

THE WORD

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 10, 2020 Vol. 72, No. 9

Little Reminders of Faith

Coronavirus: Do not be afraid. Do something.

How many times does the Bible say, "Fear not"?

- Isaiah 41.10, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you..."
- Genesis 15.1, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield..."
- Joshua 10.25, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous..."
- Matthew 8.26, "Why are you afraid?"

Some form of "do not be afraid" comes up again and again in scripture. Various searches yield different totals. An internet search suggested 170-365 times when "fear not" comes up in the Bible. Part of the reason for the range of occurrences could be the variance in English translations. The theme of trusting God comes up repeatedly. Yet, at this moment, fear seems to be spreading like a wildfire.

This current wave of fear seems to be spreading because of the threat of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The U.S. stock market reflected this fear as it tumbled last week and again yesterday. The prices of disposable masks have skyrocketed. Travel restrictions and mandatory temperature checks are becoming more common.

The coronavirus is more dangerous than the more common flu. According to CDC data, 0.05% of people in the U.S. who caught the flu this year have died from it. According to the World Health Organization, the mortality rate from COVID-19 to be around 3.4%. Fears are not baseless, yet hype in the media magnifies fears. COVID-19 is real. It will spread. It could get bad, and politicians who mishandle the situation could make it worse.

WATCH

SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

March 15, 2020
11:00 AM

Sermon:
"The Gift of Thirst"
Rev. Will Brown

Scripture:
John 4:5-42

Anthem:
"Rivers of Living Water" *arr.*
Marroli

Deacons: Michelle Proffitt,
Jimmy Li, Erin Brown, Raynell
Stokes, Jim Moore, Nelda
Vaughan, Shirley Clark

Nursery: Karen Minor, Debra
Bryant, Carter Groff

Children's Church: Amanda
Ohlms, Jonah Ohlma

Ushers for March: Ian Pallini, Ed
Barker, Melvin Spicer, Mildred
Spicer, Ron Tweel

Greeters: Jim Hallissy, Pam
Hallissy

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 Tuesday Work Team
1:00 Annie Armstrong Circle
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

(NO Wed. Dinner or Program)
10:00 PBJ Bible Study
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Practice

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

6:30 Deacons Meeting
Jubilate returns from tour

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

9:30 Seekers Class
9:45 Sunday Bible Study
9:45 ESOL Class
11:00 Morning Worship
5:00 Acoustic Vespers Service
6:00 Youth Real Life

MONDAY, MARCH 16

10:30 Rosewood Bible Study
12:00 Missions Council Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

9:00 Tuesday Work Team

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

(NO Wed. Dinner or Program)
10:00 PBJ Bible Study
6:30 Sanctuary Choir Practice

Prayer Concerns

Sympathy to Lily Pallini and family after the death of Lily's sister in Brazil.

Pray for all of those who have been affected by the Coronavirus.

Should we be afraid? Not according to the Bible. However, God does not call people to foolheartedly run toward danger. When David fought Goliath, the story reflects God's anointment of David, not an eternal truth for every skinny kid to attack every monster. When we read about the king's guards throwing Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into a furnace, we do not take the lesson that we should dive into a crematorium. The story is about a God who will provide. When Jesus rose on the third day, the takeaway is not to confront empires. It is a story of God's power over death.

If we should not be afraid, what should we do?

- Wash our hands.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Drink plenty of fluids, rest, exercise, and continue (or develop?) a healthy lifestyle.

According to the CDC, prevention for COVID-19 includes avoiding touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. They also suggest avoiding close contact with people who are sick and staying home when one is sick. Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces are good ideas. All of these suggestions would prevent other communicable diseases.

Don't be afraid. Do something.

Peace,
Matt



Jubilate Update

Jubilate's tour to Virginia Beach is off to a great start! Here you can see Jubilate singing at a senior living facility near the Chesapeake Bay. Jubilate is singing well and enjoying time spent with Anne and W.C. Keith, who are serving as hosts for Jubilate this week. Please pray for their safety as they return to Charlottesville on Thursday.

Lenten Series: Reminders of Faith

This year, our theme for Lent is “Reminders of Faith.” What reminds us of our faith? Some coins? A few stones? A bucket? A pair of eyeglasses? Some bones? A palm branch? A towel? Each of these items will appear during our Lenten worship services. Each one connects to one of the central scripture passages of Lent. These common items can serve as a prompt for us to start seeing reminders of our faith in Christ daily. Then, the Lenten journey can continue beyond Easter. Reminders from everyday items can become a significant part of our faith journey.



Report on Called Church Conference

At the Called Church Conference on Sunday, March 8, the church approved the Search Committee for the new Associate Minister who will work primarily with students. Members of the Search Committee are [Sarah Ames](#), [Martha Ballenger](#), [Amanda Ohlms](#), [Roy Thomas](#), [Daniel Harper](#), [Rachel Miller](#), [Laura Martindale](#), and [Kevin Wright](#).



Terry Maples from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia (pictured) presented a check to help us begin this ministry. CBFVA is partnering with us to launch this new emphasis on collegiate ministry by providing a \$25,000 grant.

Wednesday Night Dinners and Programs

There will be no dinners and programs during the month of March. Our plan is to resume the dinners later in the spring, during the Easter season. Details will be announced in The Word as that time draws closer.

Offering Collection during Lent

During the season of Lent, our offering collection will take a different form, as we seek to consider the various ways people give to the church financially and otherwise. Our Deacons have decided not to pass the offering plates during these six Lenten Sundays, but instead to provide several locations where people can place their offering before or after the service. Our worship will still have a time of reflection which will be thematically integrated into the service.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 3pm, at the home of Donna and Forrest Marshall.

- Bounce house, corn dogs, bunny cake
- Bring a basket to collect the eggs.
- Bring your kites, fishing poles, balls, and riding toys.

If you're planning to come, please bring 1-2 dozen plastic eggs filled with candy to the church by the week before. (No Peanuts!)

RSVP to Will Brown



DID YOU KNOW?

Volunteers from our church regularly come and spend time in the Prayer Room on the 3rd floor. They pray for concerns that have been shared, pray for our church, and send PrayerGrams. If you'd like to participate in this ministry, or to learn more about it, talk to Betty Barker or any members of the Intercessory Prayer Team. If you have prayer concerns to share with the team, simply

contact the church office.

Acoustic Vespers

You are invited to join us each Sunday evening, 5:00-5:30pm, for a relaxed time of worship in our sanctuary. Our hope is that this service will provide a worship opportunity for those unable to attend worship at 11am, while also being an easier entry point for college students and others who may not be drawn to a morning worship service. Come worship with us!

Volunteer Needed

Interested in greeting people new to our church? We are looking for someone to serve as a Greeter at our Acoustic Vespers service, helping guests to feel welcome. Talk to one of our ministers for more information.

Sunday Dinners

We need some people to help prepare and/or server dinner to the youth and Jubilate on Sunday evenings.

Offering Envelopes

If you use offering envelopes and need more, please contact the church office. We print them in the office and will happily print more if you have run out. Please come by anytime to pick them up or contact the office and we will send them to you.

Save the Date

Lecture Series -Remi Braugue – March 24-26

Easter Egg Hunt – April 4

Operation Inasmuch (OIAM) – April 25

Vacation Bible School – June 15-19

University Baptist Church

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