

BROADWAY LIFE

www.broadwaychristian.net

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May 5, 2020

When?

We have all heard the phrase, “it’s not a flip of the switch, but a turn of the dial,” when government officials talk about changes to the COVID-19 restrictions. The reason for their caution is apparent – nations, states and cities that have reacted slowly, or less aggressively, to the pandemic have paid a terrible price.

As Columbia takes the first tenuous steps toward relaxing some of the COVID restrictions, there is still much uncertainty. But what is clear to the leadership of Broadway is that, even with the loosening of COVID policies, there is, as yet, no vaccine or definitive treatment for the virus. The science tells us that the virus is extremely transmissible through close contact, that many who carry the virus do not show symptoms but can still infect others, and that the virus is especially dangerous for those with underlying medical conditions and/or those aged 65 and older.

What does this mean for Broadway? Honestly, we don’t know when we can return to in-person church. In a “normal” crisis, people find comfort by attending church, hearing a message, seeing their friends. We are



definitely in a crisis, but it is far from “normal.” Our very instinct to gather with one another could endanger those we love. So, Broadway’s plans for resuming “in-person” church must be deliberate, cautious and be consistent with medical best practices.

Steve Westgate, Broadway’s Board Chair and a physician, is forming an advisory team to work with our Executive Committee and Board to develop strategies for returning to in-person church gatherings. What this plan will look like is unknown at present. We do know that it will likely be at least June before we are physically together on a Sunday morning. When we do meet again, we will all have to forego our Sunday morning handshakes and hugs – even as we long to feel those hugs.

We may be physically isolated for a while longer, but as Christians, we know that we are never alone. As members of Broadway, we know that the Broadway Spirit is with us, too. Together, we will do this and come through Broadway Strong!

Some of you have been counting the days of quarantine. It has kept a rhythm for you and a sense of time. Others have longed to remove the count altogether as it is a reminder that life is not normal and we're living in isolated realities. I admit to feeling some of both throughout these many days.

The truth? *It is hard.* There. I said it. *It is hard.* I'm an optimist at heart and still believe in the good that will come from what we learn through this time. The silver linings are everywhere – the elusive Oriole appears at the bird feeder for the first time. The air is cleaner. There are fewer car accidents. All of this is good.

A colleague shared the good news that her 95 year old grandfather, isolated in the nursing home he resides, tested negative for COVID even as his care facility has a large number of active cases. She was grateful he is currently safe but saddened by his own words as he shared, *"I feel Jesus has left me. I'm ready to go to him."* Silver lining? I'm not sure. *This is hard.*

Our Bethany Fellows leadership team facilitated a virtual retreat this past week for our forty Fellows, young Disciples pastors from around the country. They are tired, uncertain of the future, and wondering if they are "*doing it [church] right*" during this pandemic. Several are struggling to sleep.

Sleep, while a constant conditioned struggle for some, can also be challenging for others during times of distress and uncertainty. And yet, sleep, in its own way, is an act of trust. Author Frederick Buechner speaks to sleep as our trust to leave this world for a time, entering another we don't know as well, but trusting that we are held regardless. When it comes to sleep...

"Whether you're just or unjust, you have the innocence of a cat dozing under the stove.



Whether you're old or young, homely or fair, you take on the serenity of marble. You have given up being in charge of your life. You have put yourself into the hands of the night. It is a rehearsal for the final laying down of arms, of course, when you trust yourself to the same unseen benevolence to see you through the dark and to wake you when the time comes – with new hope, new strength—into the return again of light." (Buechner)

This period of quarantine is not a season of slumber as if we are simply hibernating until it's over. It is a release of what is out of our control and resting in the dreams that might carry us into the new hope and strength we will awaken to post quarantine. What is that brewing dream?

Perhaps we are to be okay when "*I don't know*" is the current answer and focus on what we do know to be true. Diana Butler Bass, often called to forecast the future direction of the movement of church, offers that very advice about these quarantined times. *"Feel what you feel,"* she says. *"Mix in love and gratitude even if that seems hard or impossible. Take responsibility for what you can and don't try to fix what is beyond your control. Embrace the day. And... know that you are not alone."*

This season is hard. Let's just call it what it is. But... it's also a pregnant season where we are called to practice good health, pray for direction, and prepare for the birth ahead. The prophet Isaiah's forecast holds as true for us as it ever has: *"See, I'm doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness..."* (Isaiah 43:19). We may grow weary of counting days but let us not grow weary of making the days count. For this is surely true... a new thing is springing up.

