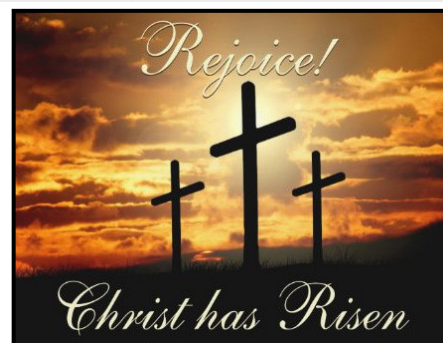


WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

5660 WEST HENRIETTA RD (P. O. BOX 336), WEST HENRIETTA, NY 14586

(585) 334-0497; EMAIL: CHURCH@WHBAPTIST.ORG; WEB: WHBAPTIST.ORG

PASTOR: REV. DR. PETER E. GRINION; TEL: (585) 278-8520



APRIL 2020

AMERICA AT A CROSSROADS

To God's people at West Henrietta Baptist Church, who are faithful in their union with Christ Jesus:

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

We are presently faced with an unprecedented pandemic like none you or I have ever seen before. Governments across our beloved country have taken drastic measures to respond to the COVID-19 coronavirus in a variety of ways, ranging from calling for state of emergencies, to imposing travel bans, to implementing quarantines. Undoubtedly, the stakes are high and the way governments continue to respond to this pandemic could determine the future of over 300 million Americans. In the light of the concerns in our community about the COVID-19 disease, we who comprise the community of West Henrietta Baptist Church are at a crossroads.

Crossroads should be understood as a point in our life when we have to make an important decision, like when we need to choose whether or not to abide by the recommended guidelines to prevent contracting or the spread of COVID-19 disease. At the crossroads, we do not have the luxury of time to linger; if we pause too long, frozen by indecision, we could be exposing ourselves to grave danger. Consequently, we have cancelled Sunday services, Wednesday Bible studies, and all other ministry gathering until further notice. We are a people of faith and I encourage you not to paralyze yourselves with fear or anxiety. While we trust in the protection of God as our "Good Shepherd," I hope you have all agreed that our response to the pandemic is Christian and prudent. I join multitudes of God's people in prayer that this pandemic will be over soon, and life returns to what we have always cherished.

I encourage you to consider that amidst the challenge with our jobs and health at the crossroads, there are opportunities for us to be creative despite our limited resources. We will communicate with you through LINK, E-blasts, WHBC Webpage, Facebook, telephone tree, and mailed letters. Feel free to use

the telephone numbers listed in the bulletin to contact the Pastor and/or Moderator. Please remember to pray for the sick and shut-in members of our church. I am gratified that prayer requests from the community are still coming to us. Despite cancellation of weekly programs of our church, we still have monthly financial obligations and I encourage you to send your tithes and offerings to Laurel Heisig (Financial Clerk), whose address is in our church directory.

I want you to know that I miss seeing you at Sunday Services, Bible studies, and other church gatherings, but be comforted that I cease not to pray for you daily. St. Paul's words to the Church at Philippi capture my daily thoughts of you: *"I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all"* (Philippians 1:3-4). God is set on providing peace for us in our worst circumstances. In Philippians 4:6-7, St. Paul says that by taking everything to God in prayer, all our anxieties and requests, we obtain God's peace. He says, God invites all our requests, and he is pleased when we come to Him.

Is it a coincidence that COVID-19 disease is attacking the world during the season of Lent? Jesus said, *"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27). Christ shared these words with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion. It was meant to give them comfort and reassurance in what would be the darkest hour of their faith. Since that time Christians down through the ages have found comfort from Jesus' words, to sustain them through their most difficult trials. Christ adds yet another assurance in the same verse: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you."*

(Continues on page 2)



1. Church services are cancelled until further notice.

This includes Bible Study, and the Retreat, The Craft and Vendor Sale will be rescheduled with a date to be finalized.

2. The members will hear from the Pastor and Leanna at regular intervals via email and telephone calls.

3. For members who do not receive email, we will be calling to remain connected with one another.

4. I encourage everyone to do all in your control to remain safe.

5. I will do my best to have our Web Site and Facebook Page up to date.

Rev. Peter Grinion

(Continued from page 1)

Let us not allow the winds of adversity to topple our faith! In this world we will face tribulation, persecution, fiery trials, fighting within and fears without (11 Corinthians 7:5), but let us pursue peace. *"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you are called in one body; and be thankful"* (Colossians 3:15). I pray that the words below may become a comforting prayer for you:

Be still my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still my soul: your best, your heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Yours in Christ's Service

Rev. Dr. Peter E. Grinion, Pastor



Assurance Through Endurance

*By
Evelyn M. Shoots*

*Because of those joys
You send, which reflect your Love,
We praise You, Jesus!*

*Daily we see signals
Of lingering angels here
Helping many ways!*

*With our loving choir
Chapelizing times of praise
All our voices sing!*

*Testimonies shared
Fill our souls with rising hope
Spreading everywhere.*

*Praising Father's peace,
We lift loads off from shoulders,
Sheltering with Love.*

Alleluia!

*Jeremiah 29:11
Nehemiah 8:10*



The first ever
Cordless Phone
was created by
God.
He named it
"Prayer"....
It never Loses its
Signal and U never
have to Recharge it.
Use it Anywhere...!



Apr. 2 ~ Betty Trim
Apr. 3 ~ Lynne Stewart
Apr. 5 ~ Flo Braker
Apr. 8 ~ Colin Chase
Apr. 11 ~ Cliff Thayer
Apr. 11 ~ Sarah Zima
Apr. 15 ~ Sierrah Griffin
Apr. 17 ~ Roberta Miller
Apr. 18 ~ Oliver Hagen
Apr. 21 ~ Mark Heintz, Jr.
Apr. 30 ~ Ginny Chase



A Time to Celebrate!

