

THE HAPPENING

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2020



Redeemer Church - Following the Son

How I survived the shelter-at-home mandate, page 3



Rev. Nicole Thomas
Pastor

How I have survived the shelter at home mandate:

1. Prayer - This may seem like the holy, Christian answer, and maybe it is, but

I have found that I cannot get through a day without speaking to the Lord or even crying out to him. Maybe this is why the apostle Paul, stated in I Thessalonians 5:17, "pray without ceasing!"

2. Bible - whether it is reading or listening to audible versions, I am desperate for the Word of

God. It is my source of strength, encouragement and peace.

3. Numerous phone calls to co-workers - we spend a lot of time, sharing knowledge about new techniques to get the job done. Working from home is quite different than being in an office and there has been a learning curve in this, but God has been faithful and my co-workers have been an amazing support.

4. Reliance upon family for new skills with regard to videoing



Sunday Morning Worship. Couldn't do it without them 😊!

5. Facetime with the tweens, Cheyenne and James, is one of the highlights of my week. They are reading the Scripture and I am truly blessed to hear new insights every Thursday.
6. I must admit I have been incredibly blessed during this time because I have been able to spend it with my nieces and nephew. Smiles, hugs and laughter has filled many days.
7. Another highlight has been an opportunity to perform a wedding (small group). Love and commitment, expressed to one

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RETURNING TO CHURCH

Church Leadership together with Pastor Nicole have been working diligently to prepare for a "Return to Worship." To do so, we want to make sure your experience is Safe as we can reasonably be expected to provide. Initially, we will be offering one combined Service with music from both Services at 10:30 am, beginning Sunday, June 14, 2020. We will be communicating that with you with the following letter. Your Safety is our biggest focus as we prepare to come together in Worship once again.

Dear Redeemer Members and Friends,
Greetings from your Church. We pray this finds each of you well. It goes without saying that we have been dealing with an

unprecedented time in our lives and in our Church Life. It has been very difficult not coming together in Worship and Fellowship. Pastor Nicole and Church Lead-

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NICOLE'S NOTES CONT.

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another, family and to the Lord, was simple and moving.

8. After two months, my entire family was able to gather and celebrate birthdays that were missed. Ecstatic about the time spent partying.

As I conclude, I see that my list

went from desperation to counting every blessing. Don't get me wrong, I miss you all greatly and long to congregate, soon (safely, of course), but I have found, that even amidst the shelter at home mandate, God is good (all the time)! And all God's people said, "Amen!"

Love to you all and prayers for each

and every one of you. "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

Love,

Pastor Nicole

RETURNING TO CHURCH CONT.

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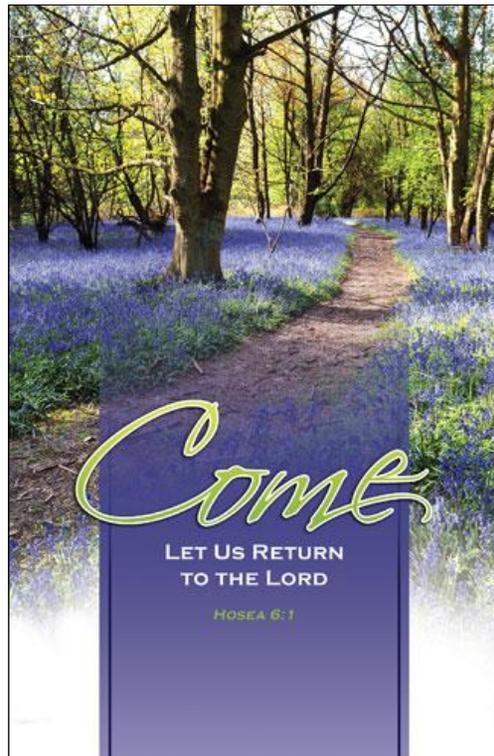
ership is dedicated to returning to our Church as soon as we can make that experience the safest experience we can reasonably offer. We cannot eliminate all risk, and the ultimate decision when you return has to be your decision. We're using this communication to describe the precautions we are taking and to advise what you can expect when you arrive.

Sadly, our Church experience will be much different than we have been used to. We are dedicated to getting back as close to what we have experienced in the past, that being a Traditional Service at 9:45 and a Contemporary Service at 11:00 as soon as it's safe and makes sense to do that. However, initially, we will be offering one combined Service offering music from both Services at 10:30 am.

