

# Hoover Ladies Newsletter

## Special QUARANTINE EDITION

Sunday, March 15, 2020 is a day that I will never forget. This day something happened that I never, in my wildest dreams would have EVER anticipated. On this day, the elders - after discussion with our member physicians - announced that the doors of the Hoover Church of Christ would be closed. Not only closed, but with no real idea of a potential re-opening date. We would no longer be able to attend a physical service in our building and worship as a congregation with our brothers and sisters in Christ - for an indefinite period of time.

I am sure that I am not the only one sitting in the pews that fateful morning whose heart literally sank and whose eyes filled with tears. A feeling of dread washed over me - not able to assemble as the Lords body of believers? I could hardly grasp the situation.

Our elders, deacons and ministers closed our doors that Sunday morning out of love for the body. No one knew exactly how this virus would manifest itself here in America. The numbers of infections and deaths in other countries were astounding. Our leaders wanted to protect us, to shelter us from harm, to be safe with our lives - rather than sorry. How blessed we are to have such caring and conscientious shepherds of our flock! The church doors were not barred because of persecution - we were not forbidden to come due to threat of violence, arrest or harassment. Our doors were locked (temporarily) due to love, care and concern for each and every member.

I am sure that each of you, like myself, have dealt with a multitude of varying emotions during the last 12 weeks. Some of you have experienced loss of job or income. Some of you have been cut off from family, friends and the outside world - the human interaction we desire. These have truly been trying times. "Troublesome times are here, filling our hearts with fear, freedom we all hold dear, now is at stake..." was a reality, not just a song.

However, I hope that in the past 3 months you have also used the time to become closer to the Lord, to read your Bibles more, to assist those in need as you could, to pray with more purpose, and to participate in the online worship service (thank God for technology! Can I get an AMEN?!). But most of all, I hope that you have learned to place your trust more fully in the Lord, as I have. Many things have seemed out of our control. But God has been in control the whole time. I think I can safely say that He has watched over and taken care of each and every member during this pandemic.

As I once again took my seat in my usual area of the building this morning, the joy of assembling with the Saints filled my heart. Singing in unison praises to God, looking around at the small but dedicated band of believers, partaking of the communion meal as a corporate body, and fellowshiping (albeit from afar) before and after service was much needed medicine for my soul. I will NEVER again take for granted the privilege of assembling with members of the Church of Christ!

Denia Petruzella

*For the newsletters this year, we will also be focusing on adding the Christian graces to our faith.*

We will be using these verses from **2 Peter 1** as our source of inspiration;

**"2** Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

**3** His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**5** For this very reason, make every effort to add to your **faith virtue (goodness); and to virtue, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.**

**8** For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

**10** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, **11** and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

## **KNOWLEDGE** by Tiffany Roberts

During one of our mission trips to Tanzania, we were participating in what we called "Encouragement Day". This is where we spend the day bringing supplies and offering encouragement to local members of the church. Doreen, Dunia, Mkunde (our translator) and myself went to the home of a local church member. We took her a duffel bag full of food and supplies, as well as toys for her son. Overall, this was a very emotional morning. Doreen talked a lot about encouragement, and we all talked about times in our life when we really struggled and needed to be encouraged. When Doreen asked this lady if she had any struggles in her life that she would like to talk about and have us pray for, tears immediately began to fall and she began to sob. She was struggling with discouragement, with life in general and a situation that she did not know how to handle. I felt like she had been holding so many things inside of her for so long, and just really needed someone that cared to simply ask her how she was doing and be willing to listen.

After talking and praying, we presented the lady with a duffel bag full of food, clothing, first aid supplies, and a few other things. She was obviously very thankful. But after searching through the bag for a while, her eyes suddenly lit up. The one item that she pulled from the bag was the Bible, and she held it to her chest.

