

PULASKI STREET BULLETIN

PULASKI STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

247 Pulaski Street, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

931-762-5161

fax 931-762-5269

pulstch@pulaskistreet.com

www.pulaskistreet.org

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 12

March 26, 2020

Don't Let a Crisis Go to Waste!

In 1942, C.S. Lewis published a Christian apologetic novel entitled *The Screwtape Letters*. Written as a satire, the book takes the form of a series of letters from a superior demon named Screwtape to his nephew Wormwood, a junior tempter. The uncle's mentorship addresses the nephew's responsibility in securing the condemnation of a British man known only as the "patient." Screwtape imparts wisdom about how to tempt, confuse, and ultimately destroy this hapless soul. In view of the coronavirus crisis, a preacher by the name of Aaron Michael Nielsen wrote the following as a play on Lewis's work:

My Dear Wormwood,

Plagues are a most effective weapon given to us by our father below. Normally, Christians are quite comfortable in receiving the dreaded sacraments and gathering in their prayers and other heinous Arts. But if you can stir up a hysteria by means of a plague so that they cut themselves off from our Enemy's gifts to them, the torment of isolation will drive them to despair and season them quite deliciously much to our delight.

Get them to forget about their usual practices of prayer, fasting, and alms giving, and encourage them to become gluttons, slanderers, and lose all regard for their neighbor, thinking only about themselves and their immediate needs and storing up treasures which we can send moth and rust to destroy further sweetening their torment.

If you can, help them to redefine their usual words like "church" and "fellowship" and "ministry" so that they feel comfortable cutting themselves off from our Enemy's care, and they can be tempted all the more.

Yes, Wormwood, a plague is a tried and true method of taking their eyes off our Enemy and getting them to worship their own bodies. A most desirable position for we tempters. Never let a good crisis go to waste!

Your Affectionate Uncle,
Screwtape

Satires shock us. It's weird reading "Enemy" and having to think of God, but that would certainly be Satan's perspective. Seeing things from Satan's point of view (or, in this case, his minion's point of view) has a way of helping us fully appreciate what's at stake. It's my conviction that nothing subhuman (e.g., tornadoes, hurricanes, viruses, pain, suffering, etc.) is intrinsically evil, but such things can be instrumentally evil. Screwtape is essentially advising Wormwood on how to use a pandemic for evil.

Satan will never allow a crisis to go to waste, and God won't either. In view of the present pandemic, consider the following differences between Satan's and God's desires:

- **If Satan wants us to look down, God wants us to look up.** Just because we can't assemble as a church family on Sundays and Wednesdays doesn't mean that worshiping God has been rendered impossible. We can worship God from anywhere (John 4:21-24), and God would love nothing more than for this pandemic to draw us closer to Him.
- **If Satan desires to tear us apart, God desires to bring us together.** Yes, God's people are distant from one another right now, but that doesn't mean we have to remain disconnected. Technology helps us here. We can continue to stay in touch with one another, care for one another, rejoice with one another, and weep with one another (Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:24-26). Several of our church members have been doing some drive-by visits. Barring a complete shutdown, these drive-by visits will only increase in the days ahead. God would love nothing more than for this pandemic to draw us closer to one another.
- **If Satan yearns to bring the worst out of us, God desires to bring the best out of us.** During this time, Christians should be showing the world a certain joy, contentment, and thankfulness that aren't dependent upon good circumstances (Acts 5:40-42; 16:26; 1 Peter 1:6-8; Phil. 4:11-13; 1 Thess. 5:18). God would love nothing more than for this pandemic to refine in us those qualities exemplified by His Son.

None of us will be the same after this pandemic has ended. We will all be changed, but let's make sure that it's a change for the better. Don't let this crisis go to waste!

Jacob Evans

ELDERS: Tim Hammond, 852-4832 Biff Helton, 242-8785 Bob Markus, 762-9779 Eric Nutt, 242-3566

Please speak with the elder chairman regarding anything you'd like the elders to discuss or to arrange a time to meet with them. The elder chairman for *January, February, and March* is **Eric Nutt**. The elder chairman for *April, May, and June* will be **Tim Hammond**.

