

Falls Fellowship



Worship Services Resume June 7

After careful consideration, the church leadership has decided to resume the 11 AM Worship Service on June 7 for those who would like to participate.

The church is taking several precautions to make attendance as safe as possible during this Covid-19 pandemic. Even though we are not aware of anyone in our congregation who has the virus, we are aware you could have the virus and be without symptoms. Therefore, we are requesting that all follow these guidelines:

1. If you are ill, please do not attend until all your symptoms have disappeared.
2. Maintain 6 feet social dis-

tance except for family members living in the same household.

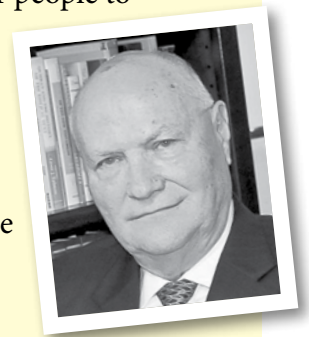
3. Use furnished hand sanitizer or wipes as you enter the church.
4. Pew Bibles and hymnals have been removed. Order of service and hymns will appear in your individual program bulletin.
5. Use your own face mask if you desire or disposal masks will be available for those wishing to use them.
6. Pews will be cleaned before and after each service.
7. Boxes to receive tithes and offerings are placed at the doors so we do not have to handle offering plates.

See Services Resume on page 4

We're Opening Our Doors on June 7!

You read it right — we're opening the doors to the church on June 7 for people to return for worship. We have anxiously waited for this day since we last met together in the building on Fonville. Linwood Barham has an article in this edition of the newsletter explaining the safeguards we must maintain as we return to public worship. Read the article and note the precautionary steps we will follow. We must all follow the safeguards outlined by our public health officials such as practicing social distancing, wearing facemasks and using hand sanitizer. Also note we will not resume Sunday School and Wednesday night activities until a later date. We will continue meeting on Zoom for our

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Reflections on A Birthday

Last Saturday was my birthday. Cheryl had planned a special day for me with gifts, balloons, a wonderful meal and all the trimmings. Our son and his wife, Peaches, came to the house for lunch. Our daughter-in-law had prepared hotdogs and hamburgers and shish kabobs. Then there was cheesecake from the Cheesecake Factory, a chocolate pie from Ruth and on top of that Sara and Frank had lunch for me Friday, the day before my birthday, at the church. What a great weekend of celebrations.

Then the bottom fell out. Cheryl and I watched on television the unfolding of the drama which took place Saturday night in Raleigh and in other cities. Peaceful protest is one thing, but violent destruction of property and the rights of others is not peaceful protest by any definition. Cheryl and I did not watch with detachment because our son and daughter-in-law live in downtown Raleigh. Several buildings were vandalized in their neighborhood. One of the businesses set on fire is on the corner across from their complex. A couple of our favorite restaurants were vandalized by the protestors. Raleigh was not the only city hit. We now know about violent protests held in multiple cities. One report said more than one-hundred cities were impacted.

Then it happened again on Sunday night. What started out as non-violent protest soon turned ugly even in the presence of hundreds of police officers. Our governor, Roy Cooper, called out the National Guard.

I continued to watch television reports of violence

in multiple cities across our country. A reporter in Santa Monica, California called what was happening around him an “apocalyptic” scene. Perhaps a bit of hyperbole, but maybe that was the best way he could describe his feelings. Andrew Young, former mayor of Atlanta, said the violence was not about civil rights but brought on by people who want to destroy America. In his words, we are moving from protest movements to “nihilism,” the belief that traditional values are unfounded.

If dealing with the coronavirus were not enough trauma for us, add to that rioting and burning and looting in our cities. And more is to come. The Mississippi River is approaching flood stage and cities all along its banks will soon be flooded. What about the impending hurricane season? We have had three named storms before the season opens. In talking about these difficult times, a church member quoted a famous statement of Thomas Payne, “These are the times that try men’s souls.” I have carried that statement with me for years in my reservoir of things I might say in times of crisis. Yes, our souls are troubled.

It is good to remember that as Christians our future is not vested in this world. We are of a kingdom

Event Calendar

June 7 — Worship Service Resumes 11 AM

June 7 — Deacons Meeting 4 PM

June 10 — Lord’s Supper online 7 PM

June 14 — Quarterly Business Meeting 12 PM

June Birthdays

2	Anne Young
4	Shelby Hammons
5	Shirley Tart
7	Johnny Fonville
9	Elizabeth Jackson
12	Polly Jenks
14	Chris Barham
15	Denise Norton
16	Kathy Carr
17	Nora Joy Hammons
23	Ryan Watkins
26	Randy Jackson
27	Bill Upton
28	Tommy Brown
29	Earl Creech
30	Teresa Doman



that is still “coming.” Heaven awaits us and an unimaginable future with our Lord. Good to remember that, but what about living in these days?