In one short instance, this lady who I had only briefly known, reached into my heart and convicted me. She taught me how much I take my Bible and my ability to study it for granted. Her love of the written word of God inspired me. She knew that its message was a better balm for her soul than anything else we could possibly have given her.

So why do we take it for granted?

Why do we neglect the pages of truth and knowledge that have been carefully preserved and set before us as an extraordinary gift?

We get busy. We make excuses. We have things to do and places to go. People to see. We convince ourselves that it isn't necessary or "I'll do it later." It's an issue of wrong priorities and a heart that isn't fully aware of the magnitude of such an incredible gift.

## KNOWLEDGE continued

It's no wonder that KNOWLEDGE is one of the virtues laid out before us in I Peter chapter 2. Verse 2 states, "May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."

Our world is full of uncertainty and chaos, perhaps more now than many of us have ever witnessed. Its probable that some of us have allowed turmoil and despair to take lodging in our minds and hearts. Maybe we've allowed the voice of Satan to whisper discouragements into our ears. But where does Peter tell us that we can find grace and peace? It is in the KNOWLEDGE of God and of Jesus our Lord.

In verse 3, Peter continues saying, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence." Our all-knowing, all-loving Savior has given us everything we need to know, and we find it by knowing Him. How can we get to know Him if we neglect His word?

The Bereans in Acts chapter 17 were "more noble" than others because "they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see with these things were so." Do we receive the scriptures with eagerness? Are we examining them daily? If not, why not? A love of God comes with a love of His word. Truly getting to know God involves reading and studying His word. Knowing that the God of the universe is willing and eager to communicate with us is astounding! Let us not take that gift for granted.

In these days of uncertainty and unrest, I'd like to leave you with the same admonition as Peter 3:18. He states, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

## SELF-CONTROL

FROM

<http://studyforwomen.blogspot.com/2018/10/todays-vitamin-is-self-control.html>

The third additive to our faith, as listed in 2 Peter 1:6, is *self-control*. Some translations call it "temperance." The dictionary reveals a couple of synonyms: moderation and self-restraint. God's Word tells us that if we don't have self control, we will end up being slaves to the things that do control us. Those can be food, money, lust, popularity (or the desire for it), anger, and more. We can become overwhelmed with the consequences of not having self control in many different areas of our lives. If we can (with the help of the Spirit) be self controlled, we are laying a foundation for living that life of righteousness that we desire.

Do we want to reflect righteousness and selflessness? Do we want to imitate our Savior and bring glory to God? We can tap into His power to bring sins under control.

*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (II Timothy 1:7)*

*I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)*

As believers, we are to control our flesh, our passions, and our natural desires -- instead of allowing them to control us!

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:24-25)*

Self control is NOT reacting in the heat of the moment, but reacting in the way that Jesus would. Do you remember the bracelets that were so popular for a while? They had on them in one form or another, beads, letters, or engraving, these letters: W W J D? They were intended to remind the wearer to ask himself or herself, "What would Jesus do?" In this way, they would step back and try to respond as Jesus would, in each situation that they encountered.

Each and every day that we are blessed to be here on earth, enjoying the grace of God and His many blessings, we will encounter people and circumstances that require a response from us. Many times we will be tempted to respond in the heat of the moment, and we'll be tempted to sin. Will we resist that temptation and respond as Jesus would? Or will we give in and disobey God?

How to react...if someone cuts you off in traffic, or cuts you off in conversation? If someone grabs your promotion at work, or if they grab the produce you wanted at the grocery store? Will we be gracious?

Will we be self controlled?

It's not a bad idea to revive that question: "What would Jesus do?"

Or to rephrase it: "How would Jesus respond?"

We may think to ourselves that it's impossible to react the way that He would. And it's true, if we are relying just on our flesh, we will have epic failures!

But self control is one of the gifts of the Spirit:

**Galatians 5: 16** So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law... **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

God has indeed given us what we need, but we must continue to walk in the Spirit. In order to respond as Jesus would, we must supplement our faith, add a vitamin, so to speak -- add the vitamin of self control and we will see growth in our walk with Jesus Christ!



