

### *Church Attendance, the Coronavirus, and Guilt*

#### **Elders**

John Deffenbaugh  
Benny Haught  
Glen Honeycutt  
Rick Hyder  
Tim Murray  
Bill Reiboldt

#### **Deacons**

Pete Babb  
Carl Cobb  
Barry Flint  
Casey Flint  
Josh King  
Mike Kidwell  
Bryan Reiboldt  
Jim Scott  
Peter Wald

#### **Preacher**

Danny Boggs

#### **Youth & Family Minister**

Caleb Boggs

#### **Worship Assemblies**

10 a.m. Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday

#### **Bible Classes**

9 a.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Wednesday

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www.neoshochurchofchrist.org



This weekend, a number of churches all over the country have modified or even canceled church services due to the threat (real or exaggerated) the coronavirus poses to our nation. Some congregations have canceled their Sunday morning and Wednesday night Bible classes while maintaining the Sunday morning and evening worship services. Others have canceled all assemblies until further notice.

Due to these changes, I have witnessed what I believe to be some rather “loose” accusations made of unfaithfulness to the Lord, and a lack of faith in God against brethren and entire churches, because of their decisions to alter their weekly assemblies.

More than likely, we’re familiar with the passage which exhorts us to “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some...” (Hebrews 10:25). However, I think it is a serious mistake to attempt to apply this exhortation to brethren who are looking out for the health of vulnerable Christians among them. There is a vast difference in “forsaking” the assembling of the saints, which this passage forbids, and “missing” the assembling of the saints which is what is currently taking place due to the virus. The word translated, “forsaking” means “to abandon, leave behind, or desert.”

For instance, would we charge the sick and shut-in with sin, because they are missing the worship assemblies? Of course not. The reason is because the command is discussing “forsaking,” not “missing” the assembly. The

sick have not “abandoned, left behind, or deserted” the assembling of the saints, but they do miss the assembling of the saints. What if you were getting in your car to come to worship service when you noticed your neighbor, who also was going to church, stagger, grab his chest, and fall in his driveway? Would you leave him there so you could get to church because, after all, there’s that command to not forsake the assembly, or would you call 9-1-1 and stay with him until help arrived? Surely, you would do the later, which would be the right thing to do. Would it cause you to miss the assembling of the saints? Yes, more than likely, but in missing, you had not abandoned, left behind, or deserted” the practice of assembling.

In both cases above, a Christian missed the worship assembly, but they did not at all sin by “forsaking” the assembling of the saints. Brethren, the actions that some congregations are taking to protect their most vulnerable members, does not demonstrate a lack of faith in God, but rather a deep love and deference toward their more vulnerable brothers and sisters in Christ. Furthermore, many Christians work throughout the week in populations that are very vulnerable and at risk. Taking temporary precautions that can save their lives might require that some “miss” out on our usual practices, but it doesn’t mean they have “forsaken” the assembly and the Lord. Give it some thought.

*Steve Higginbotham*

Via preachinghelp.org

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Edwin and Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Eli Dodson, Jaren Dodson, Joe and Teresa Freund, Wilma Hill, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Leopoldo Lizardo, Becky Matthews, Cheryl Neilans, Dale Privett, Susie Tomlin, Edith Toney.

Mary Jane Flint is recovering at home from hip surgery. Lyn Pendegraff requests prayers for her health issues.

**Congratulations** to Gary and Deanna Peirsol on the birth of their grandson, James Dean Arkle. He was born on February 28 at 8 lbs, 2 oz. and 20.5 inches. His parents are Josh and Britany and his great grandmother is Cora Hofer. We rejoice with them.



**Every "One" Counts:** Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. This week we helped a local family whose well went out. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

**Devo and Donuts** is every Tuesday morning at 7:00 in the activities center. Come and start your day with a devotional to God. Bring a friend! This may canceled when school is not meeting. 

What a caring congregation! Our contribution exceeded the budget by \$3,388 this Sunday. That amount was added to the \$5,000 the elders had designated for the **Tennessee tornado relief fund** and has been sent to the Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee.

Sunday evening **discussion questions** are on the welcome desk. They are also available in class on Sunday evening.

We have more **books**, "*The Church of Christ*", by Tim Alsup available on the welcome desk. Only two more Sunday nights are left in our study.



## This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: Caleb Boggs

PM: *What Do They Know?*  
(classes)

Ladies, thank you for all the things that were done to make our **Ladies' Seminar** with Debbie Dupuy such a success. We had over 100 each day and at least 63 of our ladies were able to attend at least one session. Remember if you were not here or want to listen again to one of the inspirational lessons, they are available on the website.

**Guys' Night** for grades 7-12 will be this Friday at 5:30. Meet at Caleb and Bethany Boggs' house.

**HOPE group** for girls grades 7-12 will meet Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 at Bethany Boggs. Let her know if you plan to attend.

The **young adults' retreat** will be April 17-19. If you would like to sign up or obtain more information, see Caleb Boggs or Madelaine Giebler.

Our elders are staying current on the **corona virus** issue. They are talking about it with professionals and are praying about how to best serve and support our members during this difficult time. If any changes are necessary regarding meeting together or procedures when meeting together, they will let you know.

### Cancellations:

- **Wednesday evening services**, March 18.
- The **Third Wednesday night** taco dinner
- Bob Murray's Wednesday night **class, Room 21**, will not meet until further notice.
- **Makin' Music** trip for grades 7-12, scheduled for April

### Postponed:

- **Gospel Meeting on the Move**
- **Spring Celebration Breakfast Fund Raiser** for the high school students at Neosho Christian School

Dear Neosho Sisters,  
Thank you for inviting me to share *The Shepherd's Daughter* with you! Your hospitality, love, encouragement and friendship means so much. Thank you again, for the lovely bag and all the gifts inside. The gift cards are much appreciated. You will remain in my prayers and we know our Good Shepherd will take care of His sheep! (One sweet sister told me last night, I'm the only speaker you've ever had during a National State of Emergency! I am honored!  
Much love and prayers,

*Debbie Dupuy*

To My Prayer Warriors,  
Thank you so much for lifting me up to God's caring ears. I don't deserve your love but truly do appreciate it. Thank you sincerely,  
*Janice Garbet*

### PRAYER LEADERS

#### Sunday, March 22:

- AM Opening: Carl Cobb
- AM Closing: Wayne Douthitt
- PM Opening: David Fehring
- PM Closing: Bob Murray

#### Wednesday, March 25:

- Opening: John Deffenbaugh
- Closing: Harold Speir

RECORDS	3-15-20	3-17-19
Bible Study	163	137
AM Worship	199	196
PM Worship	151	165
Wednesday	143	115
Contribution	\$11,252.09	\$6,835.48
Budget	\$7,864.15	\$7,717.37