Things will get worse. We will never build a utopia on this earth. Our arch enemy will see to that. He brought devastation to God’s perfect creation and he is still up to his mischief. He deceives people by convincing them they have the right to impose their will on other people and they have “inalienable” rights to disrupt and even destroy society. Yes, destroy the very country which was birthed out of fire when Thomas Payne wrote those famous words. Many died to birth this nation and many more have died to protect it. But our arch enemy is a wicked liar. He knows in the end he will lose and that’s why he is fighting so furiously now to destroy the greatest experiment of liberty the world has ever known — the green valleys, soaring mountains and sandy beaches of our nation. Blame whatever radical groups you are inclined to for the mayhem and destruction of the past weekend. But our enemy, Satan himself, makes the plans in his war room.

See Birthday on page 4

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Opening continued ...

Wednesday Bible studies at 7:00. You will continue to receive a weekly e-mail from the church with instructions for joining the Bible study using your computer, tablet or phone.

I am thankful for your support of our church in these difficult times. Many of you have continued to support our budget through your tithes and offerings and we are still “floating.” If you have not kept up with your contributions, Sunday may be a “catchup” Sunday for you. We will have special collection boxes made by R.L. Harris on each side of the double doors coming into the sanctuary. Place your offerings in these boxes since we will not pass an offering plate, thus reducing the possibility of contamination.

We have worshipped each Sunday via Facebook and our Web Page with a recorded service made on Friday of each week. Frank Powell, Kevin Barham, and Daniel Ripley have produced the videos. Frank records the

service, edits it, and then streams it on our Facebook page and Webpage for broadcast Sunday mornings. Kevin has selected appropriate music and played the piano and organ as though we were all in the sanctuary worshipping. Daniel has offered his technical assistance gained through helping his home church in Richmond, Virginia direct their A/V program. We have had 22-30 people join us each Wednesday night for Bible study using Zoom. We completed our study of seven Psalms of lament and will begin studying I John on Wednesday, June 3. Use the links in the e-mail Kevin sends out to join us by computer, tablet, or phone.

I was talking with some of our people recently about the Lord’s Supper and when we will observe it. Obviously, not being able to have public meetings has meant not observing recurring events such as the Lord’s Supper. Let us observe the Lord’s Supper online! Here is how we will do it. You will need to furnish the elements, bread, and juice. I am giving you the freedom to use whatever juice you have on hand and whatever bread/wafers you have. You can use water and saltines, whatever.

Join our Zoom Bible Study on Wednesday June 10 at 7:00 PM. If you normally join by phone, this will still work. I will read scripture, offer prayers, and lead us using the “cup and the bread.” whatever you have chosen. This will be a REAL Lord’s Supper observance. We do not have to all be in the same place. You will receive an e-mail announcing the Zoom meeting, as you do each week, and I will give the instructions again in the e-mail.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday when we return to worship in the sanctuary: “To God be the glory.”
— Tom Jenkins

Deacons

Linwood Barham, Chairman	919-418-1162
Hubert Jenks, Vice Chairman	919-270-8765
Alan Watkins, Secretary	919-793-5548
Kevin Barham	919-618-4214
Brandon Long	252-903-4662
Mike Harris	919-746-5697

Services Resume cont' ...

Some members fall into the category of having underlying conditions which make them uncomfortable to be in groups. We understand if they are not willing to attend now. Hopefully, this pandemic will soon pass and we can truly get back to normal worship services. During the month of June we will ONLY have 11 AM services in person. Wednesday Bible study will continue on Zoom.

We will reevaluate everything near the end of June and pray we can resume Sunday School and Wednesday meals in July.

— Linwood Barham



Birthday cont' ...

Martin Luther knew that when he wrote the lines of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” Luther said about Satan, “For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow’r are great, And armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.” It is the “cruel hate” of the evil one which drives violence of brother against brother. Our fight is not with each other but with the Evil One who tried to destroy Jesus Christ. As Paul said, “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood...but against the powers of this dark world” (Ephesians 6:11-12). Amen.

— Tom Jenkins



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