



Manly Memorial Baptist Church  
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## OUT OF MY MIND

This will be a different Easter for me, as I know that it will also be for you. I may be wrong about this, but I believe that this will be the first time in my life that I will not physically gather with other Christians to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter.

Over the years I have sung “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” in large and small church sanctuaries, on hilltops, and beside rivers, but I have always done so in the company of other followers of Jesus. But not this year. Because of the Pandemic, and the restrictions placed on groups of 10 or more gathering, along with the pleas to practice social distancing, our church will not be physically gathering together as we always have since our founding in 1841.

To be honest, that reality has left me feeling a bit sad. I miss seeing and personally interacting with you. I grieve the loss of our familiar routines. I will miss physically gathering with other Christians in town for the Sunrise service. I will miss seeing our sanctuary full of people, having all the beautiful flowers decorating the sanctuary, experiencing Alysian playing the familiar Easter hymns on the organ, hearing the choir sing their Easter Cantata, and seeing the joy on your faces as we proclaim together “The Lord is risen indeed!”

But even as I was thinking about all of this, and feeling a bit down because of it, I realized that I was falling into a trap of forgetting what Easter is all about.

Though all those things I mentioned are wonderful, and have been used by God over the years to enhance my worship on Easter Sunday, the fact is that none of them are essential to celebrating the truth of Easter.

Easter is true, whether we physically gather in the sanctuary or gather together online. Easter is true whether or not we are experiencing good health and finances, or not. For the Lord is risen! Jesus Christ is alive! Sin and death have been conquered! The Lord is not only alive, he lives in us. That is the hope of glory. And because of that fact our lives can be better than we ever dreamed possible! We are Easter people. And no pandemic, no amount of social distancing, no amount of uncertainty about the future can change those facts.

So though this Easter will be different than any you may have experienced before, don't let that fact prevent you from fully celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Even in the midst of these unexpected, uncertain, unprecedented and unwanted times may the good news of Easter fill you with great joy and abiding hope.

Your Pastor,  
Mike



Thanks go to Don Heckman for all of his hard work in seeing that the Sunday sermons are taped and posted. He will also be helping us get some music online soon.

Thanks go to Barbara Heckman for all of her work on the church website.

Thanks go to Eric Turman for setting up our YouTube channel and Instagram account. She also posts to Facebook.

Thanks to Molly Kay Moore for working to keep the office running and working the phones (despite having 4 children at home!)

And thanks go to our church custodian Vada Sanderson for continuing to keep the church building “wiped down” and for using this pause in our “in-house” activities to give the building a deep cleaning.



- 4 Thomas Tait
- 6 Judy Dunning
- 7 Alysian Raymond
- 13 Gordie Valentine
- John Wranek
- 16 Phyllis Puckett
- Anderson Huger
- 17 Robyn Sherman
- 19 Chase Turman
- 22 Rick Lollis
- 23 Scott Hartbarger
- 30 Dr. Charles O’Roark

## Daily BIBLE READING

April 1	John 14:1-6	April 16	John 21:15-25
April 2	John 14:7-14	April 17	1 Peter 1:1-12
April 3	John 14:15-36	April 20	1 Peter 1:13-25
April 4	John 15:1-17	April 21	1 Peter 2:1-12
April 5	John 15:18-16:16	April 22	1 Peter 2:13-25
April 6	John 16:17-33	April 23	1 Peter 3:1-12
April 7	John 17:1-25	April 24	1 Peter 3:13-22
April 8	John 18:1-24	April 27	1 Peter 4:1-6
April 9	John 18:25-40	April 28	1 Peter 4:2-11
April 10	John 19:1-37	April 29	1 Peter 4:12-19
April 11	John 19:38-42	April 30	1 Peter 5:1-14
April 12	John 20:1-18		
April 13	John 20:19-23		
April 14	John 20:24-31		
April 15	John 21:1-14		



We are in the midst of trying times and now, more than ever, while taking precautions, we need to put our faith in God for He is the one who will get us through this.

We have had to put on hold some of our mission projects. There are some things we can do. We can reach out to others by phone, email and notes or cards. Let people know that you are praying for them. Encourage them during this crisis.

For those of you who sew, instructions for homemade mask are available and we can use Lib's dolls. Since she is unable to work on them now we need to take up the slack to keep this project going.

*Patsy Paxton*



Just because we cannot practice does not mean that choir members aren't busy! We are still working on the Easter cantata in hopes that we can sing it whether on Easter or another Sunday. Each choir member has a practice CD or MP3. I am currently exploring ways to see if we can practice together via Zoom or some other virtual format. In February I started a music reading class to give those in the choir who don't read music some of the basic fundamentals. We are continuing the class online. This is a great opportunity for me to make some serious progress in the music library. I am currently going through every anthem we have and re-categorizing those I want to keep in a format that works for me. I have finished most of the "regular Sunday" anthems and am now working on the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany collection.

