



Preschool News

Kathy Mitchell

I hope today finds you and your family well. As you know our WEEC met on March 12th and after much prayerful consideration felt we had no option but to close our preschool center until we receive information that it is safe and responsible to reopen.

I have tried very hard to stay in close contact with our teachers. We are praying together daily for our preschool families, our church families and each other. We are all looking forward to returning to the center and caring for the children God sends to us.

As I pray for our families daily I think especially of the parents and grandparents who have extended their rolls as teachers and childcare providers. As we adapt to the many changes of the last few weeks Dr. Becky Bailey reminds us that we are in this together: **1)** Our calm increases our children's calm. You are the most important safe place for your child. The brain requires safety and connection. Be intentional about cultivating both, and **2)** Create a "new normal" together using routine and play. Provide helpful ways for children to contribute every day. Consciously choose to see the best in others and circumstances. Don't sweat the small stuff.

During this very stressful time I hope you will take every opportunity to pray with your children. Hear their earnest hearts as they pray with you; take comfort in knowing Jesus hears His children. Thank you so much for supporting our preschool ministry. I am praying for you and your family.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Adron Hart

Hello from your quarantined family! I have noticed that students are always thrilled to be home from school.... unless the governor tells them that they have to stay home from school....then it is the absolute worst thing they have ever done!! We are a rebellious people by nature. I am so grateful that Jesus didn't rebel against the Father and say no to the cross. That IS love in the purest form ever known to man.

To combat student Boredom, I have begun to text fun things for them to do and we have started Wednesday night conference call style Bible studies. I am excited that we live in a time where technology can be utilized for the Kingdom of God. Brad and I are going around to our students homes, (suited up), to pass out goody bags on their doorsteps so we can let them know they aren't forgotten. We will not be shaking hands or coming within the allotted 6 feet.

I'm praying for you, my family, students, church, the nation and our world during this time of uncertainty. Please join me daily in prayer.

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The Lighthouse

RUSTON, LOUISIANA

April, 2020



In nothing be anxious, but in everything,
by prayer and petition with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God.

And the **PEACE**
OF GOD

which surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your thoughts in

Christ Jesus

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Faithful, not Fearful

“Rest in God alone, my soul, for my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will not be shaken. My salvation and glory depend on God, my strong rock. My refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts before him. God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:5-8, CSB

The events of the past several weeks have brought many of our routines to a screeching halt. Our routines and freedoms give us a sense of security and structure that allow us to focus on what is in front of us with little fear or concern. When these routines and freedoms are hindered due to unforeseen circumstances, we are reminded of our own inadequacies and the fragile nature of our existence. In the midst of a world that is coming to grips with this truth, we have a blessed opportunity! We know the God that is unshakable, unchanging, and unaffected by momentary circumstances. We have a Savior who is the exalted, enthroned, Lord Jesus Christ. We have the abiding Holy Spirit who will never leave us nor forsake us. He has set up residence in our hearts. We have the powerful, living, word of God, which instructs and guides us in the truth. These truths remind us that we have no reason to fear and we have every reason and the power to be faithful.

Faithfulness in the good times brings glory to God, but how much more powerful is the witness of faithfulness when things are difficult. Where are the places the world should see our faithfulness? They should see us offering hope to the hopeless. We should be making the most of this opportunity to share the Gospel to a world in turmoil. They should see us doing good to all, but especially those who are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus stated in John 13:35: *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* Maybe most importantly, they should see us choosing faithfulness over fearfulness. We love to quote Philippians 4:13, but we seldom read it in its context: *“I know both how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.”* If we are truly saved, we know the One who is unshaken. Our hope is in Him. We know the secret to contentment in every situation. May the Lord give us the power to persevere no matter the trial and be faithful, not fearful.

April Memory Verses

APRIL 5: PROCLAIM CHRIST, CHRIST PAID THE PENALTY

Romans 5:8: *“But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
1 Peter 3:18: *“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”*

APRIL 12: PROCLAIM CHRIST, SALVATION IS NOT BY WORKS

Ephesians 2:8-9: *“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.”*

APRIL 19: PROCLAIM CHRIST, SALVATION IS NOT BY WORKS

Titus 3:5: *“he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”*

APRIL 26: PROCLAIM CHRIST, MUST RECEIVE CHRIST

John 1:12: *“But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name.”*

To say these are interesting times, is an understatement! The coronavirus pandemic has caused us to make changes to our routines and how we interact with others. As you know, one of the big changes we have had to make is how we stay connected without being able to gather. I have been encouraged by how you have responded to be a part of the online worship services we have had this past week and will continue to have until we can meet again. Some of you have quickly learned new features on the internet or on your phone to stay connected! As a staff, we are always looking for new or better ways to help us communicate with each of you during this time. Let’s work together by calling, emailing, texting and just checking on each other as well as those around us as best we can. We may have to social distance, but we can still be the body of Christ together. Continue to check your email, the church website, the church Facebook page, and with each other as we navigate life during this time. Some of our members do not have access to internet or social media so let’s work hard at keeping them connected as well.

Many of you have asked how you can not only be a part of online worship but also how you can tithe during this time. We have just set up online giving on the Emmanuel Baptist Church website (www.ebcruston.org). Go check it out. You can also mail it in. Thank you for continuing to be faithful during this time. **May God’s peace be with you...** (John 14:27).

I have a friend who used to say, “Facebook is evil.” I say, “Not when you use it for God’s purposes.” Although “attending” our worship service and prayer meeting online is different, it still allows us to worship together as the body of Christ. Our streamed services can be a tool to reach those who would not think of walking through the church doors. If you don’t have internet access, visit a friend who does – just practice social distancing.

I used to regularly watch several other church’s services online and experienced many times of true worship. I encourage you to sing along with us, have your Bible with you, and bow your head in prayer as if you are in our worship center. Also, seek out recordings of other online church services as well.

I appreciate the praise team, A/V team, and church staff in leading us in worship during this time. As I paraphrase Hebrews 10:25, **“forsake not the assembling of yourselves”** – even if it is done remotely.



Greetings to our Emmanuel Family! We are living in strange times, are we not? The good news is that this virus has not caught our Heavenly Father off guard. **“He will not let your foot slip, He who watches over you will not slumber”** Psalm 121:3. **God is WITH US!** We are secure in Him. Please continue to pray for our college students and young professionals. Louisiana Tech is completely online now so most of our students have gone home to quarantine with their families. We are doing our best to keep in close contact with them. Several students attended Sunday’s online service, which was a great blessing! That worship service was the next best thing to actually worshipping together in person. We will be doing Zoom meetups and trying to build community and accountability virtually. For now, let’s commit to pray for one another daily. Prayer makes all the difference in the world. Though most of us are confined to our houses, the one thing we can continue to do faithfully is **PRAY** for our nation and our world.