



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (USA)

PASTOR'S PEN

Can you imagine the excitement when word spread that Jesus was coming to town? I picture the Jericho Marching Band ready to play and lead Jesus down main street to the village green. I imagine the Mayor has a key to present to Jesus as crowds gather to see this powerful preacher-healer.

A blind man was present that day, "sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me". Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me." (Luke 18: 35-39)

The blind man was a nuisance. The people want to hear from Jesus, not this social misfit. They were practicing a form of social isolation. Purists never did like how Jesus held children, ate with tax collectors, spoke to a woman at a well, and always welcomed the outcasts to dine with him. This story ends, not with isolation, but with Jesus healing the blind man.

Jesus often traveled, taught, healed, preached and ate with the people. He did not like how common folk were viewed and used by people with power. Of course, our situation is vastly different today, but we do know something of what the blind man experienced as we are being told to isolate, and not to meet in restaurants or our church, or in any public gathering. It is for our own good. It really is.

How I miss your face! How I miss the handshakes we offer one another! How I miss our singing and praying and listening for God's word when we gather each Sunday for worship! And how I miss our meals together!

On the last night of March, the Elders and Deacons met on a video call. The decision was made not to meet for worship through April. As the end of the month approaches, we will evaluate the state of our community and be guided by our elected leaders, to reconsider worship in our sanctuary. For now, we live through these difficult days, and we trust that God will guide us ahead. Here are six things I want you to do during the coming weeks:

1. Worship at 11 on Sunday morning by going onto the church Facebook page.
2. Pray for our church, our leaders, our nation and world. Pray for those who have this frightening virus. We will be strengthened by prayer.
3. Send in your offering to the church, or call the church number and Trista can receive your gift on a secure credit card. As of this writing, our church is "bleeding" as enrollments have dropped in our school and we are in the red approximately \$20,000.
4. Read the Scripture. Go to some of your favorite passages, or try some new ones like Psalms: 8, 16, 42, 43, 46, 62, 116, 121, 130; Romans 8, John 6, 11, 14, 20
5. Call a friend and a few church members. Be intentional in staying connected.
6. Call me, your Pastor, and let me know how you are doing. (cell: 267-884-5692)

After Easter, I will be offering a midweek time for prayer and reflection on our Facebook page. That will be on Wednesday nights at 7:30.

One thing we have learned about this time of isolation is that we need one another. And we need to stay close to our Savior, who died for us on the Cross and rose for us on Easter morning. He is still speaking to us now:

"Jesus said: 'Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always, trust also in me. Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears.'" (John 14: 1, 27)

May we each lean into the peace our Lord offers as we remember the first Easter. God bless you, those you love, and those no one loves.

Pastor Keith

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

(REFLECTIONS AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?)

As I write this, Delores and I are into the 12th day of our self-imposed "social distancing" at home. Strange, the very first day led to our first disagreement and we became socially distant from each other. It didn't last long however, and we were able to make it to Day 4 before that social distant stuff popped its ugly head a second time.

We "made up" again but that brings us to something that is distressing; we don't like being socially distant from our church family. It robs us of our well-being - physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually; especially when we miss the fellowship we share with each other at our 9:30 am Adult Sunday School class. The sad truth is we don't know how long this disruption will last, however the good news is that "the will of God will not take us where the GRACE of God will not keep us."

Despite this "interruption" we continue to pray, plan and prepare for future lessons when we will be together once again. We have been in contact with the Lancaster Resource Center who has provided us with some good options to choose from. One of those is the Max Lucado/Randy Frazee small group study, ***Making Room For Neighbors*** which is "designed to help Christians rediscover the importance of true engagement with self, family and neighbors."

Other ideas include a study from a book in the Bible or from various Upper Room publications. We invite you to join us when we resume our class in the Upper Room - where there is always room for you.



-Robert Barr

DEACONS CORNER

The phrase "do not be afraid" is written in the bible 365 times.

That's a daily reminder from God to live everyday being fearless.

Greetings, the above pretty much sums it up! In continuing to be proactive, fearless and wise, a decision was made to cancel the Egg Hunt. No real surprise!

In addition, if you missed the earlier announcement, the Spring Fling will not take place this year. Our hope is to have a replacement activity and we will keep you informed.

Here is my number should you need to reach a Deacon:

Christene Bohns

443-286-0655

We pray for you, your families, and may God be with you until we meet again.





REQUESTS FOR OUR BUSY PRAYER WARRIORS



Clive Owen, Jeanne Gay's grandson Jameson, his parents Kate & Tim, Captain Jack, his family & medical team, Jamiara Lewis, Kathy's niece Eliana Andrade & her family, Janelle's nephews girlfriend, Brooke, her family & her medical team, the late Carl Funkhauser & his family, Mary Kaye Kent, Cindy's daughter Merideth Squires & family, members of our military & their families, Vickie's great niece Harmony Dove & family, Linda's friend Colleen, Pat Howe's late brother-in-law Tim & her older sister & family, Mary Lou Aims & family, Rylan, his family & medical team, Linda Link, Marcie Jackson's daughter-in-law Jill, her late father, and brother Scott, Kathy's niece Eliana, Suzy Phillips' friend Lynda Bates, Linda Hammond Wilson's grandson Olie, the late Conrad, Doris & family, Marcie Jackson's friend's husband, Vincent Lioni, Xavier & Cindy's family, Mary Lou Aimes, Kathy's cousins late father, Jack Flick & family, and the world as we work to overcome the coronavirus outbreak.