When you return, we feel the following are important guidelines to be in effect:

- The side door will be closed for entry, you will come in through the Front door, we will try to keep it open, eliminating the need to touch the door.

- The Gathering Grounds and the kitchen will be closed, there will be no coffee, etc. which eliminates the need for people to



handle the plates, pots, etc where there is potential to spread germs. You are welcome to bring coffee with you.

- When you enter the building please proceed directly to the Family Life Center. The Family Life Center offers us the opportunity to provide more Social Dis-

tancing for both congregants and the musicians. We ask that you avoid hand shaking, hugging, etc. and maintain a safe Social Distance. If you are a part of a "family unit" and have been together on a regular basis, you are welcome to sit together. If you are not part of a "family unit", we will ask you maintain Social Distancing.

- There will be no bulletins. We will do our best to show the Order of Worship on the Screen. This eliminates bulletins being left around where someone has to pick them up, possible exposing them to germs.
- We encourage you to bring your Bible or use an electronic version on your phone.
- There will not be an offering taken during the Service. We will have a place to drop offerings at the door as you Exit.
- We strongly urge you to wear a mask. Some will be available at the door. This is for your protection as well as all you come in contact with.

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RETURNING TO CHURCH CONT.

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- We will close the restrooms in the Children's Wing and ask that there be only one person at a time in the Restrooms at the end of the main hall.
- At the end of the Service, we will have ushers release congregants in an orderly manner and ask that you proceed out of the building. We plan to have Hand Sanitizer around the building for your use and will have a garbage can at each exit if you need to drop disposable masks, etc.
- On our first Sunday back, we feel it meaningful to share in Communion. We have secured



prepackaged Communion elements. It is a plastic cup with grape juice and on top there is a sealed wafer. You will pick one up as you enter, hold it at your seat until Communion is celebrated, open the package, partake then drop the waste in the garbage as you leave.

Before you come to church...

- Please be aware of your temperature or of any symptoms you might have. If you have any symptoms, we ask that you refrain from attending.
- If you have been exposed or may have been exposed to COVID-19, please refrain from attending
- Please be aware that older adults and persons with pre-existing

conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes; as well as those with compromised immune systems are at higher risk from the virus, and should therefore limit their exposure. We refer you again to our Sunday Worship Videos.

- Please be sure to wash your hands and put on your mask before coming to Church.

If you're in doubt, don't go out!

We pray that these actions will provide an opportunity to come together and Worship in as safe an atmosphere as we can reasonably provide. Again, your return is an individual decision and we fully understand those that choose to delay their return. We pray for you and hope you can join us in the near future.

We look forward to returning to Worship and are dedicated to make moves to return to as near to normal as we can, as the situation allows us to do safely and responsibly.

How I survived the shelter-at-home mandate (more next page)

How I survived the shelter-at-home order - Mary Van Lieu

I live alone with only my best friend, Sherman. He happens to be a dog who is really enjoying having me home all the time. If I go out in the car to mail a letter or go to the bank, he gets so excited to get to go for a ride.

My nephew, Mark, is always ready to help me with anything. He goes to the grocery for me, cuts my grass and such things. I give him a list of things I want from the grocery. On the list I asked for a bag

of baby carrots. My neighbor since 1967, Wanda, found out that I wanted baby carrots. She told her daughter about the carrots. A couple days later Mark brought my 1 lb. bag of carrots. The next day, a knock on my door and there was Suzy (Wanda's daughter), with a 2 lb. bag of carrots. I am certainly well supplied with carrots. I feel very blessed to have such great friends and neighbors to watch over me since my children live out of state. Thanks to all.

P.S. Does anyone need carrots?



How I survived the shelter-at-home mandate (cont.)

Adventures in COVID-19 2020 - Karen Schumm

I remember writing a paper for school entitled "What I did during Spring/Summer Break.

Well this certainly appears to be a time for "What I did During COVID-19 Break".

At first it was a nice change of pace to be "Shelter-In-Place (Home)

Then after awhile things I had left undone became "Larger than Life!"

Because I am a Seamstress/Crafter/Knitter etc., I found a lot of "UFO's"(Unfinished Objects) calling my name.

And here we go!

Set an alarm, Devotional, eat brunch and then work at a pile of THINGS!

