

Baptist Churches of Troy and East Troy, PA

The Grapevine

May, 2020



Stay Connected

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We have a website:

www.troybaptistchurches.com

MY COMMENTARY

A note from our Pastor

I used to say, "This too shall pass, like a kidney stone." Just before Easter I passed my first kidney stone. I no longer use my expression.

This corona-virus is probably feeling like a horrible stone that will not pass. I feel that way some days. However, we can be sure that eventually the virus will pass, and we will do our best to get ourselves back to normal.

I hope you are holding up well. I can assure you that I miss you all very much. As much as I do enjoy putting together an online worship service it is not the same as being face to face with God's wonderful people.

Hebrews 13:5 reminds us that God will never leave us nor forsake us. As we wait for the solution to our current circumstances let us take comfort in the fact of God's never-ending presence with us.



WHEN WILL WE OPEN?

The Question Everyone Asks

If I had a dime for every time everyone asked me when we will have a worship service in the sanctuary again I might be a wealthy man. The truth is, church is supposed to be a community experience. We are blessed when we have face to face fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. I have been preaching to a camcorder for almost two months. It is not my favorite. We miss the laughter, the handshakes, the hugs, the genuine godly encouragement that comes when God's people get together for worship. So, what's the strategy for getting back together?

A DEACON DISCUSSION: The deacons will be charged with having the discussion of determining when it is safe to return to our sanctuary. The Governor of Pennsylvania will certainly give churches direction as to when we are legally allowed to be open, but Governor Wolf is not on a deacon board. We may not open immediately simply because other churches might have made that decision. There are many factors for us to consider and we certainly want to have the church be a safe environment for all who attend.

IMPORTANCE OF LOVE: There is one reality that we must deal with. No matter what decision is made there will be some who think we are opening too soon, and there will be others who think that we waited too long to open. There is no getting around that. What will be important for all of us is that we love one another even though we have our differences of opinion. Because you think your "facts" are more important than someone else's does not mean that you are right. For those who do



not feel comfortable returning to church when we do open, you will still be able to watch online worship services.

WAITING PATIENTLY: I know that we are anxious to return. Please be patient, knowing that we will do our best to return to worship in our churches as soon as we possibly can. In the meantime, continue to follow Facebook, and our church website. If you have any additional questions, or just want to talk, please give Pastor Kevin Zufall a call at 570-371-8432.

MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Because of the quarantine imposed on our community many people are struggling. Loss of jobs, loss of income, and loss of basic supplies are hitting us hard. There are options available for those who are hurting. You are encouraged to reach out for help. You do not need to be a member of either of our churches. James 2:15–16 says: "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (ESV)

Good Samaritan Fund (Troy): Please contact Dean Elliot at 607-215-2813.

Good Samaritan Fund (East Troy): Please contact Eric Husted at 570-297-4257.

Troy Area Food Pantry: Food is distributed every Thursday from 11:30 AM—2:00 PM. If you have an emergency need please call the Food Pantry at 570-529-0020.

Pastor Kevin Zufall: Please give Pastor Kevin a call at 570-371-8432 if you have any additional needs, including prayer.

Quotable

“True New Testament miracles always pointed to the person of Christ. Therefore, if the glory of God and the Good News of Christ aren’t clarified or enhanced by a supposedly extraordinary act, it isn’t a miracle of God.”

— **Costi Hinn**

ONLINE WORSHIP

Are online worshippers part of our church?

The corona-virus has changed everything in our current world. There are some businesses that will never have the privilege of opening again. Much of the businesses that have been able to continue in operation have had to do so in an online format. Many people do not like this new way of doing business. I can totally understand that. None of us, truthfully, loves change.



Church has changed. That is the new reality. On March 22, 2020 we had our first Online Worship Service. That online video had 393 views. We are averaging more people watching our online services than we have seen in our weekly attendance when we were physically meeting in the sanctuaries. So, what do we do with all these extra people who are “attending” our church?

I believe that we need to consider all the people who are worshiping online as an extension of our current church bodies. While they may not be able to have full church membership, I believe that we will have to acknowledge people who love the Lord, who financially support our ministry, and who are praying for God’s will, alongside each one of us. I view this as a joyful addition. May God bless our efforts in worshiping with those who we see in our community, and those whom we may never see until we are in Heaven.