If you or someone you know has a need that you would like to submit a prayer request for, please reach out to our prayer team at: gsprayers@juno.com

APRIL 2020

We will have worship every Sunday @ 11:00, via Facebook.

Please join us at:

www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdPC/

APRIL DATES TO CELEBRATE!

9 Robert Walko

10 Tony Bruno

12

April Cheatham

Victorine Elonge



We would like to recognize this months

important dates in the lives of our members

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

15 Christian Cheatham

18 Mildred Fike

22 Brittany Brodeen

The Deacons would like the church family to know your important day! If we do not have yours in our file, please notify Ellie Pfoutz, 410-679- 4813

25 Debi Carey

26 Ray Benser

28 Matthew Cheatham

30 Sue Thompson



SOME SHELTER-IN-PLACE FUN

SPECIAL THANKS TO BOB & DELORES BARR FOR THE IDEA!

Biblical Character Search

B	A	L	R	E	M	C	E	A	H	T	R	A	M
H	N	A	T	H	A	N	A	E	L	R	A	S	P
A	R	U	H	P	E	S	O	J	B	A	L	T	A
R	I	I	L	N	A	A	L	S	E	L	L	E	U
A	J	T	V	T	S	B	B	D	L	B	I	M	L
S	A	S	H	H	A	R	A	A	I	S	C	L	V
N	S	I	M	O	N	A	S	C	I	A	S	S	N
E	B	L	Y	I	M	H	R	C	S	D	I	A	A
M	O	U	H	R	E	A	A	E	O	U	R	P	S
E	C	S	W	E	A	M	S	B	L	J	P	O	J
S	A	N	A	R	I	M	J	E	S	U	S	E	A
I	J	S	E	S	O	M	N	R	L	R	H	L	M
W	A	L	M	R	L	M	P	L	U	K	E	C	E
S	C	M	L	E	O	J	A	I	V	E	L	U	S

MOSES
NATHANAEL
SARAH
JESUS
JACOB
REBECCA
SIMON
JOSEPH
WISE MEN
ABRAHAM
CLEOPAS
MARTHA
LUKE
PRISCILLA
THOMAS
MARY
LEVI
JUDAS
PAUL
JAMES

GSPC WOMEN'S CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, APRIL 2020

CANCELLED

You will be receiving by mail (email or snail mail) a study guide for Lesson 8.

A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

LESSON EIGHT: Words of Love: Speak Truthfully

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:16, Matthew 12: 36-37, Deuteronomy 5:20

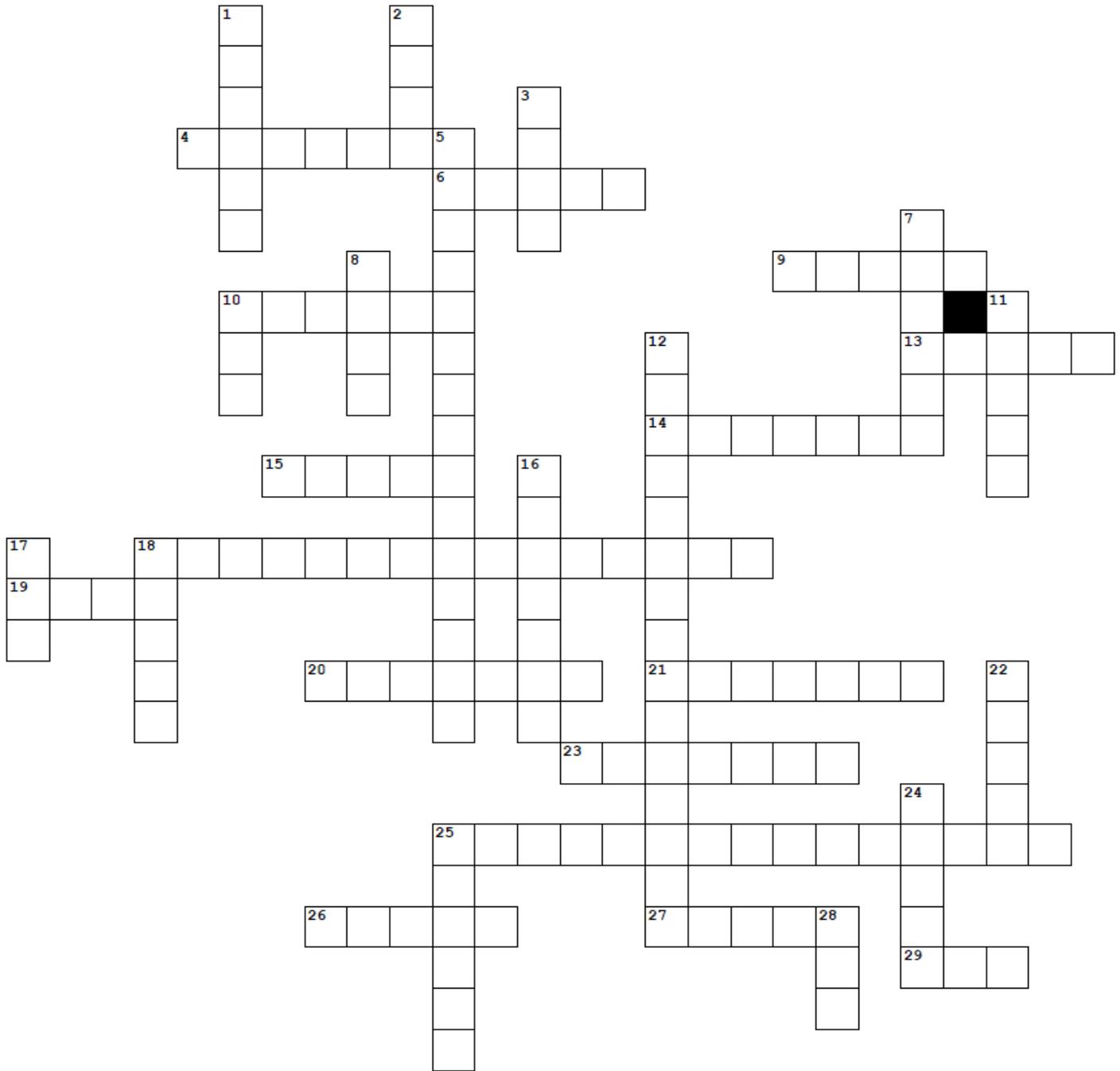
LESSON PURPOSE: to consider the dual emphases of this Word: the importance of a trustworthy judicial system and the necessity of basic honesty for the stability of community.

