

HATFIELD MEETINGHOUSE
Church of the Brethren
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APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER
EASTER 2020

We are in crisis. We have experience dealing with crisis. We know how to respond to crisis's. We know how to reach out to the victims of hurricanes, tornados, floods, mass shootings, 911. We reach out to the victims with aid and comfort – water, food, hugs. However, this is a different kind of crisis. With this human crisis we must take necessary precautions that make our normal way of serving dangerous. Just taking food over to a neighbor could be threatening.

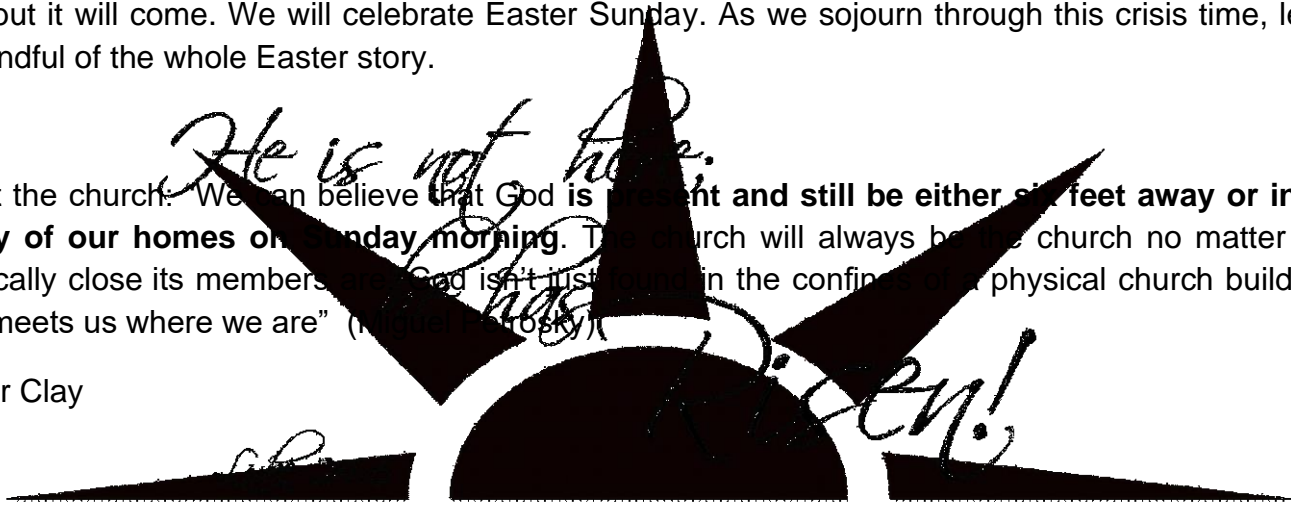
According to the church calendar we are in the season of Lent and of celebrating the hope we have in the resurrection on Easter Sunday. As Easter Sunday is special to all of us - wouldn't it be great to celebrate the end of this crisis in our country on Easter Sunday?

However, if we are to use Biblical language with regard to today's crisis, we need to remember the entire Easter story. The celebration of the resurrection cannot happen without the crucifixion on Friday. The crucifixion proceeds the resurrection. If we consider the rise of the Coronavirus in our country, we haven't even climbed up Calvary's mountain. We are still carrying the cross on our backs. We surely are going through a real crucifixion, a real height in this crisis. But a premature resurrection will lead to a disaster.

This we know, Easter Sunday will come. It may not be on the day we have set on our calendar, April 12th, but it will come. We will celebrate Easter Sunday. As we sojourn through this crisis time, let us be mindful of the whole Easter story.

About the church: We can believe that God is present and still be either six feet away or in the safety of our homes on Sunday morning. The church will always be the church no matter how physically close its members are. God isn't just in the confines of a physical church building - God meets us where we are" (Rev. Robert Frost)

Pastor Clay



Our Church in Action

Food Cupboard News . . .

The news headline today reads, “One in three Americans have now been ordered to stay home as US health officials give dire warnings about what the next days of the coronavirus pandemic will look like”. Regardless of the state warnings and mandates for business closing, quarantine, and/or sheltering, our food cupboard is part of the “charitable food network” and considered “life sustaining work” and therefore we will always be exempt.



To meet the needed requirements to slow down the advance of the virus, we have slightly changed our logistics. First, before we opened there was always a long line of people waiting to come in. Some arrived as early as two hours before the opening time. So, we decided to open two hours early, allowing the early ones to go through the pantry as they arrived. As a result, we ended up not having anyone waiting and we also were able to reduce the number of volunteers. However, while the volunteer’s time was doubled they graciously accepted their usual pay (\$0.00).

Second, the state relaxed the need for each person to personally sign in and or fill out forms. We are able to sign them in, as long as they agreed, saving multi-users of one pen. Each person sanitized their hands, wore gloves, and had their temperature taken. We were always able to maintain the necessary personal distance because of no waiting lines and less volunteers.

Because we are able to use the church sanctuary for our food cupboard, we have a huge advantage over other pantries. We are able to spread out our food choices while most pantries are squeezed into much tighter quarters. As a result these pantries could not maintain personal distance and had to change from “choice” to “bagging and handing out”. We are about the only pantry that was able to maintain “choice” and still observe the personal distance requirement!

We extend a big T H A N K Y O U to the church for allowing us to use the sanctuary.

Pastor Clay

Our Church in Action

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE CHILD CARE CENTER . . . News



...a fun place to
play and learn!

Friendship House Child Care Center is closed. We closed on March 13th when Governor Wolf made it mandatory for all schools and licensed child care centers to close. We will re-open when Governor Wolf lifts the mandatory closing, which is indefinitely at this time.

We ask for your continued prayers for our staff and families.

Thank you,

Miss Julie, Director

FOCUS ON FOLKS!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04 – Brandon Holbert
- 17 – Rob Hanks
- 22 – Annette Hanks
- 27 – Carter Hanks



A belated happy birthday to
Maira Butler "Mo".
Her birthday was March 24th.
"Happy Birthday Mo!"

We will celebrate Easter as a congregation

- + When the Coronavirus crisis has passed,
- + When we have climbed Calvary's hill,
- + Then the date of resurrection (**Easter Morning**) will be determined;
- + And we will **CELEBRATE!**

CALLING ONE AND ALL!

Tickets are available for the **"Kick off Dinner"** for the Disaster Relief Auction, on **Saturday, June 13th**. Cost is \$30. Please see Connie Holbert

Words of encouragement

Pastor Lynne

Whether gathered or scattered, we remain the Church, the body of Christ. Let us look for ways to continue to be His heart, hands, & feet to those around us.

I thought I'd share a quote that is posted on my door at work. I'm hoping this might help brighten your day.

- *"On particularly rough days, when I'm sure I can't possibly endure, I like to remind myself that my track record for getting through bad days so far is 100% and that's pretty good." - Unknown*

I encourage you to check the Church website www.hatfieldcob.org regularly during this time for updates. If you are on Facebook, check our Facebook page as well for the latest news about HCoB.

Blessings to all. Stay safe & healthy. We look forward to meeting again, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Since we do not know exactly when we can meet in person as a Church, you may wish to send your weekly offering to the church..

Until further notice, Sundays will be as follows. We will hold Sunday morning "Current Events", only via e-mail. How it works is you will receive an e-mail from Pastor Clay or Pastor Lynne prior to Sunday. This will give you an opportunity to study the lesson. On Sunday morning at 9:15am, you will receive another e-mail welcoming you. Open the e-mail. As questions arise from your fellow participants, you will be able to read them and respond with your comments and questions.