Lord, help us to respond to this world as you would; help us to rely on Your Spirit as we try to exhibit self control!



## *Milestones During the Lock Down*



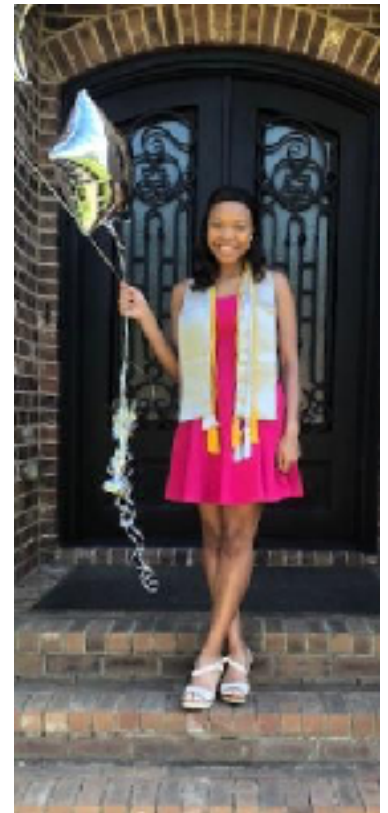
Grant and Jennifer Dalton  
25th Anniversary  
May 20th

Annie Spivey was born (2/19/2020) less than a month before quarantine started. *"We hadn't started venturing out yet before everything shut down. We can't wait for her to finally meet everybody!"*



Jeff and Mollye Melton celebrated 35 years of marriage during this pandemic. *"Who knew in those young eyes (engagement photo attached) that we would celebrate a marriage during a pandemic!"*

The Hicks family celebrated the 16th birthday of Carson and the College graduation of Kennedy



**HONORING OUR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS!**  
**We are praying for your health and safety and  
we thank you for your love and care for others!**

**Joel Abbott - Doctor**

**NiKesha Fantroy -nurse**

**Ashton Henry - nurse**

**Caleb Henry - nurse**

**Jason McKeown - anesthesiologist**

**Sondra Moss- nurse(hospice)**

**Walden Schlundt -Nurse Practitioner**

**Landon Wadley - nurse(hospital)**

**Becky Smith -nurse (hospital)**

**Lajuana Logan - anesthesiologist**

**Marla Troughton -Doctor (Red Cross)**

**Ashley & Sam Goff -physical therapist**

**Britania Butler - nursing home  
administrator**

**Nolan Williams- physical therapist**

**Kay Lyles -nurse**

**Kristin Dees- pharmacist**

**Lee Bowman- nurse (hospital,  
employee health?)**

**Giana Kidwell -nurse(home health)**

**Rick Williams -optometrist**

**Karissa Schlundt- social worker  
(hospital)**

**Jeff & Holly Church- pharmacists**

**Heather Searcy- pharmacist**

**Brooke Williams- pharmacist**

**Beth Burleson- MRI**

**Kasey Guill- speech pathologist**

**Nathan Guill - Nurse**



We are asking for certain donations during particular quarters. We hope that this will allow you to donate even more throughout the year and not only when its close to time.

Winter quarter(December, January, February): Men's underwear and socks

Spring quarter(March, April, May): Women's underwear and socks

Summer quarter(June, July, August): Children's underwear and socks

Fall quarter(September, October, November): Toiletries, feminine products, diapers, medicines, first aid tools, etc.

Please make sure that all of the items donated are NEW in package products. Jamie Starnes

# HONORING OUR 2020 GRADUATES!!



## **Chloe Arnold**

Hoover High c/o 2020

Chloe is attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham as a Dean's Scholar to study nursing. Her ultimate dream is to attend law school and become a nurse attorney after working as a neonatal nurse.

