their children.

☺ **Rocky Railway VBS:** VBS has not been cancelled at this time. However, planning and preparations are on hold until we are sure we won't have to cancel. It is currently scheduled for Monday, June 29 – Friday, July 3. Stay tuned.

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:** If you could add a word to the dictionary what would you add and what would it mean?

- Ms. Ann Alcorn:
Wicky Wicky –
To move faster.
- Ms. Carol Rutar:
Dunno –
Is that a word?
- Ms. Kinsey Spain:
Paperocalyps- the
state of being without
any toilet paper or paper
goods to buy or use
- Ms. Laura Garay:
Shabam –
meaning you got this



Easter treats for our children will still be available through an "Easter Drive Thru".

DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



In Daka's latest newsletter, he mentioned some of the things we can do to help the international students:

We have sent out a survey for our students to fill out in order to let us know how we can serve them. The most

common requests so far have been for someone to call them from time to time, to pray for them or their homelands, participate in online groups, or do some grocery/small item shopping for them.

If you'd be available to help meet some of this type of need or have some other way you'd like to help, please let us

know by clicking this link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScn8YecxOudJLkc7BuYrpfq-J8_ojQwkaQ5ip_fulDiHtOAg/viewform.

You can also use this to communicate how you are doing and if there are any ways we can serve and/or pray for

SOME HELPFUL IDEAS WHILE YOU ARE AT HOME

Roy and Stephanie Thomas came up with a great list of things to know/do while you are stuck at home. Here they are:

Idea List:

- **Pray.** Some are affected very deeply by this. (Some are facing quarantine, either self or mandatory. Some are alone, wage loss or job loss, uncertainty, anxiety.)
- **Prioritize Scripture reading.** Alone and together as a family.
- **Text people that you prayed for them.**
 - Facetime / Video conversations and hangouts regularly.
- **Record Prayer Videos.** Example: A family setup a camera and prayed together for our family and then sent it to us on Facebook.
- **Share** that HEB (and some other stores) are allowing "seniors only" to shop for the first hour they are open.
- Ask to **pick up groceries** for those that are higher risk.
- If you have sidewalk chalk, **write encouraging messages** or pictures so people

driving by can see them. (Our neighborhood is doing this together. Everyone is going to drive around on Saturday.)

- For \$15 a month you can have a **ZOOM.com account** and video call with up to 100 people.
- **Share reputable FACTS** and their sources. We were sent a message the other day saying that "country's without 5G cell towers don't have COVID-19..."
- **Stay in contact.** Email, Social Media, Text, Video Calls

Helpful Sites:

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/ - Care, prevention and information
- <https://systems.jhu.edu/research/public-health/ncov/> - Reliable numbers with "recovered" counts.
- <https://ourworldindata.org/> - Reputable numbers by country on the spread of the virus
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/> - Resources and videos to

help students keep learning at home

- <https://katydisasterresponse.com/> - Good source for local information and helpful resources
- <https://favordelivery.com/order-delivery/h-e-b-5/> - or call 833-397-0080. Restricted to Seniors only (60+) for the H-E-B and Favor Senior Support program. Limit orders to 25 items max.
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Helpful Apps: (Other than text and Facebook.)

- What's App (International text messaging)
- Marco Pollo (Video messaging app. Easy to use.)
- Among Us (Game for up to 10 people played over the internet all together. Takes about 10 minutes a round. All ages, lots of fun. We setup a speaker phone and play.)
- Zoom (Free video calls)

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Staying in contact with each other is one way to counteract that feeling of isolation.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT CORNERSTONE

BY CAROL KUTZER

As I process the offerings each week, I am reminded of all the ways people donate...but everybody may not be aware of all of them. So here is a list of all the different ways you can donate to Cornerstone. Which one works best for you?

- **Regular Check** dropped in the offering plate. Pros: teaches your kids regular giving as they see you put in the plate each week. Cons: you forget to write the check, or you lose it all together. (I have found a few in the recycle bins.) Until social distancing ends, please mail checks to 1351 S Mason Rd, Katy, TX 77450.
- **Bank Check** sent from your bank when you set up Cornerstone EPC as a "bill". On your banking

website, you set up how much and how often. Then the bank mails the checks like clockwork. This is my method of choice.

- **Charitable Giving Funds** which generate scheduled checks, much like your bank. I hear there are some super tax benefits for those who use this method.
- **Online Giving** through our website. While PayPal handles these transactions, you do not need an account to use this feature. Access our Giving Page and click on the Giving Button. You can also set up regular scheduled payments.
- **AmazonSmile** allows you to support Cornerstone EPC every time you shop. When shopping use our unique Amazon Smile Link. (See sebsite article

for this link.) Remember, only purchases at *smile.amazon.com* (not *www.amazon.com* or the mobile app) support charity. The organization you wish to support is Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

- **Good Neighbor Donations** are rare, but I still occasionally receive a check from Randalls' Good Neighbor donations. If you shop at Randalls or Albertsons link your frequent shopper card to Cornerstone with the code 5009.
- **Cash** is king, so they say. However, unless you put your cash in an envelope with your name on it, there is no way to track your giving...if this is important to you.

Either way, thank you for supporting Cornerstone EPC.



There are many ways to give to Cornerstone.

"UNTIL SOCIAL DISTANCING ENDS, PLEASE MAIL CHECKS TO 1351 S MASON RD, KATY, TX 77450."