As I'm sure most of you know, Al (My Husband) is the "Masked Energizer Bunny" and so, I did my best to keep him busy and also stay out of his way!



At our house, no two days are ever the same!!!

Many of his friends called daily just to see what he was up to on that day!

(I'll let him tell you his "Adventures in COVID")

Because I felt more secure at home, I gave him the task of running errands that required going inside a building..... Al was grocery shopping at Kroger! (Would loved to have been inside Kroger to experience his first trip there!)

I've digressed!

And soooo, after Bible Study and Elder/Deacon/Consistory (Teleconference calls), I was on my way to "The Black Hole" of UFO's

Anyone who does Sewing, Crafts etc. will know what I mean when I say I found some interesting UFO's. I'm still deciding whether or not this or that needs completed! And so, I'll close for now. Anyone else have a story to tell? I hope this brightened your day just a little. God is Good all the time in any circumstance.

Take That COVID!!!

Gary & Shelby Shuppert



There's likely nothing too different about our shelter-at-home experience except for one very special thing.

We've stayed in except for using the pharmacy drive-thru, a

couple of Kroger ClickList outdoor grocery pickups, and daily trips to the neighborhood mailboxes. Shelby has completed more jigsaw puzzles than I can keep track of. Lots of phone time with family.

We've had a few family visits in our garage with the door open, masks, and "social distancing." We have followed the governor's suggestion of displaying our flag every day that weather permits.



So, what's the special thing? A wedding. On Tuesday, May 5th, our granddaughter Leslie Cheek married her high school sweetheart Nick Hobson. It was a small, brief ceremony attended only by immediate family and officiated by Pastor Nicole whose message was inspirational and challenging. A group photo with masks will be memorable. Was it the only wedding in America that Tuesday?

*"The LORD BLESS you and KEEP you;
the LORD make his face SHINE on you
and be GRACIOUS to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you PEACE."
NUMBERS 6:24-26*



Hayley Otto is graduating from Edgewood High School and Butler Tech with a license in Cosmetology. She plans to attend

Sinclair Community College in the fall to majoring in business. We are so proud of the kind generous person she has become, and we are excited for the great things she will achieve in this next chapter of her life. Thank you to everyone at the church for always supporting and praying for Hayley. Please join us on June 6th between 1-3 pm at the church for a "drive by celebration" to honor Hayley's graduation. To keep everyone safe, please stay in your vehicle, honk and wave, and we will send you off with a piece of cake. Congratulations Hayley!!



Leslie Cheek and **Nick Hobson** were married May 5th at Redeemer Church.

It was a simple ceremony attended by

immediate family including grandparents Shelby and Gary Shuppert. Rev. Nicole Thomas officiated.

Upon leaving the church, they were greeted in the parking lot with a surprise parade of honking cars filled with family and friends.

Leslie is a recent graduate of Miami University with a degree in Elementary Education. Nick graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Hydroponic Agriculture.

Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Hobson!



Will Shuppert graduated from Mason High School May 24th. A bus pulled up at his home with a school administrator and staff who

gave a brief graduation message, presented him with his diploma, and took school pictures. Will is the oldest grandson of Gary and Shelby Shuppert and will attend the University of Cincinnati this fall majoring in Computer Sciences.

Will's older sister, **Emily**, is attending Miami University and planning to graduate next year with double majors in Analytics and Economics and a minor in Mathematics.

Emily and Will have two younger brothers, **David** and **Matt**.



- Karen Schumm June 3
- Lori Lohrer June 6
- William Shackelford..... June 6
- Wanda Chalk June 9
- Sherry Phillips June 17
- Bill Hyatt June 18
- Bonnie Gronas June 19
- Roy Coffey June 20
- Stephanie Hoes June 23
- Rose Marie Stiehl June 23
- Mike Khulenberg June 29
- Joann Paulsen June 29



- Clyde & Charlotte Burkhart . June 4
- Don & Judy Miller June 6
- Bill & Betty Waltner June 12



I just love the way Dexter says "Hallelujah!"

BIG THANK-YOU!

To ALL who purchased hanging baskets at the Go-Getter's Fund-raiser on May 2nd.



You are all Rock Stars!!!
- Karen Schumm

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Get Out The Crayons

Print this page. The kids (or you!) can color Redeemer Church.
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