## **Nya Verdell Gagauma**

Hoover High c/o 2020

Future Plans- Attend the University of Alabama majoring in marketing with a minor in apparel and textiles. Nya aspires to become an entrepreneur in the fashion industry upon completion at UA.



## **Keegan Holland**

Keegan graduated from Evangel Christian School where he was a member of the National Homeschool Honor Society and the varsity soccer team. He is going to Auburn on an academic scholarship to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.





## **Marcanthony Xavier Jenkins**

Marcanthony Xavier Jenkins is a graduate of Calera High School. He plans to take a year to rest from studies while also researching ways to break into the modeling business. He also plans to secure employment which will provide him “real world” career experience.

## **Keeley Percer**

Keeley graduated from Oak Mountain High School. She will be attending Faulkner University in Montgomery, with both academic and sports scholarships. Keeley is studying biology and pre-vet. She also made the cheerleading squad.



## **Kyle Percer**

Kyle graduated from Oak Mountain High School. He will be attending Faulkner University in Montgomery, with both academic and sports scholarships. Kyle is studying computer science and will continue drawing.

## **Mya Rumph**

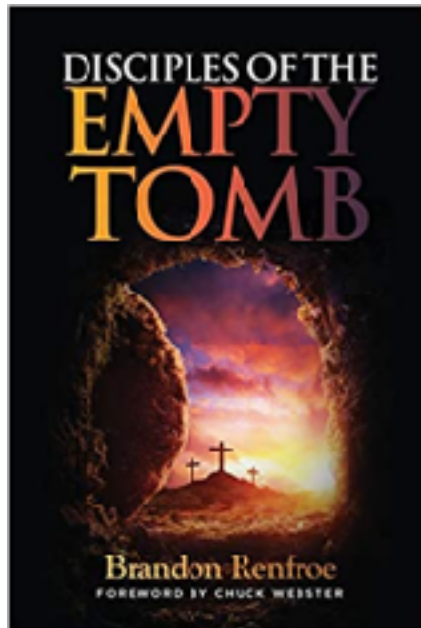
Mya is a graduate of Hoover High School. She plans to attend The University of South Alabama in the fall. Her Major will be Business (Accounting/Marketing).







**Each quarter we will highlight some faith-based books or movies our ladies have read or seen. If you'd like to submit a book or a film review, please email Denia Petruzella. Include a short description of the book/movie, and what you learned from it.**



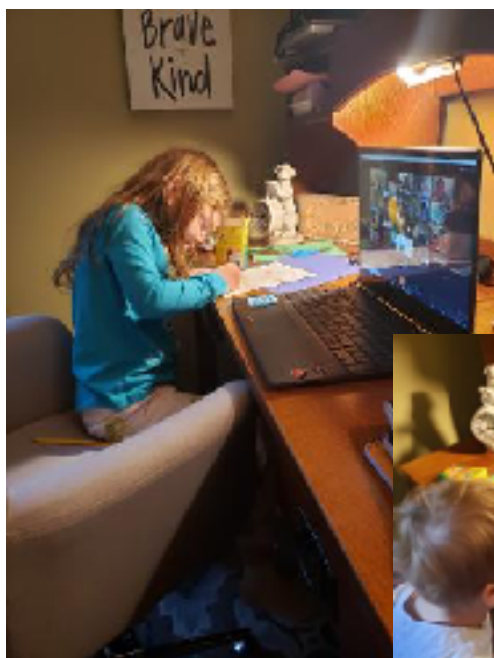
In his book, "Disciples of the Empty Tomb," Brandon Renfro boldly proclaims that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central event in history. It is also the very heart of Christianity. Using clear language and proof from the Bible and other historical writings Brandon Renfro examines the significance of Christ's resurrection. He defends its historicity against skeptical attacks and explores its implications for our daily lives—and beyond. This book is relatively short - only 96 pages - and is a very easy read. Brandon is a school teacher in life and it shows in his writing. He succeeds in keeping your attention on the serious topic of the resurrection of Jesus, while at the same time interjecting personal stories and anecdotes. This book is informative, encouraging and engaging.

