

Pastor Drollinger's
Daily Devotionals for March 26-April 1, 2020

March 26, 2020 - Day 10 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Dear Friends and Families of Zion and Hallie UMC,

As we move deeper into this COVID-19 Pandemic, let me offer words of thanksgiving to the many people who are working on the “front lines” to fight the virus and help those who are sick. To our nurses, doctors, pharmacists, emergency personnel, to those that work each day where needed, to all who are doing the extra things to stop the spread of this virus; you have our gratitude. Our journey is not over and let me encourage you to be diligent in following the recommendations and the guidelines. We may have a long way to go. Please remain persistent and determined in avoiding and fighting this virus.

Along with the fight against the virus, let me invite you to rest in the knowledge that God is the great healer and provider for our lives. The things of the earth will all pass away, but the things of God will last. Let's not forget that, as Christians, we are also on a spiritual journey toward the great Easter celebration day. Because of the Cross and because of the Resurrection, we have a hope and a promise that is eternal and everlasting.

So, keep the faith and share the Good News! (And, oh yes, . . . keep washing those hands!)

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.
Psalm 100*

Keep shining bright,

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March 27, 2020 - Day 11 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Dear Friends and Families of Zion and Hallie UMC

In the midst of the COVID-19 stuff...I find it difficult to remember what day it is. Is that happening to you as well; forgetting what day it is? I need to make a lot of notes to myself because my memory is not the best. With Easter only 16 days away, I found this timely.



“One good thing about getting old and losing your memory is,
I can hide my own Easter eggs” LOL!!

Today my words of encouragement to you are to remember the needs, hurts and concerns for others. Let us not forget to do those big and little things that can bring joy, laughter, and love to others, especially at this time. So, send that text, write that letter, forward that email, wave from a distance, smile a little longer, make that phone call and share the Good News.

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

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March 28, 2020 - Day 12 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Dear Friends and Families of Zion and Hallie UMC,

Don't you just hate being controlled by this Coronavirus? Don't you just hate being afraid and unsure? Don't you just hate being so confined to the house? Husbands cannot be in the hospital room when their spouse is delivering their newborn. I hate it that family cannot go in nursing homes to visit a parent or another loved one.

I hate this Covid-19 virus!

THERE!

There, I got that out of my system. As we continue through this season of life, I am very hopeful that we will learn some important lessons. As followers of Jesus, we are not immune to the hardships in this world. Times of hurt and challenge will come to all people throughout our lives. The great good news is that we do not go alone. God's abiding presence goes with us and God's promises are faithful and true. We will get through this, and it will come at a cost. But God's promises are sure . . . so wait confidently that God will provide, and joy will return.



*Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.
Psalm 27:14*

*The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.
Psalm 28:7*

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March 29, 2020 - Day 13 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings and Welcome to our Sunday devotional. For our call to worship I am going to Psalm 98: 1-6

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel, all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn, shout for joy before the Lord, the King. Psalm 98:1-6

Each day we go further into this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we meet illness, hurt, confusion, and challenge. But praise the Lord, each day I witness thousands of people who have been gifted by God in amazing and hope-filled ways. So, today, I am simply filled with trust in God and faith in God's people - God's creation. To all the nurses, delivery people, EMT's, carpenters, teachers, entertainers, doctors, to those who volunteer, who pray, who sew, to all who use their God given abilities and talents, thank you! God has provided a path for us to overcome. Sharing your God given talents and gifts is an essential part of God's plan.

In Deuteronomy 16:15 it reads:

For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

Enjoy the song "Bring the Harvest," sung by Acoustic Grace and composed by Dan Lea.

For those who are able to use the internet, you may follow the following link to hear "Bring the Harvest."

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqts33BM15M>



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March 30, 2020 - Day 14 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

I don't know about you, but for me yesterday was a bit of a bummer, the weather was rainy snowy and cold, the news held difficult reports about tornadoes in Arkansas, and the Covid-19 continues to inflict serious hurt, death, and fear too many in our land and around the world.

Barb and I also received word that a very dear 40-year-old friend of ours died yesterday. In each of our lives we will have days that are tough. In each of our lives we will have days that are *really* tough. Many of you, know that far better and more intimate than I do.

Today I want to invite us all to remain steadfast in believing and trusting in God's great love and care for his creation. Throughout the Bible we are reminded and taught, that the Lord's great love is faithful and everlasting. The prophet Jeremiah, wrote these words that inspired the song "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Claim these words in your own life, like Tony the Tiger would say, **THEY'RE GREAT!!**

I will remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:20-23



March 31, 2020 - Day 15 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings to Friends and Family of Zion and Hallie UMC,

Weather-wise, it was a beautiful day yesterday and today is also looking like a pretty beautiful one. In the midst of the COVID-19 virus, I hope and trust you are finding ways to keep your spirits filled with moments of joy, beauty, and peace. With the coming of spring, God is providing us with wonderful reminders of hope and beauty. The early spring flowers are breaking through the ground, the early spring birds are arriving, and the deep blue sky is consistent. Take time to recharge, refresh and renew your spirits. God will provide.

But here's the thing, God wants us to stay diligent, protect and do all we can to help stop the virus. God wants us to care deeply for the vulnerable and those in need. God has provided us with talent, wisdom, science, faith, and with a hope that will not give up. Fight the good fight. Keep praying for our people in America and in the world. Follow the guidelines that are important and necessary. So, let Spring refresh you and God's promises strengthen you as together we fight the good fight against the COVID-19 virus.

*⁷ Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;
make music to our God on the harp.*

*⁸ He covers the sky with clouds;
he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.*

*⁹ He provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they call.*

*¹⁰ His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;*

*¹¹ the LORD delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing love.*

Psalm 147:7-11

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April 1, 2020 - Day 16 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings to Friends and Family of Zion and Hallie UMC,

Well, today is April 1st or as some might say April Fools' Day. Because of the journey we, as a people, find ourselves on with the COVID-19 virus, we probably need some good April Fools' jokes. We need the distraction, we need the laughter, and we need the healing that humor often brings. The Bible is clear that God's people are to know a joy and a gladness in life. Jesus is recorded as saying in John 15, "*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*"

*In Ecclesiastes 3:4 it reads:
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance*

*In Psalm 126:2 it reads:
2 Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.*

*In the Beatitudes it reads:
Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."*

My prayer today continues to seek a victory against this virus, thanksgiving for those who battle the virus, healing to all who suffer from the virus. And, my prayer is that you each find a place of joy, laughter, and a hope this very day. One of the great joys in my life are grandkids. I hope our granddaughter, Macy Grace, brings you to a place of gladness as well. Enjoy her singing of "Amazing Grace."



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