



May 2020

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

“Loneliness”

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

“Social distancing” “Shelter in place” “Nonessential businesses” “Lockdown” “Self-isolation” These are the buzzwords of our current coronavirus epidemic. They reflect the effort of the medical community to keep us apart from each other so that we do not spread this virus. The sad, but perhaps necessary, result of this strategy is hospital patients who die apart from immediate contact with family and friends. It is nursing home residents who cannot receive visitors. It is people directed toward isolation who are already lonely.

There is evidence that we were already experiencing an epidemic of loneliness before the coronavirus struck. Thirty-three million Americans, including a third of the elderly, live alone. In 2018 the Cigna Insurance Company conducted a survey of 20,000 Americans and found that 46% feel lonely. The loneliest group was Generation Z, those born between the mid-nineties and the early 2000s. The General Social Survey found that the number of people who report that they have no one with whom they can discuss important matters has tripled in recent years. In 2018 British Prime Minister Theresa May announced that her government was creating the position of “Minister of Loneliness.”

Scientists are discovering that this epidemic of loneliness is having negative effects on the health of individuals. According to former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, “The impact of social isolation and loneliness on longevity equals that of smoking 15 cigarettes a day and exceeds the risks associated with obesity, excessive alcohol consumption and lack of exercise.” A National Academy of Science report says that “social isolation has been linked to a 50 percent increased risk of dementia, a 29 percent increased risk of heart disease and a 32 percent increased risk of stroke.” (Breakpoint, 4/2/2020)

So this is both a challenge and an opportunity. Social media can be somewhat helpful. We offer Zoom Bible studies as a way to connect with people over Bible study. We have a Wednesday Zoom prayer group. Let us know if you would like help in connecting with any of these opportunities. Then we also still have phones. Lonely people would like to have calls from people who have genuine care for them.

As Christians we must always remember that we have a Friend who sticks closer to us than a brother. In Hebrews #13 v. 5 we are reminded, “He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.’” This Friend also provides us with hope. Loneliness, and any personal challenge, can be endured if we have hope for the future. Jesus promises us that we have a great eternity waiting for us. Elisabeth Elliot, who twice experienced widowhood, writes in her book *Loneliness*, “It is possible both to accept and to endure loneliness without bitterness, when there is a vision of glory beyond.”

- Pastor Kurt

May Birthdays

1st Lidija Baker
9th Jenny Fletcher
15th Marge Cathcart
23rd Rob Hedlund
25th Marilyn Nelson



May Anniversaries

4th John & Kitty Ritenour

If you notice a that someone's birthday or a couple's anniversary is missing from the Communicator, please let us know! Just call the office (293-1912). Thank you!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday:

Kurt - Worship Service - @ bcbethany.com
Mac - Sunday School - 11:30 a.m. on zoom
Sue - Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 am on zoom
Rob - Adult Bible Study - 5:30 PM on zoom

Tuesday:

Sharon - Women's Bible Study - 9:00 AM

Wednesday:

Rob - Prayer Meeting - 1:00 pm on Zoom

Mission of the Month May 2020 Marv Cowen



Dear Praying Friends,



The AWANA program at Sonrise Baptist is going well and their church has had several new visitors recently. Pray that the church will grow spiritually as well as numerically and the right leaders will be ready to lead the various ministries and that the church finances will improve too.

Timpanogos Baptist Church in Lehi had several members move away over the last 18 months and the congregation is now so small it is like starting a new church with a handful of people. Pastor Chuck Lovelady was discouraged to see the church become so small after it had grown to where it was able to do more things. The church has sent mailers to new people and has broadcast the Sunday message on Facebook Live to help do outreach while making personal contacts can't be done. Pray that those efforts will produce some fruit.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected how we minister. It has also caused the LDS Church to cancel all worship services and close all of their temples worldwide. 1600 LDS missionaries who were proselyting in the Philippines were brought home and when the planes landed huge gatherings of LDS entered the airport to greet them in spite of the warnings against large gatherings. Thousands of other LDS missionaries have been brought home from various countries and are isolated for two weeks before being reassigned or ending their missions. On March 18th the Salt Lake area had a 5.7 earthquake followed by scores of aftershocks that ranged between 1.0 and 4.0 for many days. The worst damage was on the west side of the valley where many buildings were damaged including businesses, churches and homes. In downtown Salt Lake City at least 17 buildings were damaged including the City/County building and the Salt lake LDS Temple where some of the spires cracked and the "Angel Moroni" on the highest spire dropped his trumpet! The 20,000 seat Conference Center won't be used for LDS General Conference in April but it will be in a small room with only the First Presidency and speakers present. Pray that all that is happening will help bring about a spiritual awakening here in Utah as well as in the rest of the world!

