

Newsletter of the Weatherly Heights Church of Christ

Weatherly Weekly

March 15, 2020

2020 Edition, Number 11

Unprecedented Uncertainty

Michael W. McLemore

Coronavirus and COVID-19, terms most had never heard until the last few weeks, will most likely never be forgotten. At no time in the lifetime of those living in our generation have we experienced these precautionary actions of government leaders and local officials. Colds are part of life. Flu is dreaded. Pneumonia is feared. But, Coronavirus? The truth is we don't know what to think of it, because it's so unfamiliar.

Why are many fearful? Why the panic? Why the rush to buy, of all things, toilet paper? Isn't it the fear of the unknown? Who will contract the illness? Who will get sick? Who will get "really" sick? Who will...? Well, you get the idea. Isn't it the unprecedented uncertainty?

We are afraid of what we don't understand. Man is afraid of the unknown. How does the child of God respond to the unknown, or to what he or she doesn't understand? How do God's people relate to the unprecedented?

LOOK UP — "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth," *Psalms 121:1*. We worship and serve the Creator of heaven and earth, who knows all things, and by whom all things are sustained. Fearful times demand that we remember the age old lessons of this song of ascent — "Look up!"

LOOK IN — "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?" *2 Corinthians 13:5*. The Lord promised that He would be in us, and we in Him, *John 17:23*. In unprecedented times we are called to examine ourselves — "Look in!"

LOOK OUT — "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others," *Philippians 2:4*. Uncertain days are not a license to be self-absorbed. Resist that temptation. Others are in need — "Look out!" □

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Blessed are the peacemakers

Michael W. McLemore

I've made no secret as to which of the "Beatitudes" is my favorite: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God," *Matthew 5:9, KJV*. God's people are the ones who wade into controversy with a voice of reason. We are to be known for our aversion to dissention or dispute. But, when we are found embroiled in it, *the sons of God* "seek to make peace."

I know it isn't possible to make peace in every circumstance, with every person. But, as followers of the Prince of Peace, we should make every effort to work for peace and good will among men. Paul wrote, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all," *Romans 12:18*. The Hebrew Writer said, "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord," *Hebrews 12:14*. Among the seven things that are an abomination to God is "one who sows discord among brothers," *Proverbs 6:19*. Peace is our business.

Increasingly God's people are being challenged to be culturally tolerant. God's people are "peacemakers" thus predisposed to tolerance. But, peace is not always possible. And, peace may not always depend upon me. Effective peacemakers must keep in mind...

Peace is not always possible when it comes to God's precepts of truth. In other words, there are some things that are not negotiable. Those that believe in the God of the Bible cannot accept or tolerate any other god. God said to the children of Israel, *Exodus 20:3-6 ASV*, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me... Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them, for I Jehovah thy God am a jealous God." Marriage is between one man and one woman for life, *Matthew 19:4-9*. Those who espouse to be the sons of God cannot accept or tolerate any other arrangement. Jesus said there is exclusivity in the path to God, *John 14:6*, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no

man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Apart from Jesus there is no path to God or claim on heaven as our eternal home.

Some do not want peace. They have a vested interest in power or prestige. Among the Jews of the first century, were leaders who acted as preventers to peace. Generally the Jewish people accepted the ministry of Jesus, as they had his forerunner, John the Baptist. However the Jewish leadership was enshrined in their power and prestige and refused to recognize that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Although some of the rulers did believe (eg., Nicodemus, *John 3*) they did not publicly verbalize it because they would be put out of the synagogue, *John 12:42*.

Jesus is our peace. When it comes to the peace that comes from God, the bottom line is that Jesus is our peacemaker between us, individually, and God. Peace with worldly man may never be possible, but peace with God has been secured through Christ: "and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross," *Colossians 1:20*.

The sons of God have been called to peace by a God of peace. When He called us to Himself, we found our peace. But, now that we have peace, we must make it. To that end, we must employ words of grace and wisdom as our sole tactics, renouncing carnal violence and tumult. Peacemaking is a divine work, bringing about reconciliation, as God is the author of peace and of reconciliation.

Being a peacemaker is part of being surrendered to God. We abandon the effort to get our needs met through the destruction of enemies. God comes to us in Christ to make peace with us; and we participate in God's grace as we go to our enemies with grace to make peace. □



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FAMILY MATTERS

FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Forest Summers was notified last Thursday that the small growth he noticed on his scalp is a return of his Lymphoma. He has an appointment Monday with his oncologist at the Cancer Center to consider his options. We will update everyone as information becomes available. Pray for **Forest & Dot**.

Ron Harmon will be moved Monday or Tuesday to **Curahealth Rehabilitation in Nashville**. We will relay precise contact information for Ron as soon as it is available. Ron requires specialized care. This was the best solution for his immediate needs. He will not be allowed any guests for the first two weeks. Pray for **Ron & Phyllis**.