LIFE WOUND: The betrayal and erosion of personal and institutional trust.

Lesson 8 is a very powerful lesson. It addresses many of the issues we are dealing with during this time of crisis. We will summarize Lesson 8 before addressing Lesson 9 if we meet in May. The guide should be coming to you by email by the beginning of next week. Take care, stay well, God bless.



Bible





CROSSWORD QUESTIONS

Across

4. Bodies of persons distinguished by something they hold in common (Revelation 7:9)
6. One of David's sons who was born in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5:15)
9. One of the fortified cities in the territory of Naphtali (Joshua 19:38)
10. To separate and purify metals (Job 28:1)
13. Jacob stationed a pillar over Rachel's (Genesis 35:20)
14. Retaliation in kind or degree (Jeremiah 20:10)
15. Because of unfaithfulness to the covenant that they had made with Jehovah, the Israelites were led into this (Jeremiah 20:4)
18. Alternate expression used in the Bible to indicate birds [2 words] (Genesis 1:26)
19. Useless, lacking worth (1 Timothy 1:6)
20. What lepers in Israel were required to call out, so as to warn others to stay away and not become contaminated (Leviticus 13:45)
21. James said that jealousy, contentiousness, and lying against the truth is this and not the wisdom from above (James 3:15)
23. Indelible coloring of the skin by tattoos (Leviticus 19:28)
25. Because of Abigail's sensibleness, David avoided this rash act [3 words] (1 Samuel 25:31)
26. Early settlers in a western part of Canaan (Deuteronomy 2:23)
27. Jehovah commissioned Elijah to anoint Hazael as king of this nation (1 Kings 19:15)
29. He is drawn into attacking God's people because they enjoy prosperity and seem unprotected (Ezekiel 38:10-12, 14-16)

Down

1. The name Jacob gave to the place where he and Laban concluded a covenant of peace (Genesis 31:43-53)
2. Infrequent (Proverbs 25:17)
3. To repeat or imitate
5. It was at this age that Uzziah began to reign over Judah in place of his father Amaziah [3 words] (2 Chronicles 26:1-3)
7. Control of this body member plays a large role in gaining Jehovah's favor (1 Peter 3:10-12)
8. What Jesus made in his first miracle (John 2:7-11)
10. This animal served as an installation offering for the Aaronic priesthood (Leviticus 8:22-28)
11. Resurrect (Hebrews 11:19)
12. Although the quantity was not specified, Jehovah required that the nation of Israel offer the best of these to him [3 words] (Exodus 23:19)
16. He was the chief priest "for every matter of Jehovah" during Jehoshaphat's reign (2 Chronicles 19:11)
17. Paul advised Timothy to train himself with godly devotion as this (1 Timothy 4:7)
18. Hoping to get a bribe from Paul, he held the apostle prisoner for two years in Caesarea (Acts 24:26, 27)
22. Nebuchadnezzar defeated this Egyptian Pharaoh at Carchemish during the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah (Jeremiah 46:2)
24. A tree that Solomon requested of King Hiram for use in construction of the temple and for making harps and stringed instruments (1 Kings 10:11, 12, King James Version)
25. This king of Admah was one of the five monarchs who unsuccessfully rebelled against King Chedorlaomer (Genesis 14:2-5)
28. Maturity (John 9:21)