Open Mic Stewardship Emphasis...

It Is Time for Your Feedback, Broadway!

It is safe to say that Broadway's 2020-2021 Stewardship Emphasis Sundays have been like no other! Our Stewardship Team, chaired by Barbara McLay, was so ready for three big Sundays of fun—balloons, dancing bears, confetti—just kidding, folks! And then a novel virus came to stay.

Truthfully, our Stewardship Team and our ministers were prepared for a campaign like no other. Broadway is a caring community of people who don't necessarily need to be reminded of what we have in this special place. And for what we have, we are thankful.

Celebration Sunday is May 10. Our Stewardship Team has asked that you return your pledge card by that date, so that preparations for our 2020-2021 budget can begin in earnest. The ministry of Broadway will go on, virus or no virus, and your support will be needed in the coming church year.

If you did not receive your pledge card, you can contact Church administrator Ingrid Luckenbill by email at iluckenbill@broadwaychristian.net. If you did receive



Pledges Received—132

Pledged Amount—\$528,589.16

pledging information, you can return it in the mail. If you have set up your Realm account, you can also set up your pledge by clicking on the "Giving" tab. You can also call the church office at 445.5312 and Ingrid will walk you through the online process for pledging.



CARELINK BROADWAY CHRISTIAN Is Church Family Caring for Church Family!

CARELINK BROADWAY CHRISTIAN When We Say It—We Mean It!

Month after month, CareLink really does translate into "Church Family Caring for Church Family." And you already know "how" it happens:

It could be the services of any or all of 10 CareLink ministries--cards, flowers, casseroles, spirited singers, shawls, handy helpers, calls of concern, care center visits, bereavement meals or even caregivers support.

But now, in this time of COVID 19, more than ever, we are ALL CARELINK. That's right, in this time of challenge and change and separation, let's ALL be CARELINK. We know that many of you, on your own, often check on others in our church. You've been doing it for years.

Over the past six plus weeks our CareLink ministries have been hard at work trying to stay in touch and care for as many of our church families as possible. So for now, why not join them? You're not making a permanent commitment, you're just helping us make sure that no one is overlooked. Why not try these CareLink ministries as a start? Just call the chair of these ministries and let them know who you've called, contacted or assisted. CareLink thanks you for your efforts.

PICK A CARD, ANY CARD -- and send it to someone in our church family, using the addresses in the church directory. Call Carole Braun, CareLink card ministry chair at 446-4369 if you need assistance or want to keep Carole updated on your actions.

OFFER TO HELP PROVIDE A MEAL CARD -- for a church member who would love the surprise. Call Joyce Harter, CareLink casserole

April 2020 Report

- ♥ Services provided: 58
- ♥ People served: 66
- ♥ Calls/emails: 315
- ♥ Volunteers serving: 145

These numbers do not include the ongoing regular visits and pastoral calls by our ministers.

CareLink Co-chairs

Patsy Dalton and Linda Poehlmann

ministry chair, at 445-3258 to get ideas on how to make this happen. Or just let Joyce know of any needs that are not being met already.

OFFER TO RUN AN ERRAND OR HELP WITH A SMALL CHORE -- You probably know someone who could use assistance. Just call John Poehlmann, CareLink Handy Helper chair, at 999-7522 and let him know

what you can do or have done. It can be a simple chore or if it is more complicated John can summon other CareLinkers from his team.

CALL A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY JUST TO VISIT -- Most everyone enjoys a friendly phone call of true concern, or just an informal telephone visit. Whether you call others on a regular basis just need some help selecting people to call, talk to Ethel Okker, CareLink chair of Calls of Concern, at 449-9124 and she can assist. you see, during this extraordinary time, this is exactly how it works. We all pull together to stay in touch, to offer encouragement or help, to provide a meal. Sometimes you're the one who receives the demonstration of love and caring through CareLink and sometimes you get to be the one who gives that gift. In fact, over the past month or so, we've heard from people who had gotten cards, etc. after a health issue, but are back on their feet again and ready to help others.

That's how we roll at Broadway, we help, we heal, we love, we assist. And best of all, we work as a church family!

Children's Ministry Finds New Ways to Connect Our Kids!