DEACONS: Shayne Adams Joe Cook Jacob Cothren Jim Donnelly Mark Evans Scott Harris Billy Helton III Reggie Holt Shane Hughes Andy Lee Mark Miller Brad Nielsen Caleb Shadrick

MINISTERS: Jacob Evans, 731-343-5325 Jeremy Gargis, 931-231-9557 **Hispanic Ministry:** Rodolfo Espinoza, 615-516-0650 **AGAPE COUNSELOR,** 931-762-8502

March 18 and March 22, 2020

Mid-Week Bible Study.....	—
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	—
Sunday Morning Worship.....	—
Sunday Evening Worship.....	—
Contribution (2020 Budget \$10,635.48).....	\$6,232.00
Average (last available).....	\$10,348.51

Pulaski Street Church of Christ
247 Pulaski Street
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
LAWRENCEBURG, TN
PERMIT NO. 112

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SCHEDULE of SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes.....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....	10:25 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....	6:00 p.m.*
Wednesday night.....	7:00 p.m.

(*Each 4th and 5th Sunday evening service is at 1 p.m.)

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

◆ On WDXE AM 1370/FM 102.5 ◆ 12:45 p.m. ◆ Monday – Friday ◆
The upcoming week of March 30 – April 3 will be hosted
by the LEOMA Church of Christ.

PANTRY LIST

instant potatoes/8 oz. pkg. rice/1 lb. bag
 crackers/1 lb. box macaroni & cheese/7.25 oz. box
 quick oats/18 or 42 oz. OR boxes of individual packets
 dried beans/1 lb. bag ramen noodles/3 oz. pkg.
 cans of: tuna/6 oz. Vienna sausage/5 oz. salmon/ 15 oz.
 SpaghettiOs, ravioli, etc./15 oz. can
 fruit or vegetable juice/46 oz. can or bottle
 peanut butter/18 oz. jar soup/10.5 oz. can
 canned vegetables/14.5 oz. can...
 (corn, green beans, peas, baked beans, pork & beans, etc.)
 canned fruit/15 ¼ oz. (peach, pear, etc.)
 canned meat/12-24 oz. (Spam, Treet, Chicken, etc.)
 jelly, jam, or preserves/18-32 oz. jar

Monetary contributions are always welcome!
Make check payable to Pulaski Street Church of Christ,
and please indicate "PANTRY" on the memo line.
Thank you!

Services and events have been and could continue to be altered, postponed, or cancelled due to recommendations regarding the current coronavirus situation.

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS – April 5, 2020

Front Door – T.J. and Sammie Hughes
West Door – Kim Smith and Matthew Smith
East Door – C.J. Thigpen and DeAnna Thigpen

AUDITORIUM CLASS PRAYER.....Andy Lee

MORNING WORSHIP – April 5, 2020

Please note:

At least for the next two Sundays, **March 29 and April 5, at 10:30 a.m.**, we will be **live streaming** a worship service from our auditorium using the church's **Facebook page**. Just type "Pulaski Street Church of Christ" in the search box on Facebook and follow the links. The elders, Jeremy, and Jacob will be leading the worship service. In this way, you'll be able to see some familiar faces and hear some familiar voices. The worship service will be abbreviated.

On **Wednesday** evenings, Jacob will be live streaming a devotional message from his Facebook page at **7 p.m.**

WEDNESDAY EVENING – April 8, 2020

Scripture Reading, Genesis 7: 17-24.....Robert Morris
Lead Prayer.....Chuck Richardson
Closing Prayer.....T.J. Hughes
If you cannot serve on Wednesday, please call Reggie Holt at 629-8920.

VAN DRIVERS for April 5 and April 8

Call the driver listed below if you won't be riding the van.

SUNDAY MORNING.....Reggie Holt, 931-629-8920
SUNDAY EVENING.....NO VAN RUNS
WEDNESDAY EVENING.....Reggie Holt, 931-629-8920
If you cannot drive the van, please contact Scott Harris at 629-5994.

PROJECTOR OPERATORS – April 5 and April 8

SUNDAY MORNING.....Jacob Cothren
SUNDAY EVENING.....Tim Hammond
WEDNESDAY EVENING.....Jacob Cothren

SERVING THROUGHOUT APRIL

Baptismal Clothes.....Gina Burns and Shirley Evans
Please check at each service for garments and towels that need to be washed. The baptistry is used frequently for jail ministry baptisms.

