

# Pastor's Update: May 2020

Hello Emmanuel family,

As the month of April closes, I'm reminded that this is the month no one wanted. We are in unprecedented times as the nation and the world responds to the Corona Virus. As the season of spring arrives, the trees are budding and flowers blooming but for most of us, life seems to be standing still. We have been navigating uncharted territory with an incredible disruption to life as normal.

These past several weeks have been emotionally hard for all. Personal interaction has mainly been replaced with digital communication. The workplace has moved to the home. Public and private schools have now moved to home schooling. Sports have been put on pause and life as we are used to knowing is now changed.

Our hope does not come from:

- a miracle vaccine or cure.
- the stock market.
- our political leaders.
- the unemployment rate.
- our health.

So, where is hope in this time? Our hope has only and ever come from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:2)

## Kingdom Work Doesn't Stop:

The staff has been hard at work on ministering through different communication channels and has rearranged our planning for 2020 programming. Everyone, both paid and volunteer have been manning their ministry posts albeit in a different manner than before. As we all prepare to get back to church, it will most likely look a little different at first. I'm sure we all will savor the community which hasn't been a part of our normal routine for these past months. Please pray as we continue to make decisions on how to "reopen" church worship services. At the writing of this newsletter, we feel the best option may be to reopen in stages. More information will follow in this regards.

## Response to Online Services:

As you know, we've moved all services to a digital format to reach the area of Johnstown and beyond. This includes weekend services for adults, youth, kids and all other ministries! We are still seeing visitors come to our web and facebook pages and we're experiencing new people filling out connection cards and giving prayer requests. Ministry is still happening and the Lord continues to draw people to Him. Here's what one response from our online services read...

*"Please pray for my husband who has been unemployed for a while. We are starting to struggle financially. Also I want to thank you for streaming the service online last weekend, I used to come to Emmanuel every week but slowly got away from it. I forgot how great it is to worship here and to hear your testimonies. Once all these corona virus bans lift, I will be sure to start coming weekly again."*

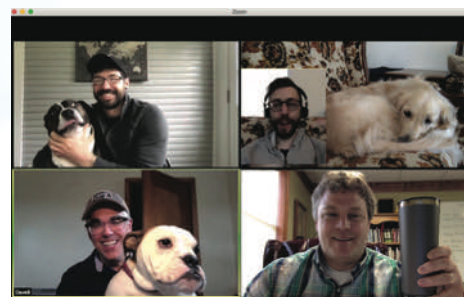
I'm so grateful for our video and worship teams that have been able to help us deliver the gospel online and via television these past 9 weeks. We are blessed with skilled people who know technology and it has allowed more to see and hear the Gospel than during a normal service weekend.

## Good Financial Health:

The church remains in good financial health in the midst of the slow down. While overall giving is down due to not having physical services, many have given their gifts through the online website tools the church offers or by simply mailing in tithes and offerings. To add, the staff has participated in a spending freeze with only bare



Recording our Services - No Crowd



Technical Meetings on Zoom



Deep Cleaning the Nursery Toys



Student Ministry Filming for Online Youth Services



New eKids Volunteer Shirts.



necessities being purchased. This has allowed the church to meet **all** financial needs in March and April of 2020. We are blessed by the generosity of those who call Emmanuel home and by the Godly stewardship of our boards and staff.

Likewise, the missions fund has held steady these past two months as we continue to meet all missionary commitments. We experienced the same dip in missions giving due to the inability to have physical church meetings. However, all March and April mission obligations have been met in the last week of each month by gifts to the general fund.

### What's Next:

While we never know what the future holds, we do know who holds the future. His name is Jesus. He has always been and will continue to always be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the head of the church and we are blessed being part of the family of God!

As the Lord allows, we are making tentative re-opening plans for church services in May of 2020. We will be meeting over these next two weeks as a staff and with our board chairs to etch out a process of re-opening our ministry programs.

While church will be different, we know God's Word and God Himself never changes!

Blessings until we see each other soon!

Pastor Kirk



eKids and e56 Filming for  
Online Services



Patti Miller  
Preschool Teaching Time  
Ellen Doyle  
eKids Teaching Time



Loriann Hutzler Nursery  
Teaching Time



### National Day of Prayer; Thursday, May 7th, 2020

This year, on May 7th, we are encouraging the body of Emmanuel to pray for these specific requests on or during the hours listed below when possible.

- 7:00am** Pray for God's glory to fill the earth – Habakkuk 2:14 (*This is The National Day of Prayer 2020 theme and verse*)
- 8:00am** Pray for the healing of our land and people – 2 Chronicles 7:14
- 9:00am** Pray for our government leaders, federal, state, and local – 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- 10:00am** Pray for our First Responders and Medical Health Workers – Ps. 82:3-4; Galatians 6:9
- 11:00am** Pray for our city to have a spiritual awakening, peace, and prosperity – Ephesians 1:17-21; Jeremiah 29:7
- 12:00pm** Pray for the salvation of the lost & open doors to share Christ with our neighbors – Acts 26:18; Colossians 4:3-4
- 1:00pm** Pray for our church leaders to have wisdom, direction, and boldness in preaching the gospel – Ephesians 6:19-20; James 1:5-6; Proverbs 3:5-6
- 2:00pm** Pray for the Persecuted Church that they would sense God's presence and comfort; that they would have wisdom in their covert ministry – Heb. 13:5; 2 Thess. 2:16-17; Acts 9:31
- 3:00pm** Pray for families to seek the Lord together, and to experience love, unity, forgiveness, and healthy relationships – Joshua 24:15; 1 Peter 3:8; Deuteronomy 6:9
- 4:00pm** Pray for the vulnerable, poor, needy, and oppressed among us – Deuteronomy 15:11; Psalm 103:6; 146:7-9; Isaiah 1:17
- 5:00pm** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem – Psalm 122:6
- 6:00pm** Pray for the spiritual growth of believers – Ephesians 3:16-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12



Sherry Hillman -  
Visitation Coordinator: A new  
costume picture every day  
during the quarantine

### Prime Time Schedule Change

May 2020 - No Meeting

June 2020 - No Meeting

July 2020 - No Meeting

August 2020 - Meeting  
time to be announced