Denia Petruzella



The American Red Cross has expressed their gratitude and recognition of the tremendous support our Elders and members have provided through several very successful blood drives. With the emergence of COVID-19 in March, the majority of blood drives were cancelled leaving significant concern for the ability of our local hospitals to meet the ongoing needs of patients. Our Elders responded to a call from the Red Cross for assistance and we hosted a drive on April 14th that yielded 36 much needed units of blood. Many thanks to our members who continue to contribute to this vital need in our community.

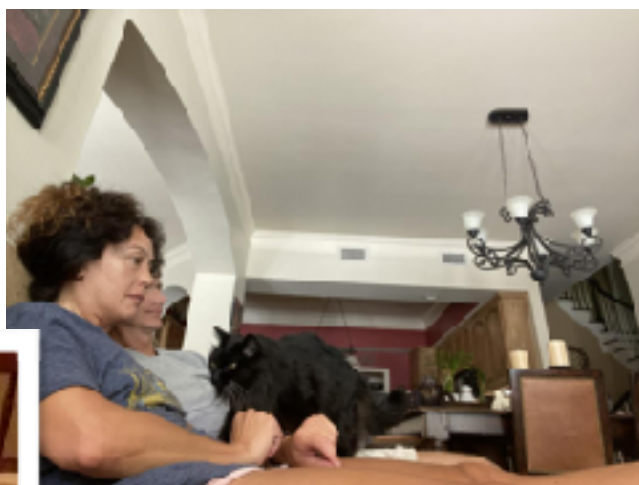
# CHILDREN'S ZOOM BIBLE CLASSES



## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES



The Covingtons met with a small group of members to watch online services and worship together.



Jay and Kathleen Eiring and Binx the cat watching service on the ipad. "You'll never see me worshipping without makeup again! I hope!!!"



Lynne Nichols set up for home church service.



## **FAITH IN ACTION-ACTS OF KINDNESS**

Beautiful flowers delivered  
to Lynne Nichols



"One way we tried to help others is by making reusable face masks. Some of my friends mentioned that they couldn't find face masks to fit their kids, so we pulled out the sewing machine and our stack of fabric remnants and got to work." Jennifer Dalton

Masks made for nurses, firemen  
and others. By Kathleen Eiring



## **ENCOURAGEMENT TEAM - SHARING HEARTS AND LOVE**







**ENCOURAGEMENT TEAM MADE HOT CHOCOLATE CUPS FOR THE MEMBERS**



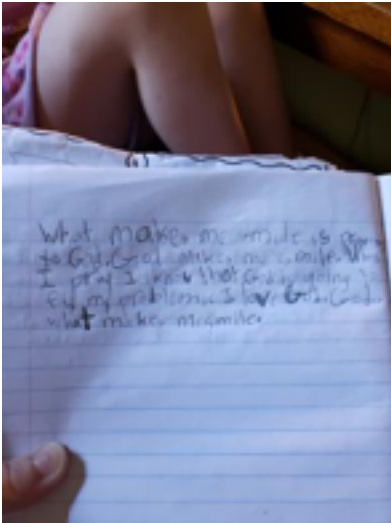
## **FAMILY FUN-**





# REFLECTIONS FROM OUR SISTERS DURNING THIS TIME

"I have been reminded over and over how much we need one another, and how much we are blessed by the technology available to us today, to get in touch, stay in touch, and enjoy the "virtual touch" of participating in the lives of others, although we might physically been on lockdown." Lynne Nichols



Here is a quick daily writing Elizabeth did for school. They have loved seeing their friends on zoom during Sunday school and learning! We are so thankful for Shawna setting it up and teaching! During online school, I saw Elizabeth continuing to shine her light for Jesus in numerous writings about Him and sharing her Bible readings with her teacher and librarian! I have been so proud of her. Elizabeth has also joined Phillip and I in our nightly reading of the One Word book after the kid's bible reading and prayer. We have grown together so much spiritually during this time and as hard as everything has been, we are beyond thankful for this time together. Heather Searcy

Not being able to meet has given me a better understanding and appreciation for why God placed such importance on fellowship and loving one another. There is something special about being together that technology just cannot replace.

