



THE WORD

June

Newsletter for the Ministry & Fellowship of Manly Memorial Baptist Church

OUT OF MY MIND

As you are probably aware, in response to Governor Northam lifting some of his restrictions, various churches in our community have begun meeting again in their buildings for worship. As a result, I've had some people ask me when our church is reopening.

Before I answer that question, let me make this clarification: our church has never been closed. We're still worshipping, witnessing, learning, praying, serving, giving, and caring. We simply chose to stop gathering in our building as an expression of our love for one another and our neighbors in this time of the Pandemic. The Church is a people, not a place. Our church was never closed.

So the more accurate question is when will we physically regather together again in our building? And the best answer I can offer you right now is this: it all depends. The deacons and I met on Zoom recently and we all expressed our desire to physically meet together again for worship as soon as it is safe to do so.

Currently, we are planning on resuming in-person services in late June or early July. Waiting several weeks will allow us to see if the number of local virus cases increases now that Virginia is reopening. During this time period, we will monitor the number of active cases on a weekly basis using the numbers provided by the Virginia Department of Health. If the number of local cases spikes we will delay our in-person services until a future date when we believe it is safe to meet again. If this happens, everything will remain like it is currently.

As we wait, the deacons are preparing a plan to facilitate our regathering. Out of necessity, Sunday morning services will look very different when we resume meeting in person. The deacons will consider how we can practice social distancing in the sanctuary, as well as the best safety practices for us to follow. I will share more details about those as we draw closer to the time when we will worship in-person again.

While I know this may sound extreme to some of you, our primary goal isn't just to regather quickly; it's to regather safely. We are developing a plan that is based on the best scientific information that we currently have available. In addition to what is mandatory, it will also follow many recommended best practices.

As much as I would love to see all of you in person soon, the most important thing is that people remain safe. Because of that, I strongly encourage you to stay home and continue watching the church's posts online. The best way we can love our neighbors as ourselves during this time is to continue to practice physical distancing, wash our hands regularly, stay home as much as possible, wear a mask when out in public and pray.

As always, know that I and the rest of the church staff miss you, are thinking about you, and are praying for you. If there is something we can do to help you or minister to you during this time, please don't hesitate to let any of us know. Stay well and God bless.

Your Pastor,
Mike

Item of the month for June is macaroni and cheese. Please drop all donations off at RARA (350 Spotswood Drive, Lexington). Thank you!



Manly Memorial Baptist Church
202 South Main Street
Lexington, VA 24450
www.manlybaptist.com
(540) 463-4181

Daily BIBLE READING



- 1 Isabelle Huger
- 3 Deborah Pruett
- 6 Cathy Wranek
- 10 Ryan Cruze
- 12 Enna Mae Newbolt
- 13 Peggy Lewis
- 14 Mary Carol Moore
- 14 Will Wranek
- 15 Justin Spears
- 15 Glenn Furr
- 19 Emma Hartbarger
- 22 Pastor Mike Wilkins
- 26 Margaret Kirkland

- June 1 Psalm 4
- June 2 Psalm 5
- June 3 Psalm 6
- June 4 Psalm 7
- June 5 Psalm 8
- June 8 Psalm 9:1-10
- June 9 Psalm 9:11-20
- June 10 Psalm 10
- June 11 Psalm 11
- June 12 Psalm 12

- June 15 Psalm 13
- June 16 Psalm 14
- June 17 Psalm 15
- June 18 Psalm 16
- June 19 Psalm 17

- June 22 Psalm 18:1-3
- June 23 Psalm 18:4-19
- June 24 Psalm 18:20-29
- June 25 Psalm 18:30-36
- June 26 Psalm 18:37-52
- June 29 Psalm 19
- June 30 Psalm 20



- 2 Beth & Rick Lollis
- 6 Debbie & Bill Fox
- 15 Alysan & Dale Raymond
- 16 Carol & Gary Judy
- 17 Pastor Mike & Lucy Wilkins
- Robyn & Wesley Sherman
- 20 Beverly & Bruce Saunders
- 25 Anita & Rick Cruze
- 30 Lee & Jerry Higgins



On Sunday evening, **June 7th, at 7:00 pm** we will gather together on Zoom as a church to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Various people will read scripture, offer prayers and sing. Then I will lead us in taking the bread and juice together. Each of you will need to supply your own bread and juice of course!

Meeting on Zoom will allow us to see each other and we may have some time to catch up with one another.

Because Zoom requires that you have an invitation to attend a meeting, if you are able to participate please let either me or Molly Kay Moore know. That way I can send you your invitation at the appropriate time.

