



# *The Messenger*

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

March 18, 2020 9:39 AM. My heart is grieving, and I have been praying, because of uncertainty. Are we having church? First of all, we cannot cancel church, and church is not something we have; church is something we are. But I know the question is really “are we gathering together with others to worship?” Because I appreciate corporate worship so much, I hate to cancel a worship service. My heart is heavy because I can see where the COVID-19 epidemic might take us, and it will be a decision I don’t like, and a way I don’t want to go. I have been a pastor for forty years, and I have never wanted to cancel a worship service for snow, but I have done so when the highway department has issued a winter weather warning, like this: “Heavy snow expected. Travel will be very difficult to impossible. Total snow accumulations of 6 to 12 inches are expected. Visibility will be a half mile or less at times.”

Now, because of a virus, I have to pray and think about canceling a worship service. COVID-19 has caused this warning from the Presidential Task Force, the Center for Disease Control, the Governor’s Office, and the Pulaski County Health Department: To stop the spread of Coronavirus “avoid groups of 10+. Organizations, including Faith Based Organizations, should cancel large meetings.” The definition of a large meeting started at 500 but in a week dropped to 10+. I have met with the church council and continue to meet and discuss the question, “Are we having church?” Today the answer is yes, we are, but that might change at any time. Our back-up will be to gather on social media, at Zion Hill Group on Facebook. The video of service can then be shared. Also, look for the service on the website <https://www.zionhillcabot.com/> under resources. Or call the church office for a CD copy of the audio.

My heart is heavy because of the retiree who shared her concern as she depended on investment income each month. My heart is heavy because of the mother with four children who has to work, but now school is closed, and she doesn’t make enough to pay for child care. My heart is heavy because of the young father who was told he will be laid off next month. I am praying for all affected by this pandemic.

Yet, my heart also rejoices because God is in control, He reigns on Heaven’s throne. He knows our sufferings, and He is ready to meet our needs. Admit you are a sinner, believe that Jesus died and arose so you can be forgiven, and confess that He is your Savior and Lord. We have a chance to understand that we are the Church. Each of us are members of Christ’s body, the Church. We are His hands, His feet, His heart as we love each other and reach the lost of the world. This crisis will pass, because when Christ builds His Church, the gates of hell, (or Coronavirus COVID-19), will not prevail against it.— Matthew 16:18

*Terry Fortner*

PS. After I finished the newsletter article the decision was made to cancel all group meetings at our church building. That decision seemed to be the best thing to do because of the spread of COVID-19. I encourage you to stay aware of the various announcements of government officials and agencies as this situation is changing. Practice social separation, and wash your hands often. And Pray Pray Pray!!!!!!

## April Calendar

1	6:30pm	Bible Study Online
5	11:00am	Service Online
	6:00pm	Bible Study Online
8	6:30pm	Bible Study Online
10		Good Friday/Office Closed
11	10:00am	Drive- <b>By Children's Easter</b> Celebration and Egging
12	6:30am	Sunrise Service, Sumner Cemetery
	11:00am	Easter Drive-In Service
	6:00pm	Bible Study Online
25	noon	McPherson Family Reunion, Fellowship Hall

The Church Council has not yet made a decision about services after April 12. We will stream Bible readings/stories on Facebook at 11am each Monday-Friday. If you would like to help with this, please call Kelly Welcher or the church office.

## Nominating Committee

Pray for this committee as they begin working this month to find the teachers, officers, and committees for ZH church year 2020-2021. Committee members are Diana Jones, Jane Laney, Nancy Prickett, Lanny Vines, Michelle Wyatt, and Kelly Welcher.

### April Shoebox Items

Boy: 3/4" dowel rod (fishing pole), hooks, lines, bobbers, sinkers for fishing kit.

Girl: Thread, needles, tape measure, thimbles, buttons, for sewing kit.

Both: small scissors, school pencil supply box.

### Associate Pastor Search

Pray for the Personnel Committee as they begin the search for an Associate Pastor for Zion Hill following the resignation of Bro. Matt Hill. Pray for Bro. Matt and his family while they seek God's guidance at this time.

## Mission North Pulaski Refocused

NPBA has cancelled the May 2 One Day Mission Trip to focus on churches serving in place. Each church is encouraged to focus on meeting the needs of its church members and surrounding community. Some ideas are: online streaming of services and Bible studies, Prayer Walking, prayer focused on the coronavirus outbreak, food banks, meals for pick-up, and shopping services. Zion Hill is implementing some of these ideas, and will do more as needs arise. Everyone can pray, and most of us can do prayer walking, either in our neighborhoods, or at the church, keeping a safe distance from others. Think of the benefits to our physical and mental health, while enjoying the beauty of God's creation, new each day.

## Contact Us

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**Please use the following contact info when the church office is closed on weekends and holidays.**

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**Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday services can be viewed at [www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons](http://www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons).**

## Easter Activities

If you have plastic eggs that you took home to fill with candy for the Children's Easter Celebration, please try to return them to the Breezeway by Thursday, April 2, filled or unfilled.

Kelly Welcher, Children's Director, is working on a special Easter Celebration for our kids, a Drive-By Easter Celebration and Egging! Saturday, April 11, from 10-noon, children will stay in their car while mom or dad drives through the church parking lot. Hopkins the Easter Bunny will hand out goody-filled eggs. Each child will receive a craft to make at home. Bro. Terry will share the true meaning of Easter—a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. There is much more planned, but we don't want to reveal everything!

The sunrise service at Sumner Cemetery is still scheduled for 6:30 April 12.

Easter Sunday at 11:00 a drive-in church service in back of the Fellowship Hall is being planned. You can stay in your car and tune in with your radio. If it should rain that day, plans will have to be changed, of course. If you receive emails from the church, please check your mailbox frequently for updates. If you don't receive email messages, feel free to call any of the contact numbers listed above for up-to-date information.

We are committed to keeping everyone safe, healthy, and informed. We are counting on you to keep us informed about your family, friends, and anyone that might need assistance. Several people have volunteered to pick up groceries and prescriptions for others who don't want or need to get out. Please call the church office if you can use this assistance.

## Plans for Future Services

At this time the Church Council has not made a decision about services and meetings resuming at Zion Hill. You know that depends on when the current COVID-19 pandemic subsides to the extent that we don't have to social distancing to avoid catching this potentially deadly virus. Please continue to pray for God's intervention in stopping COVID-19.