Sunday Morning Song Leader.....Eric Nutt
Sunday Evening Song Leader.....Jeremy Gargis
Wednesday Evening Song Leader.....Joe Cook

Prepare Communion.....Jennifer, Olen, Diane Springer
Pick up Cups.....JoJo and Vangie Gieske

APRIL 2020 - AUDITORIUM GREETERS LIST

Group 1 Jerri Harris -- East Wing/Facilitator
Scott Harris -- East Outside Aisle
To be determined -- East Center Aisle
Dean Hughes -- West Center Aisle
Christy Smith -- West Outside Aisle
Jeff Smith -- West Wing

Group 2 Debbie Kidd -- East Wing/Facilitator
Ronnie Kidd -- East Outside Aisle
Hazel Kidd -- East Center Aisle
JoAnn Hollman -- West Center Aisle
Jack and Judy Butler -- West Outside Aisle
Vickie Hagan -- West Wing

Group 3 Emily Nielsen -- East Wing/Facilitator
Megan Shadrick -- East Outside Aisle
Jim Donnelly -- East Center Aisle
Sandy Adams -- West Center Aisle
Jackie and Beth Keaton -- West Outside Aisle
Bob Markus -- West Wing

Group 4 Sandi Cook -- East Wing/Facilitator
Kaley Donnelly -- East Outside Aisle
Tim Miller -- East Center Aisle
Patrick Hughes -- West Center Aisle
Brad Nielsen -- West Outside Aisle
Jennifer Springer -- West Wing

Group 5 Robert Morris -- East Wing/Facilitator
Biff and Penny Helton -- East Outside Aisle
Joe Cook -- East Center Aisle
Joseph Miele -- West Center Aisle
JoJo and Vangie Gieske -- West Outside Aisle
To be determined -- West Wing

Group 6 Kristi Miller -- East Wing/Facilitator
Shane and Denise Hughes -- East Outside Aisle
Shayne Adams -- East Center Aisle
Tommy and Patsy Lee -- West Center Aisle
Danny and Teresa Kennedy -- West Outside Aisle
Kristen Mashburn -- West Wing

Group 7 Tim Hammond -- East Wing/Facilitator
To be determined -- East Outside Aisle
Billy Helton III -- East Center Aisle
Jeremy Gargis -- West Center Aisle
T.J. and Sammie Hughes -- West Outside Aisle
To be determined -- West Wing

Group 8 Tammie Thomas -- East Wing/Facilitator
Andy Lee -- East Outside Aisle
Mark Miller -- East Center Aisle
Katie Gargis -- West Center Aisle
Lindsay Helton -- West Outside Aisle
Theresa Brown -- West Wing

SYMPATHY

We extend Christian love and sympathy to **Mack Evans** on the death of his cousin, **HAROLD EVANS**. Arrangements were incomplete at print time, but the funeral will be held in Florida.

Condolences may be sent to **Mack and Shirley and family** at 1265 East Gaines Street., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified. Isaiah 61:3

Services and events could be altered, postponed, or cancelled due to recommendations regarding the current coronavirus situation.

INFO and REMINDERS

1. At least through April 5, we will not assemble at our building for services or activities. For the next two Sundays, March 29 and April 5, at 10:30 a.m., we will be **live streaming a worship service** from our auditorium using **Facebook**. The elders, Jacob, and Jeremy will be leading the worship service.
2. We have **personal communion kits** (PCKs) on hand at the church office. Plan to drop by anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. this Friday, March 27, to pick up your portion of PCKs.
3. Your **weekly contribution** can be mailed to the church office at 247 Pulaski Street, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464, or it can be delivered to the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on any weekday.
4. Pulaski Street's **Ladies Day** will be **rescheduled** for a date in **2021**.
5. The **Secret Sisters** program is **on hold** for now. Don't worry about getting out to purchase or deliver any gifts right now. Once we are all assembling at church again, we will resume the program, and we can continue past May if need be.
6. We are helping provide **food for Ingram Sowell students** while school is out. At this time, donating money is the best way to help with this project. You can drop that by the church office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays.
7. You can still order your **SENT theme T-shirts** through this link: www.pulaskistreet.org/shirt/, or call the church office (931-762-5161). **The deadline is April 1.**
8. **Graduates**, remember to e-mail your photos and info to us soon.
9. Now is a great time to check on your fellow church members, family, and neighbors, especially the elderly, and see how you can help.

YOUTH NEWS

What would you have done differently if you knew it was coming? I guess that is a question that could be applied to all kinds of situations in life. From tragic events like storms and car wrecks to joyful moments like promotions or winning a giveaway, if we always knew what was coming, it would probably cause us to live our lives a little bit differently. But we can't know everything that the future holds.