Yesterday after having our appointment cancelled, we were told "If you get to Buffalo now, we will grant citizenship for you". So, we rushed in our jeans and made it in the nick of time. The office had been shut down, like an old cowboy western. Just our officer and a few security guards. There was no flag ceremony, no Chuck E Cheese to celebrate at. We were hungry, tired and not wearing our beautiful citizenship outfits (sans Dave).

But our daughter is an American. Our prayers have been answered without the fanfare or pomp. Our daughter is an American; that means more now than usually, Chuck E Cheese and Red, White and Blue will come. Today, we are grateful for answered prayers.

Michelle, Dave and Olivia Heed

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



During this difficult time, we are called to keep others in our hearts and thoughts. WHBC has always

given generously to others in need. March's Noisy Offering was \$55.15 for the Coffee Connections. We thank each one who gave.

March is also America For Christ Offering month. So far, we have collected \$300.00. It is over halfway to our goal of \$500.00. The theme this year is: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF" Matthew 22:39. Especially at this time, we need to keep our Neighbors and their needs in mind and heart. Please give freely.

Thanks and God Blessings,

Submitted for Patricia Floyd (as she recovers from back surgery)

Leanna Shirley

A Quote From Helen Keller

"I who am blind can give one hint to those who see:

"Use your eyes as if tomorrow you would be stricken blind.

Hear the music of voice, the song of a bird, the mighty strains of an orchestra, as if you would be stricken deaf tomorrow.

Touch each object as if tomorrow your tactile sense would fail.

Smell the perfume of flowers, taste with relish each morsel, as if tomorrow you could never smell and taste again.

Make the most of every sense; glory in all the facets of pleasure and beauty which the world reveals to you through the several means of contact which nature provides."

But of all the senses, I am sure that sight is the most delightful."

Do you remember when?

1958 COST OF LIVING	
<u>LIVING</u>	
New House	\$11,975.00
Average Income	\$4,650.00 per year
New Car	\$2,155.00
Average Rent	\$95.00 per month
Tuition to Harvard University	\$1,000.00 per year
Movie Ticket	\$1.00 each
Gasoline	24¢ per gallon
United States Postage Stamp	4¢ each
<u>FOOD</u>	
Granulated Sugar	89¢ for 10 pounds
Vitamin D Milk	\$1.01 per gallon
Ground Coffee	93¢ per pound
Bacon	62¢ per pound
Eggs	28¢ per dozen
Fresh Ground Hamburger	57¢ per pound
Fresh Baked Bread	19¢ per loaf

DID YOU SEE CHRIST TODAY?

“¹On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.” Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 24, verses 1 through 3.

Each of the four Gospels has a version of the “Resurrection Story”, a brief retelling of the “Gospel according to Luke” could be read as follows. On Resurrection morning, the ladies went to the tomb of Christ to administer herbs and spices to the body of Christ. They expected to find Christ’s body as it had been left on the previous Friday. But it was GONE! They were horrified! Someone stole the slain body of their Christ! The women did not find what they had expected. Even though they had heard from Christ’s own lips, the day of the Lord’s resurrection was at hand, they were shocked!

I love to walk in the early morning. On many occasions as I walked, at least prior to the current pandemic crisis, I would love to watch as the morning sun burst from its hidden position somewhere below the eastern horizon into the early morning sky. On one particular morning recently, I witnessed a very bright “beam of glorious light” shooting from the edge of the eastern horizon far into the morning clear blue sky. By the time I could grab my camera, my picture showed a disappearing “beam of orange light” sitting atop the crest of a huge, bright orange colored “fireball” jumping into the morning sky. A glorious spectacle of warm orange colored light bathing the clear blue morning sky. A beautiful sight to behold. My picture did not do the spectacle I witnessed justice.

Recently, Dolly Parton stated that as a songwriter, she sees a “song” in everything in her life. So should it not be so for us as Christians, that we see Christ in everything in our lives. Just as the women at the tomb of the risen Christ did not see the glory in front of them, we many times don’t see the glory right in front of us. But shouldn’t we?

This current time of a world-wide pandemic has thrown all of our “normal” schedules “out-of-whack”! Our lives have been totally disrupted. One huge difference in our current “life” situation in contrast to the Resurrection morning “life” of the women: the rest of “life” around us has been disrupted also; whereas for the women, the rest of the world didn’t seem to care Christ’s body had been stolen. At least at first, nor did they see the glory of an “arisen” Christ.

There are so many things going on around us in which we don’t see the “glory of Christ” Many things I see every day testify to the glory of our risen Christ. Such as the trusting smile of a small child held by its mother. A young couple playfully interacting as if the whole world existed within themselves. The story of a man and his teenage daughter who just bought the last two cases of toilet paper, standing outside that same store and gleefully giving a roll to any stranger who claims one. The joy I felt the other day when I received a phone call from a fellow vet just making sure my wife and I were okay: a “Buddy Check”.

They are everywhere! Every day “life” things which can easily reflect the glory of a risen Christ. Yet, I realize it is easy to just see these every day “life” moments as just that: “everyday life moments”! It’s like the old 1930’s expression: “What you look for is what you see!”

Yet, therein is the glory, because of our faith we will find things during this time for which we should be thankful. Christ arose then and He can help us now all “arise” from this, hopefully more appreciative, more aware of His caring grace. “Have you seen the “glory of Christ” today”?

Shalom,

Daniel Scurlock