We have helped deliver several of the hot chocolate cups and Tucker thinks it's so fun to "sneak on them" when we drop them on a porch.

Books read: currently on #17

Shows: at least 7

Craziest thing we've done: Probably plant a garden. Because I kill every living thing that doesn't remind me to feed it. 🤔🙏 So far everything is surviving.

New recipes: 30+

Heather Spivey

With the social distancing requirements, it was difficult to stay connected with others. A fabulous act of kindness that came out of this was the concept of the drive-by visit. The twins' teachers drove by to say hello and to encourage our fifth graders. We had a parade of our church family driving by to wave and cheer us up. Several friends had driveway visits that always made our day.

Most people know I love to read. As of May 19, my total is twenty-nine books and counting. I've had zoom book club meetings as well. When you can't actually leave home, your mind can go inside a book. Jennifer Dalton

There is no beauty in those things that are easy. In Job's extreme suffering, a greater individual emerged. During this time of reflection and isolation I read about him and wondered, what did he take away from all of this? He thought himself wise before this trial of fire, but learned that what wisdom he thought he had was so minuscule. He did not know what true suffering meant. Had his advice to others who were suffering change? I bet it did!!! In our suffering we become more beautiful. Those people who endure much have more love for others, more patience, more strength, more forgiveness, more giving, more understanding, more hope, more faith. I could go on.... Everything we receive with ease does not make us a better people. It usually makes us a fearful, selfish and ungrateful lot. So what I've learned is that when things are unstable, hard, hurtful, painful, and unbearable to hold tight and endure. The reward is coming. It's this way with everything in life.

The only thing that changed was not going to church or going to the gym. Everything else stayed the same! I read my Bible everyday and I did try a couple of new recipes. After three tries, I finally mastered Tahdig (a Persian style of rice)! I also made a chocolate chip cookie brittle which is too delicious!!! Kathleen Eiring

God prepared us for this moment because we were still able to meet virtually, which allowed my sister in Elba, Alabama to be able to worship virtually with our congregation during this pandemic.

One of my dear Church sisters dropped off flowers to my front porch on Mother's Day because she knew this was my first one without my mom.

I used this opportunity to randomly send a gift to someone in need because I woke up with that person on my heart

Ephesians 3:20 is the verse that has been instrumental to me. During this pandemic, God has reinforced my belief that he is in control in all things: We received a diagnosis for Kaci; Jeff was gratefully furloughed; my job was classified as essential; and, my brother-in-law survived a massive heartache and open heart surgery. Whew! Definitely, more than I could ask or imagine. Mollye Melton

Without the governance of clocks, calendars, or planners, we've had so much more opportunity to marvel at our Creator, who is—without question—a God of details. One of the things we've really enjoyed is bird watching. It's amazing what kinds and how many you see and hear when you just take the time to notice. It's been a constant reminder of how God cares for every single one. Here are just three life lessons we've learned from some of God's tiniest teachers.



A whole brood of birds is built one egg at a time.  
A nest full of eggs can be reduced to only one in a day.  
When a baby jay falls from its nest, not quite ready to fly,  
Mama is constantly hovering.  
He's never as alone as he might think.

Jamie Powell

# A PRAYER FOR MERCY

BY KEVIN DEYONG FROM THE GOSPEL COALITION, JUNE 1, 2020

O great God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God who created all things, the God above all gods, the God who was, and is, and is to come, the God who never changes, the God who never slumbers nor sleeps, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us.

We are in the midst of a global pandemic. More than 100,000 lives lost in this country alone. We hear of new cases, new hospitalizations, new deaths each day.

