

The LIGHTKEEPER

JUNE 2020

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." —Matthew 5:14

Dear Cobham Park Church Family,

When a house is well over a hundred years old, there's reason to be wary of its condition. The roof looks fine in our 19th century farmhouse, but looks can be deceiving. How can a person know for sure? How can leaks be found? Wait for a storm—the more severe, the better. Then climb into the attic with a flashlight and discover the truth!

Something similar has happened at Cobham Park. When I joined this church over a year ago, you appeared to be a wonderful family of believers. It was easy to love you. But experience has taught me to be a little wary. A church can look great when things are going well, but its true condition only becomes evident in a storm. The last few months have certainly provided such a test. I praise God for what I've seen!

1. Beyond external appearances, your faith is sound. All the externals of church life were upended by the Coronavirus: events, meetings, buildings, offerings, ministries, pastoral visitation, etc. And yet I was constantly encouraged by your trust in God. You relied on the strength of Christ. You were not shaken. No leaks of despair or anger could be seen. You know that the Lord is our true shelter in life's storms.
2. You've shown that you understand what a church really is. The vacant church building didn't even slow you down. You instinctively knew that **you** are the church! From the very start of this crisis, you've been praying, reaching out, and helping others for Jesus Christ. You've taken initiative and proved that I'm not the only minister here—we all are! You will never know how much joy and encouragement this has given me. Thank you!
3. The beautiful character of Jesus is shining through your lives. Under pressure, it's only natural to lose patience—but you have demonstrated extraordinary patience. During this storm, I've been forced to make very difficult church decisions. The transition back to "normal" is going to be long and complicated. I fully expected a backlash no matter what I decided to do about meetings and ministry. You, however, have been nothing but supportive. You haven't been drawn into the divisive spirit which seems to dominate our country at present. You've been unselfish and kind both to me and one other. I was afraid that we might drift apart as a church family. Once again, however, God has shown Himself through you. The bond we all share wasn't broken by distance or difficulty. If anything, our mutual love is stronger than it ever has been. To tell you the truth, I'm in awe of Christ in you.
4. You have been faithful. Without your unwavering prayers, wisdom, and ministry, this church would have sunk. And without offerings, I wondered how we'd be able to pay church expenses. But your faithful giving has actually been stronger than it was before Covid-19! This defies all natural explanation, so I'm chalking it up to God's generous provision; He is so good!

"I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus (I Corinthians 1:4; NLT)."

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Keith

PRAISE PAGE

If you've been wondering when the choir will be singing for the services again, you aren't alone. At this time, we don't have an answer for you. In love for the health and well-being of our faithful choir members, decisions will be made which will attempt to protect the safety of our choir members from the spread of the coronavirus.

Research indicates that choir rehearsals and performances create very high risk conditions. You may be aware of the church in Washington State that held a choir practice back in early March where 61 participated. Of those, 53 contracted the virus from a participant who had no symptoms. Four died.

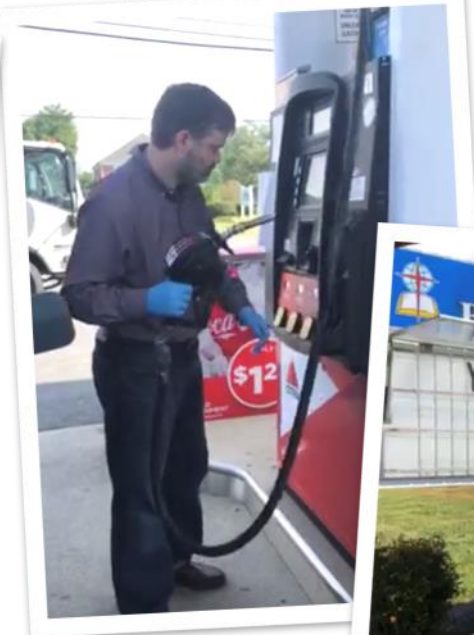
The reason that singing is such a high risk activity is because the aerosol particles which singers emit have the capacity to travel over twenty feet, much farther than they would travel in ordinary speech. Social distancing of six feet would have little to no benefit for protecting singers from the transmission of the virus. In fact, the Baptist General Association of Virginia released Re-gathering Considerations on May 19, 2020 which advised churches to "Consider refraining from congregational singing, as it has been linked to increased risk of spreading the coronavirus."

This is difficult news for us! As we move forward in the immediate future, the music in our services will be limited to instrumental or vocal solos for the most part to reduce the possibility of spread within our church community. We will continue to consult the latest research and advisories from respectable sources to determine what is in the best and safest interest of our faithful choir members and our church community.

In the meantime, think about the birds of the skies. When they feel threatened by danger, they use warning cries which are strong enough to be heard at great distances. We are all probably feeling a little threatened right now, so use your voice to cry out to God! Know that your cries for help and sounds of faithful praise will be a sweet, sweet sound in your Savior's ears.