To participate you will need a cell phone or camera on your computer with access to the internet. You do not need to have Zoom installed on your computer. About five minutes before the meeting, click on the link, open the Zoom Meeting when the box appears, and click yes for Zoom to use your camera and computer microphone. I look forward to seeing you then.

Pastor Mike Wilkins



Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

During these extraordinary 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 for the church 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, www.manlybaptist.com, 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



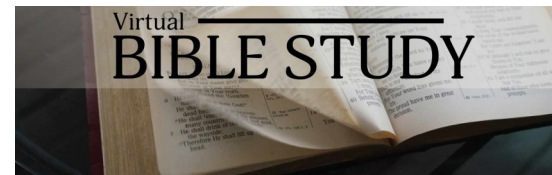
Just a note of greeting to each and every one of you from your Deacon Body. We pray that you are all continuing to stay well during this unprecedented time. Each of us wish to be available to you if needed and you should all be aware of who your family deacon currently may be.

If you are not certain and would like to know please contact the church office or any of the current Deacons. Any one of us will be please to talk with you.

As the pastor noted in his 'Out of My Mind' section we are having ongoing conversation concerning how and when we shall be able to resume having church gatherings. We want to accomplish this with planning and with caution to assure that we have a safe and positive outcome. Please understand that the initial times that we meet as a group will have to be quite different from the traditional experience that we were enjoying a few months ago.

As the deacons work to establish criteria on how we need to conduct ourselves and what will be reasonable to include in services during the months ahead, we seek God's wisdom and guidance. Please pray for us. Additionally we certainly wish to have your input to our thinking so do not hesitate to share your perspective with your deacon. May the Lord be close to you this day and every day.

Dale R Raymond, Deacon Chair



The Fellowship Class will begin a new series on **Sunday, June 7th** entitled "Living with Hope in a Broken World", from *1 Peter*.

"This study will examine the uniqueness and basis of biblical hope. Because the believer's hope rests in Christ, we know our hope in Him cannot be shaken; therefore, we can approach the questions and challenges of life with confidence."

The class has been meeting via Zoom since April. If you would like to join, please send a request to dale.raymond@manlybaptist.com. He will then send you a link to join the Zoom class.

Alysan Raymond



Have you ever thought about the fact that all of us will be part of the heavenly choir someday? You can prepare now, by getting in the habit of praise. Paul says in *Ephesians 5:19*, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

If this crisis is getting you down, take some time to sing through some of your favorite hymns or Christian songs. It is as important for your spiritual health as nutritious food is for your body. Isn't it great that we carry around the Holy Spirit in our own temple every day! We can worship wherever we are.

Once we return to the church building, the music for our worship services will actually look much like our usual summer worship. We will have soloists, duets, quartets and other small ensembles from the choir and congregation provide our special music. This has been our normal practice for a number of years during the month of July, but we will extend the practice until it is safe to be closer than six feet to one another.

Our Music Reading Class will finish the first week in June. It has been a good experience for all of us. We have covered notation, music symbols, sight-singing, harmony, sound and texture and reading rhythms.

The music library is slowly coming into shape. I am almost halfway through all the anthems. I hope to be finished culling and cataloging by the end of the summer. By the time the choir returns, we will have a library that is really useful and I will have a much better idea of what we have to draw from.

Please be in prayer for our music ministry and keep singing every chance you get!

Lucy Wilkins



One of Manly's fabulously talented musicians, Alysan Raymond, has started a new series "Hymns at Home." You can view these daily on our Facebook and Instagram page.



On Sunday, May 31st we will begin our summer youth schedule! We will meet (and zoom) outside for Bible Study and dinner on **Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm. Our Zoom Meeting ID is 604 296 406.**

We are excited to begin a new 5 weeks series "What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do". Sometimes knowing what to do is easy. Like when your car is running out of gas, you get gas. When you see something funny, you post it on Snapchat or Instagram. But other times, knowing what to do isn't as simple! Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we just don't know what to do.

When that happens, we often ask questions like what is the next step to take? Why are we experiencing what we are experiencing? How do we change our circumstances for the better? We get overwhelmed, frustrated, and often, just ready to give up altogether! As teens navigate through middle and high school, there may be times when they find themselves in situations where they feel stuck or option less.

In this series we are going to talk about the life of Joseph and learn how God is always with us, even when it may not seem like it. We will learn about how God will never leave us, and how He is always working all things together for our good!

Molly Kay Moore



Washington & Lee University
Emma Ernst
Kassidy Strossnider

Rockbridge County High School
Noah Campbell
Everette Huger
Jacob Moore

Lylburn Downing Middle School
Owen Gertz
Will Gibbs

Maury River Middle School
Will Higgins

Central Elementary
Isobel Boling
Emma Hartbarger
Celia Jones
Curtis Moore