What would you have done differently if you knew what the current COVID-19 pandemic was going to cause? Would you have visited your elderly neighbors and family members a few extra times? Would you have stocked up on bread, meat, milk, paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, soap, and "all things cleaning" before the rush? Certainly, there are things that most of us would've done differently had we known what was going to transpire. But we can't know everything that the future holds.

In times past and present, there are some things that we can know. I am reminded of Joseph, "that dreamer," as his brothers called him. Joseph, through his own dreams, saw that his family was going to bow down to him in the future. Through Pharaoh's dreams, Joseph executed a plan that saved nations from a severe famine. Because of the divine revelation, Joseph was able to see many things that were to come in the future. As for us, we can't know everything that the future holds.

Of course, there are numerous prophecies that we can read and see exact details of things that would happen hundreds and hundreds of years before the events took place. It can increase our faith to see how they unfolded exactly as they were foretold. But we aren't prophets, and we can't know everything that the future holds.

We can, however, know some things that the future holds. Most importantly, we know that we will either die or the Lord will return. When that happens, we will not have any more opportunities to make preparations. Sadly, so many people, even "Christians," live their lives as though they don't remember that they will be judged by their deeds! You see, if we knew that some tragic thing was going to transpire, we would do everything in our power to avoid being adversely affected by it. But WE DO know that the judgment is coming, and all too often, we don't do anything about it! Many choose to remain in sin and disregard the warnings from Scripture to keep our lives within the will of God.

No, we can't know everything that the future holds. But what are we going to do about the things that we know will happen in the future?

Until next time,
Jeremy Gargis

Rejoice in hope,
be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer.
Romans 12:12, ESV

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

As of Tuesday, March 24:

WILLODEAN CAMPBELL will be having iron infusions at some point, but the treatment will probably be delayed due to precautions related to the COVID-19 situation. 495 Kent St., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

DONNA HELTON was hospitalized at STRHS last week with an upper respiratory infection. While hospitalized there, she fell and was airlifted to Centennial Medical Center with a brain bleed. As of Tuesday, March 24, there was no more bleeding on the brain, and she had tested negative for COVID-19. She expects to transfer to another facility for rehab sometime this week. 219 Waterloo St., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

MICHAEL MASHBURN is home and will be undergoing IV antibiotic treatment for several more weeks. 250 Wesley Chapel Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

CHAD BROWN, father of **Josie Brown** and **Mary Beth Brown**, is scheduled for surgery on Monday, March 30, for blockages in both legs. This condition is very painful. 216 Admiral Circle, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

SHANNON COTTON, granddaughter of **Jean Caperton** (neighbor of **Jean Parrish**), is in Rm. 205 at Meadowbrook Nursing Home in Pulaski after a lengthy hospitalization with a respiratory illness. c/o Meadowbrook Nursing Home, 1245 E. College St., Pulaski, TN 38478.

NORA GIST, grandmother of **Katelyn Romsdal**, returned home on Monday, March 23, from a stay in Maury Regional with a brain bleed. An MRI indicated a spot that needs further investigation, and Mrs. Gist is to follow up with another MRI. 14 J.H. Bates Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

LINDA KELLEY, friend of **Tommy and Patsy Lee**, is battling pancreatic cancer. The past two weeks have been very difficult. The side effects from the chemotherapy have taken a toll on her. 610 William Street, St. Joseph, TN 38481.

EMMA MOORE, 12-year-old granddaughter of **Barbara Weaver** who attends our Ladies' Bible Class, has been diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE), which is a chronic, allergic inflammatory disease of the esophagus. In Emma's case, both her stomach and her esophagus are affected. She has been receiving nutrition through a feeding tube, and it is hoped that her stomach will heal over the next few weeks. Afterwards, they will attempt to identify which food(s) are causing her problems. 157 Lanning Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

Please continue to remember: **Mary Louisa Belew, Lorene Chandler, Nell Dixon, Ruth Goff, Donna Marston, Thelma McCloud, Ruby Welch, Betty Marie Bailey, J.D. Conley, Phillip Gattis, Dustin Haltom, Martha Hampton, Kevin Huckaby, Linda Jenkins, Clifford Doyle Johnson, Linda Kelley, Keith Mattox, Jackie McCord, Macie Rose, Jay Thomas**, and all those recently mentioned.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28, NKJV