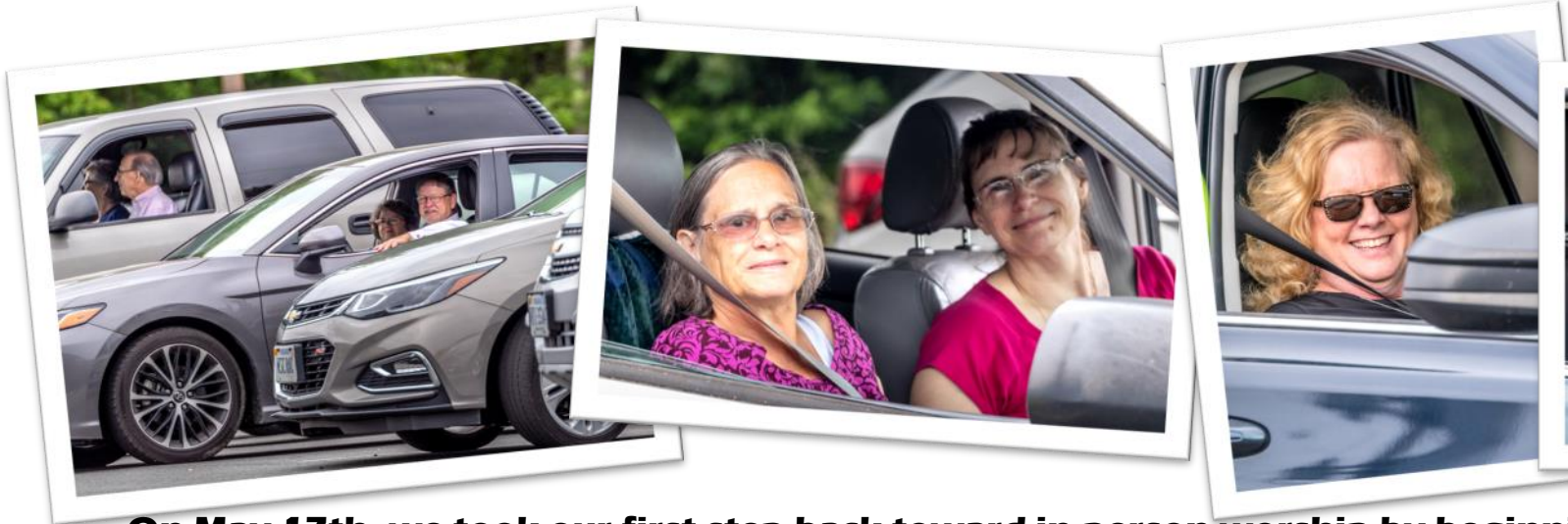
In Christ,
Cindy

Pastor Keith continues to wander the Northern Neck for onsite devotions 10am Wednesdays (Facebook Live—Cobham Park Baptist Church). We also post daily encouragements, written devotions, and videos of Sunday worship services.





DRIVE



On May 17th, we took our first step back toward in-person worship by beginning. The parking crew lined everyone up on a platform, and steps were built. A lady of the church even brought beautiful ferns. Although folks couldn't get out of their cars, you could see the joy in their faces! We videoed the services on Facebook Live for those who needed to stay at home. THANK YOU! (we'll still video online if it rains), we hope to gather at the front porch of the church to sit on in the grass with social distancing. We're working on options for those who need to stay at home.

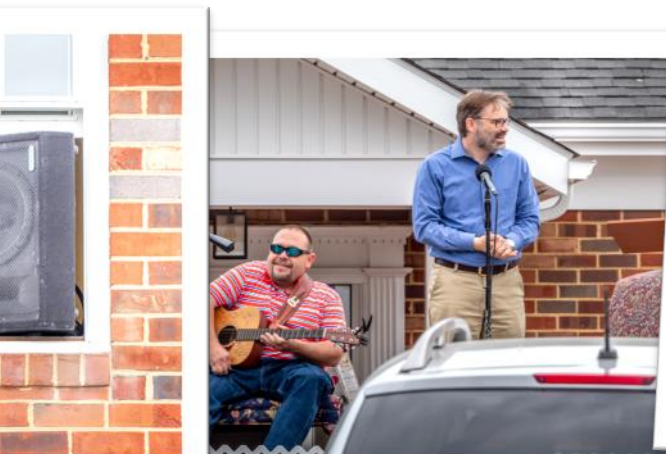




DRIVE-IN SUNDAY WORSHIP



ing drive-In services. This required a great deal of preparation. Thankfully, the dea-
o properly (yes—at least six feet apart!). A hay wagon was converted into a worship
for the stage. The sound system was set up in the church's second story windows.
A honk of the horn meant, "Amen!" (We heard many of those!) We continued to
NK YOU all for your hard work, encouragement, and prayers! Weather permitting
ch for a "Lawn Service" 10am, June 7th. Remember to bring a lawn-chair or blanket
no can't walk this distance over uneven ground. As usual, the service will be online



1. How many books are in the Bible?
2. Who was the shepherd boy who became the second king of Israel?
3. How many brothers & sisters did Joseph have?
4. Who were the parents of Cain and Abel?
5. Noah sent out 2 different birds from the ark. What 2 types of birds were they?
6. After the flood, what sign AND promise did God make?
7. Who did Boaz marry?
8. What was Abraham's nephew's name that traveled with him?
9. What was the name of Joseph's baby brother?
10. Where AND by whom was baby Moses found?
11. Where was Moses given the 10 commandments?
12. When Lot's wife turned and look at a city, What happened to her? What was the name of the city?
13. What weapons did Gideon use when fighting the Midianites?
14. Where was Jesus baptized?
15. What was Zacchaeus' job?
16. While on the Mount of transfiguration, who appeared with Jesus? What disciples witnessed the event?
17. READ THIS CAREFULLY... How many of each animal did Moses bring into the ark?