Sincerely in Christ. Marv Cowan

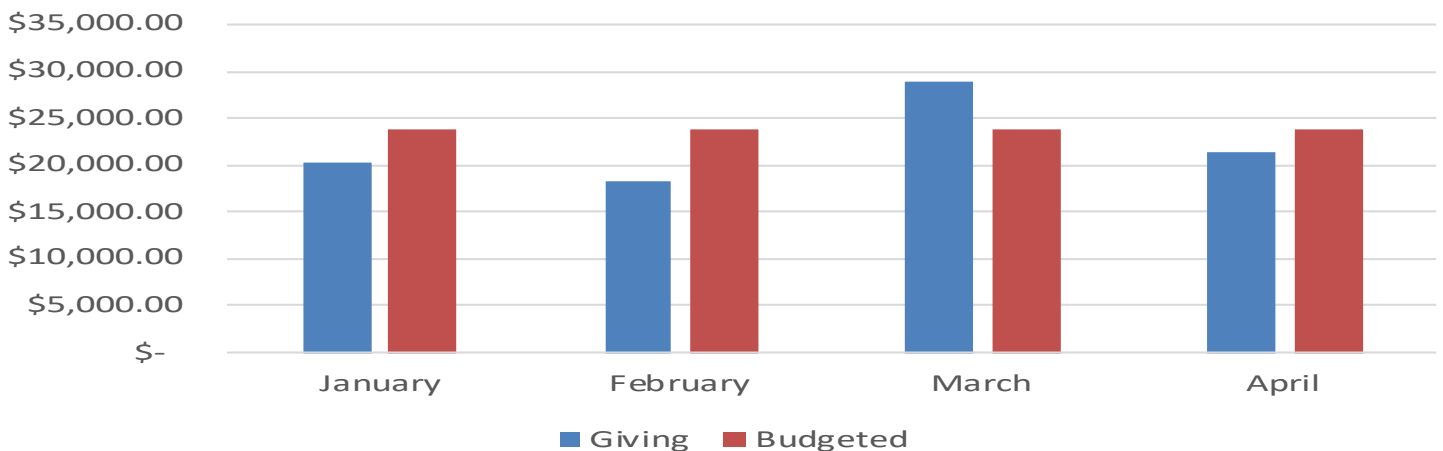
MAY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i> 	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25  <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27	28	29	30

Bethany's 2020 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$23,733.67 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$94,934.68
 Year to date giving, through March, totaled \$88,897.39.
 The difference is (\$6,037.29).

Bethany Financials



Bethany Baptist Church

210 Wyoming Street
Boulder City, NV 89005

Senior Pastor - *Kurt Hedlund* kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Music Director - *Don Scott* don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Administrative Assistant - *Donald Scott* don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Service Time: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

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Web Site:

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2020 Boards

Board of Elders - *Mike Barth, Chairman*

Board of Deacons - *Jerry Wilbur, Chairman*

Board of Deaconesses - *Sue Wilbur, Chairwoman*

Christian Education Board - *Jenny Fletcher, Chairwoman*

Property Maintenance Board - *Jerry Wilbur, Chairman*

Missions Board - *Rob Hedlund, Chairman*

The ***Communicator*** is published monthly as a ministry of Bethany Baptist Church.
For birthday and anniversary additions; changes in address; or removal from our mailing list
please contact the church office at 702-293-1912 or e-mail don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com.