How do you tell a pre-schooler that giving Mr. Chuck a giant and enthusiastic leg hug can't be done right now—even if you are both at church? This is just one example of issues that our Children's Ministry team is working through during this time of separation. Social distancing is a difficult concept for some adults; imagine the challenge of explaining it to a group of young children.

But keeping Broadway's families and kids connected during this challenging time is a priority. Our Children's Ministry team is sensitive to the increase in kids' screen time due to in-home schooling. So the team has gone 'old school', and is looking for Broadway members who would like to pen pal with our kids. If you'll remember, pen pals write notes on actual papers, put the paper in an actual envelope, and mail it

(don't forget the stamp)! Children's Ministry leader Aimee McBride is surveying Broadway families to determine if their children would like to participate as a pen pal. She will match kids with their new pals, and make some suggestions on how to start the process. If you'd like to participate, contact Aimee at amcbride@broadwaychristian.net.

Children's Ministry will also ask families what kinds of interactive church activities would work best for them during this time—downloadable pages, packets in the mail, etc. Since many families are staying very busy with school work, Children's Ministry wants to engage with families and children, not create more stress and work!

Pastor Nick Larson Departs Broadway After Nine Years

To my church family, as of Friday May 1st, I've started my last month serving as one of your Pastors. I trust that by now you've received my letter and hope you felt the grateful sentiment in which I penned it. I am grateful for all of you who have reached out with a card, text, or phone call. You have bolstered my spirit in this time.

Today I reflect as our last moments are inching ever nearer as I sit here looking around my office at the nine-plus years of memories and ministries that have collected around me. From the "Vote Nick Larson 4 President" sign that some new members and friends held up during my first sermon at Broadway, to the multiple years of large calendar planners that you can peek behind and see maybe six years worth of events, to that singing monkey that I was 'gifted' from the Habitat Sale, to the baptism and youth mission trip photos that fill my bulletin board. Each and every item in this office represents someone or something meaningful that we did together. Moments in time, filled with the mystery of God and a connection to one or more of you. For that I am grateful.

It is difficult to fit all my feelings about you as a congregation into words on a page, but I trust that in between these words that Eternal Spirit, our collective counselor will do the work. For I have great hope for you Broadway, for what God will continue to do in your midst. Know that I will be praying and cheering you forward into the next years of ministry together. I know that you will stay connected to the Divine Spirit that fills this place and is inside each and every one of you.

So as we begin to part ways, I leave you with those words of my benediction, that I have left you with on hundreds of Sundays before this moment. So may you remember to go with compassion and justice in your heart. To give voice to the silent, strength to the weak, to hear one another, to see one another, to care for one another, and to love one another because it's all that easy and it is all that hard. Go forth with the grace of God, the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

Continuing Recovery...

... Susan Miles Cox, Jana Day, Gay Gage, George Garner, Maurice Gebhardt, Bruce Jackson, Bob Klein, Pat Klein, Jenny Lybeck-Brown, Mary Regan, Beverly Walden, Chuck Watts, Polly White.

Our Thoughts and Prayers...

to Dorothy and Walter Sorrels, on the passing of their daughter.

... to Greg Gilmore and Jennifer Barb, on the passing of Greg's mother.

... to Craig and Nancy Martin and family, on the passing of Craig's brother.

.... To the family and friends of Ruth Akerson, who passed away on April 6. A celebration of Ruth's life will be held this fall.

Thanks Received...

... We want to thank all of you who prayed for our daughter, Jana's healing as she battled meningitis. We have appreciated all the calls, emails, messages and cards. All of those expressions were very helpful as Jana was in the hospital and isolated from us. She is home now and getting better every day.

Don and Fran Day

... Learning experiences continue in the homeplace, after visiting Boone Hospital Center and The Bluffs.

Through God and prayers, the Broadway family, including the ministers, CareLink and members of the congregation, as well as the community, we are blessed. We thank you for all the contact including using family in all means available.

Let's continue to love yourselves and each other.

Sincerely, Phil Weedin

Congratulations...