BIBLE QUIZ

FOR ALL AGES



WORD SEARCH

Books of the Bible

J	E	R	E	M	I	A	H	J	S	H	A	D	A
E	L	A	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	I
R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	A	N	J	A
S	E	E	O	A	J	O	N	A	H	T	W	O	S
M	P	Z	L	J	M	A	T	H	E	W	G	B	H
E	S	E	D	W	J	O	S	H	U	A	E	S	S
S	A	K	S	Z	S	U	A	L	E	I	N	A	D
N	L	I	S	K	R	A	M	A	E	O	I	N	H
U	M	E	P	E	S	R	E	X	T	S	E	L	U
M	S	L	E	J	U	O	O	O	A	P	U	R	N
B	W	N	T	E	O	D	S	I	R	K	R	E	S
E	A	A	E	R	U	H	A	S	E	G	D	U	J
R	N	E	R	S	S	H	N	O	T	U	S	A	J
S	G	E	N	E	S	I	S	N	A	M	O	R	S

ROMANS
ISAIAH
PETER
EXODUS
LUKE
MARK
REVELATION
JONAH
JOSHUA
JUDGES
PSALMS
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
DANIEL
NUMBERS
GENESIS
EZEKIEL
JOB
MATHEW
JOHN

How'd you do?

(Answers in next month's newsletter)

STANDING ON THE PROMISES: Tracking Abraham's Epic Faith

We'd like "instant-faith." Why does everything with God seem to take so long? We accept that an extensive home renovation will take a great deal of time and effort because the final result can be well worth it. In the same way, God is renovating our hearts, and waiting is an inevitable part of that process. But something truly wonderful will come of this! Abraham's life helps to guide us in our own journey of faith—even when it takes longer than we expected. This month, let's together track Abraham's faith.



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Let's follow these steps each day:

1. Take a deep breath as you ask God to speak to you. Then prayerfully read the day's scripture. Take note of the story's details. What would people have been feeling? What would this be like? Have you ever been in a similar situation? On the second day of reading, did you notice things you didn't the first time around? Each scripture reading is packed with content, so take your time. Pastor Keith plans to email devotions and post them on the church Facebook page.
2. Is there a particular detail that jumps out at you? Take time to ponder that.
3. What does this reveal about who God is? What does it reveal about Abraham—or you?
4. Think about the story of your life over the last 24 hours. Where did you see God?
5. Pray for Jesus to guide the story of your life today. Make yourself available to Him.
6. Ask the Lord to use you in someone else's story—a sign of His presence that others can see.
7. Feel free to share your thoughts or questions online or by e-mail. We'd love to hear from you!

June 1st: Genesis 12

June 2nd: (Genesis 12 continued)

June 3rd: Genesis 13

June 4th: (Genesis 13 continued)

June 5th: Genesis 14

June 6th: (Genesis 14 continued)

June 7th: Genesis 15

June 8th: (Genesis 15 continued)

June 9th: Genesis 16

June 10th: (Genesis 16 continued)

June 11th: Genesis 17

June 12th: (Genesis 17 continued)

June 13th: Genesis 18

June 14th: (Genesis 18 continued)

June 15th: Genesis 19

June 16th: (Genesis 19 continued)

June 17th: Genesis 20

June 18th: (Genesis 20 continued)

June 19th: Genesis 21

June 20th: (Genesis 21 continued)

June 21st: Genesis 22

June 22nd: (Genesis 22 continued)

June 23rd: Genesis 23

June 24th: (Genesis 23 continued)

June 25th: Genesis 24

June 26th: (Genesis 24 continued)

June 27th: Genesis 25:1-10

June 28th: (Genesis 25:1-10 cont.)

June 29th: Hebrews 11:8-19

June 30th: (Hebrews 11:8-19 cont.)

Sermon Sneak-Peek

Pastor Keith plans to preach next through the "I Am" sayings of Jesus in John's gospel. In the Old Testament, God revealed His name as, "I AM (Exodus 3:14)." This name is often translated "LORD," "Yahweh," or "Jehovah." Jesus hints at His true identity as God in the "I am" sayings of John 6:35, 8:12, 8:58, 10:9, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6, and 15:1.

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*Receive His
Light and...*
SHINE!



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**A man's heart
plans his way,
But the LORD
directs his
steps.**

—Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)