Lord have mercy.

In the last three months 40 million Americans have entered the ranks of the unemployed. Many who still have a job are scared. Others are anxious, depressed.

Lord have mercy.

As states re-open some cities and neighborhoods, even some families and churches, are sniping at each other over masks or no masks, re-open quickly or re-open slowly, COVID is worse than you think or this has been a massive over-reaction.

Lord have mercy.

As Christians, we have grieved to be separated from the people we love and care for. We have been forced to give up meeting together for a time. So much about ministry seems harder, more uncertain, less fulfilling. We don't fully know when normal will return, or what normal will look like, or what to do in the meantime.

Lord have mercy.

On May 25th, a white police officer in Minneapolis put his knee on the neck of George Floyd for eight minutes, murdering a black man made in the image of God, while three other officers did nothing to stop the injustice.

Lord have mercy.

The anger and fear and pain felt in the black community isn't prompted by this one incident alone. It comes out of the legacy of slavery, and Jim Crow, and too many times where power and force were used against them in ways that are evil and unjust.

Lord have mercy.

Every time we witness another tragedy like this we know it makes the difficult and honorable job of law enforcement almost impossible. Many police officers—risking their lives to serve and protect—will suffer unfairly because of actions done a thousand miles away, actions they condemn, actions outside their control.

Lord have mercy.

And now we see dozens and dozens of our great cities are torn apart by senseless destruction and violence. Businesses have been burnt down. Grocery stores destroyed. Neighborhoods ruined. Lives threatened or lost.

Lord have mercy.

You have our attention. O God, give us ears to hear. What do you want to say to us in your Word? What should we do? What needs to change? How can we help?

We pray for whatever necessary reforms might give hope and healing and dignity and the feeling of safety for our black brothers and sisters, especially here in our church. We pray for bravery and safety, and fortitude for our law enforcement officers, especially here in our church.

We pray for our political, religious, and civic leaders. May they be humble, honest, measured, principled, open to good ideas wherever they come from, self-sacrificing, disciplined, courageous, and compassionate. Where we have such leaders may we listen to them and follow them. Where our leaders do not exhibit these qualities, help them to change and repent. We seek the peace of our city and all the cities of this great country.

We weep. We lament. We mourn. But not as those who have no hope.

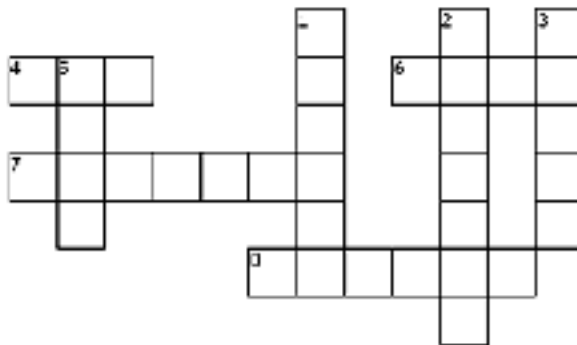
May gospel beauty rise from these smoldering, literal ashes. May truth triumph over lies and grace conquer lawlessness. May your people be one as you, O Father, and your Son are one. May the church—the body of Christ, the bride of Christ—rise up as an example of love and with a message of salvation for a weary and war-torn world. Give us grace to serve you, O God, and, if necessary, grace to suffer for what is right. Give us the peace and health and safety we do not deserve. Give us the reformation and revival we need.

Lord have mercy.

# KIDS CORNER

*Love each other as  
I have loved you.*

John 15:12 (NIV)



## ACROSS

4. A state of happiness or delight
6. To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
7. Someone that performs duties for a master
8. A person that you like very much

## DOWN

1. One who has authority over another person
2. An order which a person is expected to obey
3. To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding
5. To do what you are told; follow the rules

## Words Used

love	command	friend	joy
obey	servant	master	learn



## BIBLE Humor