Glenda Cavender remains at Redstone Village Rehab, room **5244b**. Please continue to pray for **Glenda & Ken**. Many of these kinds of facilities are closed to visitors. You will need to call ahead.

Melvin Godette continues to suffer from pain following surgery. He needs our prayers. Say his name to the Lord. Remember the entire **Godette family**.

Mike Coward is getting along okay. He is just very weak. Remember him to the Lord.

Melody Young is home. **Matt** is working from home mostly. On those days that he has to go into the office, Melody is going over to her mom's. Remember **Matt, Melody & Ray**.

Stacey Beshere was able to with us Sunday! We were all thrilled that she could. She will begin rehab shortly. This is a long process of healing.

Steven Guice is in the recovery phase of his second chemo treatment. Your continued prayers are appreciated. ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Marty Haselden **Betty Reavis**
Laura Phillips **Barbara Jean Woodard**

COVID-19 Precautions & News

Shawn Singleton, Julie's husband, is in Bulgaria on an extended work trip. Shawn has been out the country since early February. He is scheduled to return to the US on March 30th. Please pray for his safe return and for Julie's peace of mind.

Spring Sunday Night Study Series is CANCELLED until further notice in an abundance of caution. This is no easy decision but because of the potential that one of our older members could contract this from a child, who will typically present as asymptomatic, the elders deemed it best.

Services at Weatherly will be as follows **Sunday March 15 & March 22nd**. Bible classes have been suspended for the above reasons. Morning worship will begin as normal at 10 a.m. The evening assembly has been cancelled.

Wednesday evening Mike McLemore will be at the building for Bible study that will be streamed for those who would like to participate. No assembly Wednesday is planned. ☐

Group Three Meeting

Group Three, led by **Murray Castleman**, will meet briefly following worship this morning. Plan to attend your group meeting.

MARCH & APRIL BIRTHDAYS



MARCH 15, 2020

3-18	Susan Ivey	3-22	Thomas Hill
3-28	Adrienne West	4-2	Silvia Henderson
4-5	Carolynn Barr	4-6	Jerry Mitchell
4-8	William Hill		

Believe in the Lord

Michael W. McLemore

The religious view that a man is saved at the point of belief is almost universally embraced in Christendom. That a large majority of the religious hold to a particular view does not make it so. Advocates of this doctrine have largely arrived at this conclusion as a result of their misunderstanding of the Bible word "believe."

The Greek verb **pisteuo** is commonly translated by the English verb "believe." Many fail to acknowledge that this Greek verb is used in diverse ways in different contexts. Sometimes the word refers to the acceptance of the fact of something, as in James 2:19 — "the devils believe an shudder!" Sometimes "pisteuo" means only "mere acknowledgement of God's existence," Thayer, 512. Is this faith that saves? It is not.

Our point is made clear in the same immediate context. James in the next stroke cites Abraham of old to illustrate working **pisteuo** as indicative of faith that justifies — "faith that was active," 2:22. "Abraham believed God (pisteuo) and it was counted to him as righteousness" — and he was called the friend of God," 2:23.

The class of belief that saves stands ready to act in accord with God's will. It's not enough just to accept that He is, *Hebrews 11:6*. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 am
Sunday AM Assembly	10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly	5:00 pm
Wednesday Classes	7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:



Sermon archive or
live stream during
all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill	256 883-0010
Will Starks	256 883-5273
Forest Summers	256 348-2251

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Ron Harmon	Kirk Hatcher
David Jacks	Hill Roberts
Collis Terry	Bobby Wright



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, March 15

Welcome: **Forest Summers**
Song Leader: **Jared Jimison**
Opening Prayer: **Marty Hunt**
Scripture Reading: **Philip Dill**
Psalm 123, 124, 125
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Onward Rejoicing
Closing Prayer: **Ken Cavender**

Sunday, March 22

Forest Summers
Charles Hill
Collis Terry
Adam Hagewood
Exodus 23:20-33
Mike McLemore
We're Marching to Zion
Kirk Hatcher

Evening Worship

Study Series	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Songs Leader:		
Opening Prayer:	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Closing Prayer:		

Wednesday, March 18

Songs Leader:		
Invitation:	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Closing Prayer:		

Group 3

2020 Weatherly Lectures
April 30th—May 3rd

Tadd Corder, Wilson Adams,
Benjamin Lee & Matt Bassford

Group 4

Quarterly Adult Classes
January — March 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Galatians
Tommy Hill

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Gospel According to John
Mike McLemore

Serving in March

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Riley Monroe	Gene Preston
** Overseer	Dwight Ivey	Bill McCord
	John Beshere	Clark Boles
	Tommy Hill **	John Patrick
Lord's Supper PM	Kirk Hatcher **	John Stokes
Communion Prep Building Lockup		Sue Terry
		Collis Terry

