



The Messenger

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

There is an important day, that we almost never celebrate in church today. It is Pentecost. In the Old Testament it was significant for it was the celebration of the early harvest, and the Feast of First Fruits, called *Shavuot*. Pentecost is a Greek word and translated it means fifty. That is because it is 50 days after Passover. It was originally a feast of celebration of the early harvest which sustained Israel until the greater fall harvest. It was also a day which commemorated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. In the book of Acts the disciples were gathered in the upper room on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Afterwards In the church it was the 7th week after Easter. This year May 31 is Pentecost Sunday.

In Acts 2:1-13 the filling of the Church by the holy Spirit is described. It was just 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the church had been waiting, and praying, they even conducted a business meeting to replace Judas Iscariot with Matthias as one of the 12 apostles. They were united in one place, and in one accord.

As I consider these words from Acts. It seems that like those early Christians, we too have been bogged down waiting between Easter and Pentecost. We have been focused on the pardon of the Cross and the Empty Tomb, but do we have the power of Pentecost? The power promised by Christ who said that when He left us, He would send us the Holy Spirit, who would make it possible for us to do greater works than Jesus did.

In Acts 2 I find that if a church wants the power it must first have the preparation. As we have been waiting in these weeks have, we done so with prayer, and submission, and supplication in Christ. If we have then we are prepared for the day of Pentecost.

Bethlehem was God with us. Calvary was God for us. Pentecost is God in us. The invisible, irresistible, influential, Holy Spirit, living in you desires to do great things through you. Do not quench Him or resist Him. Let Him work in you to reach other people just like you with the message of God's saving grace.

Terry Fortner

Dear Friends and Family of Zion Hill Baptist Church,

As we begin to move back into a time of being able to hold services in our church facility, we seek God's guidance and request your prayers, understanding, and continued support. There is no possible way we can accommodate everyone's ideas concerning the proper way to move forward. We have done all we can to try and follow the guidance of our legal authorities. Please continue your patience and grace to the staff and each other as we strive together in this effort.

We plan to open May 31 for morning worship only. We are asking everyone to adhere to the recommendations from the Arkansas Department of Health and the Governor's office as it relates to precautions. A list of the precautions and procedures we must follow is included below.

At this time, we will not be hosting any meetings other than morning worship, but small groups are encouraged to continue using every means possible to stay connected. I want to encourage our Bible Study groups and Sunday School classes to consider meeting outside and social distanced. If you are able, try meeting by using Zoom. Use your telephones, social media, or any means available to minister to one another.

We fully understand that some should stay at home and others will opt to remain apart for the mean time, but we are excited that we can start discussing connecting in worship and ministry again.

OPENING

- Sunday, May 31, we will open for Sunday morning worship only (no Children's Church or Sunday School). That will be at 11:00.
- It is understood that by being present for the service you are aware that there is an increased health risk, and that you will cooperate and follow the instructions so that everyone who attends will be comfortable, and we will be as safe as possible.

SELF RESTRICTIONS

- Anyone with "at-risk" concerns should not attend the physical gatherings.
- Anyone with any symptoms should not attend the physical gatherings.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- In the worship center there is to be six feet between families living in the same house.
- Family units should not exceed 10.
- Make every effort to maintain six-foot social distancing even in hallways and bathrooms.

PERSONAL PRECAUTIONS

- Everyone ten years old and older must wear a mask. Bring your own mask, if possible. If you do not have a mask the church will provide you with a disposable one.
- There should be no hand shaking, elbow or fist bumping, and no hugging. A wave and friendly nod will have to be all you do now.
- We are not allowed to offer children or youth classes. Children must stay with family.
- Everyone is to keep hands washed and/or sanitized (hand sanitizer is available in the foyer).

ENTERING AND EXITING

- Entering and exiting will only be available through the front door to the worship center.
- The basement and office area will remain locked and the alarms will be set.
- We will be dismissed by sections to facilitate better social distancing.

SANITIZING OUR FACILITIES

- Every effort will be made to sanitize the facilities that will be in use before any occupancy takes place. (We have purchased a disinfectant to use for physical cleaning).
- Only one person at a time can be allowed in the restrooms, and those rooms will be cleaned and disinfected before being used again. (We have some members who have volunteered to do the necessary clean up).
- Please do not enter the unopened areas of the church building. This will help with cleaning and disinfecting after the service.
- Offering plates will not be passed. There are containers at the back of the worship center.
- All Bibles and other materials will be removed from the pews.

ON-LINE SERVICES

- We have been streaming our services and that will continue.
- On-line services remain the best and safest way to participate in worship at this time.

SMALL GROUPS

- Small group meetings are restricted on-site until "phase 3." Decisions will be made at the appropriate time in regards to their opening. Many are effectively using Zoom or other social media. We do encourage conference calling, outdoor meetings, and appropriately conducted in-home meetings (social distancing, etc.), when available.

We have several options available to stream our worship service.

- Website (www.zionhillcabot.com)
- Facebook on a private page. Find it by searching, Zion Hill Baptist Church Cabot.
- On the App VIMEO on a smart phone or smart TV.
- A CD audio of the message is available by calling the church office.

I am looking forward to being together for worship again. May God bless you, and may He keep you safe and in good health. Praise Him for His goodness and His grace.

Terry Fortner