CORNERSTONE NOW HAS A WHATSAPP GROUP

BY MIFFLIN DOVE

In light of the Coronavirus situation, Cornerstone has set up a WhatsApp group to share information and prayer requests. This group is not to replace the other forms of communication from Cornerstone, but it is a way for members of the group to quickly share information relevant to the Cornerstone family.

To be in this group, you need to have WhatsApp installed on your smartphone. You can download it either from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. Your account is based on your mobile phone number, and the only people who can see your presence on WhatsApp are people in your phone contacts who also happen to use WhatsApp.

There are two ways you can join this WhatsApp group. One way is to click on or in-

put the link below in your phone browser:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/E4ZkDvEROoXLacg7leolkx>

The other way to join the group is to scan this QR Code, using your smartphone camera:

If anyone needs help getting on this group, please contact Mifflin Dove.





New Cornerstone directories are now available.

We printed extras, so if you would like to have a second one, feel free to take it, or ask Carol for a digital copy.

MEN'S TWC

A tentative date for the next TWC is Saturday, April 11.

Be on the look out for future announcements about whether or not this event will occur.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

(Continued from page 1)

our technology tools. Facetime, texts, and good old-fashioned phone calls are great ways to engage. Make a point to ask others how you can pray for them and take the time to share stories.

Small groups can still meet with Cornerstone's new Zoom account. This allows everyone to join via video. Our small group did this last Sunday evening and had a

blast. We caught up, shared prayer requests, prayed together, and played a game. It was surprisingly easy and a lot of fun. Our family joined in while driving in the car on our return from Oklahoma. So talk to your small group leader about getting this going.

One last thing: remember that you have been called to be salt and light in the world for such a time as

this. Your future is secure. The days recorded for you in God's book are the same as they were yesterday. Your refuge in Christ cannot be shaken by any virus, any economic downturn, nor anything else in all of creation, so "be strong and courageous" in your efforts to be a blessing to those God has brought into your life.



"Small groups can still meet with Cornerstone's new Zoom account."

IDEAS TO DO AT HOME

(Continued from page 4)

Helpful Ideas:

- **Keep a routine.** (Wake, shower, reading and coffee, news reading time, connect with someone time, etc.)
- **Limit reading news ALL DAY.** But do stay informed.
- **Celebrate** whatever you can in whatever way you can. Example: Send a video singing happy

birthday to those you cannot be with in person.

- **Let yourself and others be sad.** That's okay for a time.

While you are talking with others or comforting someone during this difficult and unprecedented time, "rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep". These are hard times and people are going to react in different ways. We need to be under-

standing of that. Listen with the purpose of understanding, identify with them, let them know you are there.

Isaiah 41:10

...fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (ESV)

A TIME LIKE NO OTHER

BY JONATHAN SHUMATE

How has your week been? Better yet, what waits for all of us as this week begins? Are you holding your breath as much as I am, waiting to see what will happen? Will the number of infections skyrocket? Will we start to see the healthcare system overwhelmed in densely populated areas? Will everything start returning to normal somehow by the week's end? How many of us might be losing our jobs?

The truth is, none of us know. What we do know is that all of us are experiencing major disruption in our lives. The kind of disruption that if it continues will take years, perhaps even decades to recover from, and nothing will go back to the way it was. My work now is to see that CrossLife fulfills its mission by serving people in ways that will make an impact during this crisis.

Last week Kathleen and I hosted our first Live event. We pulled a fantastic panel of guests, including Dr. Richard Winter, Dr. Manish Shah, Dr. Kathryn Buter, Julie Bogart, and Sarah Burkhart to discuss the Coronavirus and what we should do.

We had lots of folks watch the live roundtable, and it is now available on Facebook and YouTube. This was a big leap for me but we are not looking back. We are planning a live digital gathering for women this week and I will be sending out more information in the coming days.

If you see a need that fits CrossLife's mission to meet, please let me know. It is my hope to begin producing a lot more content, both recorded and live, over the coming weeks. Please pray the Lord blesses these plans.

I am meeting with a studio owner tomorrow near my house in the hopes of finding a



place to do more film production. Please pray this place is what the Lord wants, or that He leads me to the right place sometime this week. There is a lot in flux for us at the moment. I will probably send out another prayer email later this week. I hope and pray God steadies you as we face what is sure to be one of the most challenging weeks of our lives.

Thank you for your prayers for us. We are praying for you as well. If you have time, please drop me a personal note and let me know how you are doing so that I can pray for you more specifically.

In Christ,
Jonathan

“MY WORK NOW IS TO SEE THAT **CROSSLIFE** FULFILLS ITS MISSION BY SERVING PEOPLE IN WAYS THAT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT DURING THIS CRISIS.”

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BOOK?

Carol Kutzer is reading some of her favorite books for children on the Cornerstone Facebook page.

If you need something for your children to do, this is a good resource.

And if you would like to read one of your favorites, just let her know. It would be fun to see how many books we can share!



Carol is sharing some of her favorite books for children on the Cornerstone Facebook page.

We are not publishing a calendar this month, due to the “shelter in place” order. ...there’s not much going on. Be sure to wish the folks on the Birthday list a “Happy Birthday, though!

SOME FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

In response to our asking for your favorite Bible verses, here are a couple of responses that we got:



"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am"
(John 14:2-3 NIV).

In Him,
Daniel Cassady

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
(Romans 8:28)
Gene Cover

Be sure to send you favorite to the Covers at covergl@swbell.net.



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**On the Web @
www.cornerstonekaty.org**

*Seeking to renew our families,
our communities, and our world
by bringing faith and life
together in Christ.*