Let me encourage each of you to "sing to the Lord" while you are at home. Family worship services can be very meaningful as you share scripture, prayer and sing together. If you need music resources, please contact me at [lucy.wilkins@manlybaptist.com](mailto:lucy.wilkins@manlybaptist.com). YouTube is a great place to find all your favorite Christian music and hymns. Singing is a great way to deal with anxiety brought on by the pandemic! Make a Joyful Noise!

*Lucy Wilkins*



As Paul said to the Philippians: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (*Philippians 4:6-7*)

During these unprecedented times, we ask that you please continue to give to our church. It's very important that we remain steadfast in this area, even though we are not meeting together, in order to sustain our budget, pay our staff, and maintain our building.

**You can continue your support in several ways:** mail your offering envelope to the church; designate the church to receive automatic transfers from your local bank; or click on the Give button on Manly's website and follow the directions on how to use Paypal. We certainly understand that some people are not able to give or give as much right now due to the COVID-19 situation. If you have financial or other needs, please let Pastor Mike or the church office know how we might help.

*John Wranek*



Parents and Children,  
I know that right now we cannot be together but I want to remind you of some things that you can do this month to stay close to faith with our children. Read to your children daily, Include them on your daily devotions they know more than you think. Ask them questions, or talk with them about how all of this is making them feel. Remind them no matter what God is in control and they can go to him for guidance and comfort during this time!

I know this time in life is not easy for anyone, but I hope we all can take this time to reflect and draw closer to God, while also distilling our love for Jesus Christ into our children! I'm praying daily for our children that they soon too will understand the miraculous power Jesus has in the toughest of times and well as the good! Keep the faith everyone, as the Bible says "you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Mathew 17:20

*Katlyn Smals*



Hi all, My name is Erica Turman, and my husband Chase and I have been attending Manly Memorial Baptist Church for the last few years. Recently, Pastor Mike asked me to help with the church's social media account. So, I thought I would share a little about myself. I have lived and worked in Rockbridge since 2017. I work in the Development Office at Washington and Lee University, and I earned my bachelor's degree in marketing and communication from Mary Baldwin University in Staunton. In my spare time, I like to hang out with my husband and my Chihuahua Patrica (she weighs around three pounds), exploring Rockbridge County, and reading. I look forward to getting to know all of you more! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with your social media ideas.

These times are challenging, and there is a hole where regular worship service used to be. However, just because we are stuck in and around the house doesn't mean we cannot share our talents. I have come up with a few social media ideas that I would love for you all to participate in if you are interested?

First, Manly Memorial Baptist Church has some fantastic voices and talented musicians. This month it would be nice to share our gifts via social media. If you have a worship song to sing or play and record, please send it to me at [erica.turman@manlybaptist.com](mailto:erica.turman@manlybaptist.com). I want to post them to the church's YouTube page, Facebook, and Instagram.

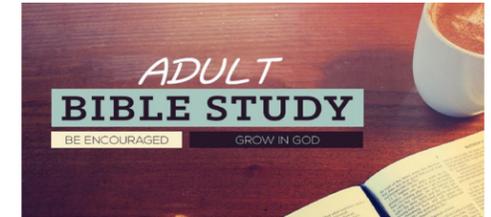
Second, if you have any old photos of the church or church activities anything from 2019 and before, I would love to share those on Thursdays for #throwbackThursday.

Finally, I have recently started posting nature shots and using the hashtag #admiringcreationduringcovid. Please also feel free to send me beauty shots from nature and let me know how they inspired you. I would love to share those as well. I look forward to sharing your submissions, and I hope to see you all sooner rather than later.



Item of the month for April is personal hygiene items or household cleaning supplies.

**Please drop all donations off at RARA (350 Spotswood Dr. Lexington). Thank you!**



In *Hebrews 10:24-25* we read: And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. As we observe the necessary social distancing rules due to the COVID-19 virus, the Fellowship Sunday School is meeting online by Zoom web-conferencing on **Sunday's at 10:00 am.**

It's a simple program to use and if you're interested in joining the class, please send Dale Raymond ([dale.raymond@manlybaptist.com](mailto:dale.raymond@manlybaptist.com)) or Linda Hooks ([HooksL@wlu.edu](mailto:HooksL@wlu.edu)) an email letting them know of your desire. Once they get your email, they will send you the "Zoom link" with instructions on how to join the class. Also, please be sure to take advantage of Pastor Mike's online sermons and messages found on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.



We have been trying to figure out the best way to stay connected with the teenagers in our youth ministry during these extraordinary pandemic restrictions.

A big THANK YOU to Thomas Smals for creating and testing the Zoom Bible study. **We will begin a weekly virtual youth group meeting (dinner and Bible study) on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00 pm.**

If this goes well we will add a Sunday Bible study time. Please encourage your teen to download the Zoom app on their phone or laptop, grab their dinner and join us!

*Molly Kay Moore*