..... To our graduating High School Seniors Aubrey Atkins, Embrey Atkins, John Crouse, Riley Kerns, Marissa Kraus, Jonah Larsen

Celebrating May Birthdays

5/1 Hilda Morris

5/2 Marty Gibbons, Mahyedeh Hall, Kristin Kunze,

Diana Larson, Orinda Prell, Maria Thomas

5/3 Jason Elbert, Mary Regan

5/4 Kristin Meade

5/5 Margaret Day, Dan Miller

5/6 Nancy Fuchs, Tom Luckenbill

5/7 Wanda Powell

5/8 Adele Fritz, Clara Long

5/9 Lydia Huntley

5/10 Scott Fritz, Tim Espy

5/11 Janice Henson, Pat Miles

5/12 Kellen Sapp, Kayla Siemons, Ransom Stamps, Cindy Zirrillio

5/14 Resa Kerns, Jonah Larsen, Rob Weir

5/15 Lee Boyle, Tricia Crews, Caren Griffin, Sandy Ollar, Jackson Wesley

5/16 Tucker Flottman, Abigail Ryan, Morgan Stephenson

5/17 Charlotte Browning, Susan Donley, Shawna Schulte

5/18 Mara Zaner, Stephanie Zaner

5/19 Michelle Kersey, Samuel Schepker

5/20 Gertie Combs

5/21 Debby Graham, Brian Howard

5/22 Roger Fisher, Clint Muzzy, Linda Rouse

5/23 Cheryl Shigaki

5/24 Melanie Karrick

5/25 Virginia Fisher

5/26 Betty Sapp

5/27 Gina Muzzy, Vicki Williams

5/28 Hannah Muzzy, Dustin Overfelt

5/29 Whitney Moore

5/30 Sam Fisher, Myles Hinkel, Evan Turner

5/31 Andy Thomas

6/1 Wanda Angel, Cordellia Willard

6/2 Carol Francisco, Lillian Hardaway, Melissa Hasanovic, Tim Kersey

6/3 Ellen Dutton, Liam Dutton, Sophia Dutton, Paisley Otto, Barbara Priestley

6/5 Steve Westgate

6/6 Maddie Grueber

BROADWAY BY THE NUMBERS

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Attendance: April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday Attendance: April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

Worship Services Suspended due to COVID-19 Pandemic

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Attendance: April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

Worship Services Suspended due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Attendance: April 19, 2020

Worship Services Suspended due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Attendance: May 3, 2020

Worship Services Suspended due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Because Broadway Life serves as much of the historical record of the church, we will continue to record suspended worship services.

It is worth noting that virtual worship services on Wednesday and Sunday continue to receive between 200-300 views during the course of each week. An exact number is difficult, as we offer access to these services via several online platforms.



Pastor Mark passing out palms for the 2020 Palm Parade on April 5.

BROADWAY FINANCIALS AS OF APRIL 30, 2020

REVENUES OFFERING	Total Budgeted 2019-2020	Received	Percentage	Last Year's Numbers At This Time	Percentage
Pledged Giving	\$730,064.68	\$651,434.86	89.23%	\$601,076.74	79.23%
Unpledged Giving	\$108,726.98	\$40,914.90	37.63%	\$38,698.53	30.98%
Loose Offering	\$11,047.91	\$9,090.41	82.28%	\$9,187.10	91.87%
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$25.75		\$36.21	
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$91.07		\$214.59	
Current Yr Net Activity					
TOTAL	\$849,839.57	\$701,556.99	82.55%	\$649,213.17	72.66%

CURRENT YEAR ACTIVITY: **\$41,397.42**

EXPENSES	Total Budgeted 2019-2020	Expended	Percentage	Last Year's Numbers At This Time	Percentage
Staff Payroll	\$557,755.42	\$459,684.27	82.42%	\$402,339.33	67.14%
Administration	\$44,465.00	\$36,637.97	82.40%	\$36,349.29	77.54%
Children & Youth	\$14,584.50	\$6,177.71	42.36%	\$5,176.65	35.49%
Fellowship	\$1,350.00	-\$1,008.34	-74.69%	-\$1,553.39	-113.58%
Discipleship	\$720.00	-\$155.87	-21.65%	-\$3,910.80	-543.17%
Property	\$128,400.00	\$105,083.02	81.84%	\$110,050.14	89.18%
Mission & Outreach	\$84,983.96	\$43,296.87	50.95%	\$46,659.45	52.22%
Stewardship	\$630.00	\$433.98	68.89%	\$562.71	89.32%
Worship	\$16,950.69	\$10,009.96	59.05%	\$10,675.87	61.47%
TOTAL	\$849,839.57	\$660,159.57	77.68%	\$606,349.25	67.86%



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