



GRAHAM STREET

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rooted - Growing - Reaching

December 27, 2020 Sunday

Bulletin Announcements and Updates—

“What We Have Learned from COVID”

Before I get into another installment of what we have learned from the COVID, let me wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and remind you that we will not publish a bulletin next week between Christmas and New Year's. We will, however, send out reminders of events and update the prayer list. This is a good time to say a “big thank you” to our church secretaries, Denise and Linda. Linda has been working from home during COVID and has done an excellent job. Denise, who at the time of this writing is home trying to recover from the Corona Virus and before that dealt with back surgery, and yet has somehow been able to continue to serve this church. They have both been such a blessing during a very difficult time.

3. COVID not only brings a very serious virus, but also a great deal of anxiety and stress, and therefore, we are called to practice greater patience with one another.

COVID has brought more than just a deadly pandemic disease to the world, it causes a great deal of complicating circumstances economically, psychologically and relationally. One of the stressors is the variety of feelings about the virus and the health protocols used to manage its spread. There are some who think that the virus is a hoax or a politically motivated emergency. And there are those who believe it is either a plague sent from God to bring repentance, or as a persecution from Satan. Probably in the middle are those who feel it is a real virus, but that it is either no big deal no more serious than any flu, or that it is a very serious, even deadly, highly contagious disease. These opinions of the virus cause people to react to the CDC recommended protocols accordingly. This includes: to either scoff and ridicule, or to think just continue as normal until nature produces herd immunity, or frantically take extreme caution as a hermit, or practice reasonable caution for themselves and others.

(Continued on page 2)



What We Have Learned From Covid Continued

These attitudes also impact the local congregation's efforts to try to keep people safe and healthy while continuing to try to practice the traditions and teachings of the church. Most church leaderships believe it is imperative for the church to continue to do the things commanded by our Lord that are part of the mission and practice of the Church, but they are challenged to find ways to do this with a flexibility that will ensure the best health practices and safeguards for members who may be most vulnerable to a virus that could cause them great harm or death. The problem for many church leaderships is not only the variety of views concerning the seriousness of the virus, but also there is disagreement on what are the commands of the Lord vs what are just traditions and opinions of people as to how to practice their religion. And then there is a third factor that plays into it, our religious freedom in America, to which some Christians feel is being infringed upon to be asked to comply with rules of masking and social distancing. So, there are people upset that we are not strict enough with our safety protocols, and there are people upset that we are practicing any protocols at all.

So how do we deal with this great divide?

- 1). Remember the Golden Rule! Mat. 7:12. If we treat people the way we would want to be treated, we would try to understand where they are in their emotions about this, whether we agree or not, and act toward them as we would wish to be treated if we had the same views.
- 2). Remember the greatest commandment is to love God and love our fellow man. Mat. 22:34-40. This love obeys the Lord's commands and serves the needs of others. John 13. Remember the Good Samaritan!
- 3). Put other's needs above your own. Phil. 2:1-5
- 4). Bear with one another in patience, keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Eph. 4:2-3. Practice the fruit of the Spirit Gal. 5:22-23.
- 5). Give the weaker brother room to grow, as you grow together in love. Rom. 12-15; 1 Cor. 8-10.
- 6.) Remember the grace we have been given and show grace. Eph. 4:32.



➤ **Texans for Christ College Ministry Announcement:** College students can stay up to date with what our college ministry has going on through our website <https://texansforchrist.org>

➤ **Youth Group Announcement:** **If you haven't yet**, please go to grahamstreetyouth.org to **fill out the Student Info Form**. This allows us to have current info for students & parents, as well as what activities students are involved in this school year. Young people, 7th –12th grade can stay up to date with what our Youth Group has going on through our website <https://www.grahamstreetyouth.org>

➤ **Members of our congregation are eligible to participate in the Church Audit Classes Program at Harding School of Theology.** You may audit select courses for only \$50. Spring 2021 courses include:

Ethics and Character Formation: Dr. Mark E. Powell (Tuesdays, 6-8:45 pm, Jan. 12 – May 4)

The Book of Revelation: Dr. Richard E. Oster, Jr. (Thursdays, 6-8:45 pm, Jan. 14 – May 6)

You may attend class live online via Zoom or you may watch the recordings later if you prefer. For more information or to register, visit hst.edu/church or call the HST Admissions Office at 901-432-7750.

➤ OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER IN STUDY AND PRAYER

There are no Sunday Bible Classes TONIGHT.

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:00 or 10:45 a.m. at the building.

Audio with Slides Recording on website (<https://grahamstreetchurch.com/sermons> **)**

Family Resources: <https://www.grahamstreetchurch.com/house-church>

“First Things First Bible Study” Video for Small Groups and Bible Classes is on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/grahamstreetchurch/>

Study materials on website: <https://www.grahamstreetchurch.com/house-church> or <https://grahamstreetchurch.com/small-group-materials>

Chronological Bible Reading: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/chronological.html>

Please see the new Thank You Cards from Barbara & Ray Sissom, and Peggy Glover on the hall Bulletin Board.



Charles Williams; Courtney Clayton; Fred Alvord; Mike Hughes; Perry Elliott; Ronnie Moring; Doug Gasset; Denise Powell; Paula Busby; Micaela Moore, Cynthia Price, Jody Caudle who has continuing health problems, Mike DeMott, Tabitha McClellan, James Young; Debbie Kitchens; Peggy Glover; Jerry Lindley; Pam Clayton; Billy Powell; Steve & Ginger Ham request prayers for their family; Bobby Tate; Bruce Caraway; Darrell Tucker; Chuck Gruenwald; Patti Wall, sister of Rebecca Stephens; The family of Paula Oliver, mother of Ronnie Oliver, who passed away this week (memorial graveside service in Rule to be schedule in 2021).

➤ UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, 12/27/2020—No evening Bible Classes

Thursday, 12/24/2020—January 01/01/2021 the Church Office is closed

Sunday, 01/03/2021—Special Sunday Night Service for everyone

(Important information will be shared at 5:00 p.m. in auditorium)

Sunday, 01/10/2021—Luncheon following 2nd service to plan for Sunday Morning Bible Classes

Sunday, 01/10/2021—Family Bible Class (FC) & Sunday Night Worship (Aud) 5:00 PM (also on Sunday, 1/24/2021)

Wednesday, 01/20/2021 — Bible Study called, “Getting to Know Jesus through the Old Testament”

Sunday, 01/24/2021—Church schedule changes—1st Service 8:30, Bible Classes 9:45, 2nd Service 11:00

Sunday, 01/31/2021—Fifth Sunday Singing 5:00 p.m. in Auditorium

➤ Giving Update

Contribution 12/20/2020 \$10031/ Budget: \$9,700/ YTD Contribution \$ 489,402 YTD Budget: \$494,700

Building Fund \$276,711 (this is the total amount given since start of Phase 2— the funds given to date have been used for the new roof and new A/C units.)

➤ Basic Needs Totals for December:

Seniors 126 Families Served 89 Individuals 291 New Families 7

Basic Needs is closed until the first full week of January 2021.

➤ NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Congratulations to all December 2020 Tarleton graduates, including Grace Herrod, Morgan Montgomery, and Ryli Pruitt, who have each been involved in the Texans for Christ ministry during their time at Tarleton.