Our Online Worship Services are posted on Sundays at 10 AM:

www.troybaptistchurches.com

www.facebook.com/TroyBaptistPA

www.facebook.com/EastTroyBaptistPA

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

Dominican Republic

Earlier this year our very own Charlotte McBratney and Shirley Forrest went on a missions trip to the Dominican Republic. They brought medical supplies and ministered to many people, treating their physical needs as well as sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever considered going on a missions trip? There is incredible value in experiencing another culture. Jesus said, “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28). When you serve like Jesus you are changed.

This fall we will be having a very special missions banquet with Charlotte and Shirley. They will share how God ministered to their hearts and to the hearts of those in the Dominican Republic.



GOINGS ON

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, May 3

Communion Sunday (We will have communion "online")

SUNDAY, May 10

Mother's Day (Do not forget your mother on this special day!)

MONDAY, May 25

Memorial Day (We are thankful for all who have died for the freedoms we all enjoy.)

We are so thankful for all of you who have been so patient while we wait for the time when God will allow us to come back to our church buildings and have worship like we are used to.

Your faithful financial support of our churches is greatly appreciated. If you are giving your tithes or making a donation please use the addresses below:

First Baptist Church of Troy,
P.O. Box 233, Troy, PA 16947

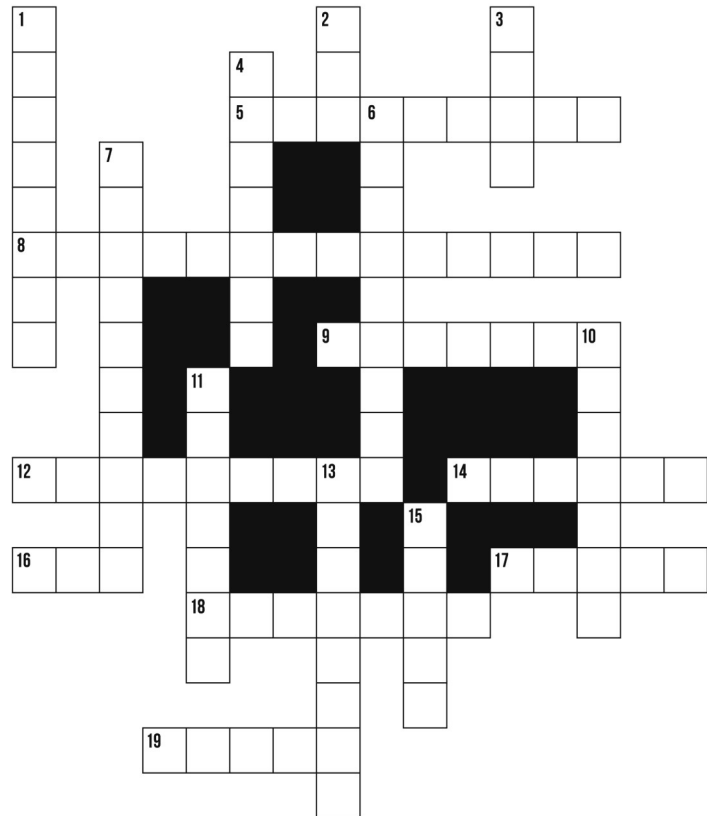
East Troy Baptist Church, P.O.
Box 21, Troy, PA 16947

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

Puzzle!

Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God." Complete this crossword that emphasizes the natural phenomena of God's created world.



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| 1. windy snowstorm | 12. mass of snow, earth or rocks sliding down a mountain |
| 2. thick, obscuring mist | 13. the degree of moisture in the air |
| 3. frozen rain pellets | 14. a spring that spews boiling water and steam |
| 4. an area's normal weather conditions | 15. condensed water vapor in the atmosphere |
| 5. sudden electrostatic discharge in the sky | 16. frozen water |
| 6. violent tropical storm | 17. deluge |
| 7. shaking of the earth's crust | 18. when day and night are of equal length |
| 8. northern lights | 19. frozen dew or vapor |
| 9. partial or full blockage of the sun or moon | |
| 10. wearing away of the soil | |
| 11. large mass of snow and ice | |

Answers: 1. blizzard, 2. fog, 3. hail, 4. climate, 5. lightning, 6. hurricane, 7. earthquake, 8. Aurora Borealis, 9. eclipse, 10. erosion, 11. glacier, 12. avalanche, 13. humidity, 14. geyser, 15. cloud, 16. ice, 17. flood, 18. equinox, 19. frost