

April 17, 2020

Greetings Westside,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The cry of Easter was heard throughout our homes this past Sunday and now we walk in the truth of resurrection. The truth that we have done our absolute worst to God when we crucified Him on Friday yet He has never stopped loving us. He rose from the grave to prove that love and has invited us all into the wholeness and hope of a deep and abiding relationship with Him. We spend a lot of time and focus on God the Father and Jesus the Son, but in my devotional time these past few weeks God has really been speaking to me about the Holy Spirit. How now, perhaps more than ever, we need to focus on living holy lives that make it easy for others to believe in Jesus and living visibly in the life changing power of the Spirit that inspires others to want the same. John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard denomination, teaches that God wants His children to fly and the wings of our plane are holiness and the power of the Spirit. When we have both in a balanced and effective way, we cannot help but soar. Join me this week in soaring to new heights of faith and experiencing the life changing power of the Holy Spirit.

Here are our weekly updates:

Connection and Worship:

This will be our sixth Sunday worshipping via Facebook Live, and we will be at it for at least ew more weeks. Please join us Sunday morning at 11. If you are a Facebook user please comment that you have joined us and pass the peace with each other, especially welcoming the new folks who join us. While we have not been meeting in person in our sanctuary, God has blessed our worshipping efforts and our Sunday reach has seen amazing growth. Last week alone we had over 1,000 video views between Good Friday, Sunrise and Easter Sunday Worship. We have had folks joining from Indiana, Virginia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Please be sure to share our Facebook videos and posts, and to invite your friends to join us so we can continue to proclaim the Gospel in ever widening circles.

Discipleship:

Sunday School continues at 9:45 for the ladies and 11:45 for the men.

Bible Study is Tuesday night at 6:30 where we are beginning chapter 3 of 1st Thessalonians.

Youth now have game night via Zoom at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Missions:

We continue our Wednesday night meals and our opportunity to serve keeps growing. Last week we served 130 meals up from 97 the week before. If you need meals or know someone that does, please let Nicole, Margie or myself know by noon on Wednesday. This week we will be serving spaghetti, corn, salad and garlic bread. Meals are available for pickup at 5:30 or delivery in Hustonville/Moreland from 5:30 to 6:30.

Prayer:

As I have talked to many of you this week I have heard of a greater number of layoffs. This creates lots of new stress, but it doesn't take away from the reality that folks continue to experience the normal challenges of life like regular sickness or the loss of loved ones. We all need to experience the peace and power of the Holy Spirit.

Please take this time apart to develop a deep and abiding habit of praying for each other. If any of you need an individual time of prayer with me, please let me know. We can schedule a time to prayer via phone or we can set up a Zoom meeting to pray together face to face.

Generosity:

Thank you for continuing to give. As always, Electronic giving is available on the website (www.westsidecommunityumc.org/donate-now) or the church center app. Check or cash giving can happen via regular mail (2875 US Highway 127, Hustonville, 40437) or in person on Wednesday from 11 to 7.

We had a few families this past Wednesday make donations towards our meal ministry as an act of appreciation and gratitude. Some were just a couple of dollars, some \$10 and some \$20. We do not ask for donations, this was just God working through them and them wanting to do what they could to continue to make this blessing possible. A sort of modern version of feeding the 5,000. We have had enough every single week. This past week we had some calls after 5 for meals and we did not have to turn anyone away. We had exactly enough to feed all who needed a meal. God is so good! And His people are amazing!

We look forward to connecting with you on Sunday morning.

Your brother in Christ,

Faron