



# New Life in Christ

## Weekend Newsletter and Worship Update

March 26, 2020

Join us for Worship this coming Lord's Day:

- Sunday @ 9 AM - Sunday School - How God is using Abundant to Minister to the Need for Foster Care and Adoption. ([LIVE STREAM](#))
- Sunday @ 10 AM - Worship Service - Pastor Sam preaching on this last Sunday of Missions Month ([LIVE STREAM](#))
- Sunday @ 6 PM - Evening Bible Study with Pastor Sean (Available only through Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/434779132> Or, you can call in at 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 434 779 132)
- Sunday @ 7 PM - YOUTH Group (Middle and High School) (Available through Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/579784545> Or, you can call in at 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 579 784 545)

## Pastoral Newsletter

### Resurrection: From Despair to Hope this Easter

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." - Isaiah 43:19*

Dear New Life in Christ Church Family,

The world has been brought to its knees. Just like the Tower of Babel, just when we think we're invincible, God humbles mankind with one seemingly small change that ripples through everything. The good news of the gospel is that God uses these changes to continue his redemptive purposes.

I may be overdramatic here, but I think we're at the end of an era. Things will not and cannot stay the same, at least for the next few years. We will need to adjust to a new normal that will last longer than just a few weeks.

The quarantine will end, business will begin again, and we shall meet again in worship. There will certainly be losses, and some will have to learn how to begin again. We will and we can. We will walk together in it.

I believe this will be a good thing, if we continually look to God in this. Let us be reminded of our need for God. Let us be repentant over our sins. Let us realize that God gives us far less punishment than we deserve, and way more grace.

Let us never forget the love of God, that he would send his Son to give eternal life. He suffered like we have, he knows our suffering and can relate, he has taken the wrath of God upon himself so there's nothing left against us, and so we can call out to our loving God for help.

There are a few things I am struck by over the last few weeks. Here are a few of them:

- *The omnipotence of God and the limits of man.* We may plan our course, but the Lord determines our steps. So many things can interrupt our best laid plans.
- *The need of the gospel.* This event has brought the nation back to our sense of mortality and limits. We are more confronted with death than we have been for decades. The gospel brings hope for those who are afraid of death, the wrath of God. It is no accident that this would happen during missions month. The nations need to hear!
- We have so many *opportunities* to minister and care. Just look for them and stay connected.
- *The need of community.* Physical distancing may keep us apart, but we cannot handle social distancing. We need people. I praise God for elders reaching out to our congregation. Most of them are still working (some with massive and difficult changes) and they are working to stay connected. Pastor Sam has been diligent in making sure every person is connected with an elder. If you need anything at all, please reach out to us.
- *We need to be together.* God's people need to be assembled for worship. Virtual gatherings will never replace the assembly of God's people. We get the sense of how we physically need to be together. I hope the church remembers this when the quarantine lifts, and we desire vacations and time away. The Lord's Day matters.
- That being said, *I am very grateful for the technological resources* that help us stay connected with one another. I'm grateful to Scott Oberlin and Drew Kittredge for getting our streaming services together so quickly. I'm grateful to have software tools like Zoom to help us gather in small groups. Our deacons have been diligently looking at ways we can use technology to continue our mission and stay connected, without replacing or need to be together.

Please stay connected in the days and weeks to come. I recently saw a church record from the 1918 Spanish flu. Many churches were banned for a period of time, some of them lasting as long as nine weeks! We will need each other in the weeks to come.

There is a state wide band that will keep us from meeting until April 24 unless something surprising and miraculous happens.

That will take us through good Friday and Easter Sunday. This will certainly be a time that we look to God for a new life in the resurrection of Christ.

*"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)*

We have some ideas in mind for that weekend. Please stay tuned for our plans for those days.

Check our Facebook page for updates. We will endeavor to keep up the calendar on our website. Finally keep looking to receive email newsletters.

Please communicate these messages to those who are not on our email list, so they can join in, and find the hope of Christ.

Faithfully Yours,  
Pastor Sean

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE >](#)

**New Life in  
Christ Church**



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