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Hello, amazing church family. Another beautiful day in the neighborhood. :)

I'm not sure which of these bits of news is the most important, so I guess we will start with the practical. Thanks to the tireless work and dedication of so many of you, we are ready to open for in-person worship! Halleluia! Worship with us at 9am or at 11am, with all of the necessary health and safety protocols in place. It will be so good to see each other, and worship together!

For you who have expressed hesitation, or said that you want to wait awhile before you feel safe gathering in person, please know that it is VERY OK not to be ready. Especially if you are at risk, or if you are caring for someone who is at risk, I applaud you for taking good care of yourself and those you love. We will still be worshipping together via Facebook Live and on the radio, as always, so we look forward to you joining us that way for now.

Things will be a bit different in worship, of course, as we do our best to protect each other's health and safety. It's all stuff other churches and businesses are doing, too, so it shouldn't be a surprise. Your Church Council and your worship team appreciates your understanding and your help in practicing good mask wearing, hand washing, and distancing...and we appreciate your patience as the rules around us tend to shift and change.

The great thing is, God is greater than any of these changes and requirements. When we come expecting the lifechanging power of God in worship, God meets us there, in the sanctuary or at home or anywhere we choose to be in worship. Even if we are sick of the smell of hand sanitizer, and have to wear annoying masks!

So that is the first thing. The second thing is that PRAISE GOD I am officially appointed as Epworth's pastor for another year! Being in ministry with you, even in this trying time, is a great joy to me. I love this community, I dearly love this church, and I am so blessed to work alongside you for the glory of God. I look forward to hearing your ideas and passions for sharing the Gospel in Fallon and beyond. I have a few of my own ;-). I can't wait to see what God will bring us this year.

Please keep sending your prayer requests to me or to Kathy Reynolds. You can reach her by email at [kmreynolds3@gmail.com](mailto:kmreynolds3@gmail.com) or by phone at 423-0689. There is nothing more important than our prayer time with God and for each other.

I pray that God blessing you richly, friends! Have a wonderful week.

In God's amazing grace,

*Pastor Dawn*

# Worship at Epworth and at Home!

It will be so good to be together in worship! Things will be a little bit different, but the power of the Holy Spirit to fill and renew us will be exactly the same. Here's some of what to expect:

- † We will see each other! In the flesh! 😊 Worship at 9am AND at 11am. You are welcome to come to either service, no reservations required 😊
- † We will pray, and hear the scripture, and hear Pastor Dawn's message just like always. There will be candlelight, and silent prayer, and a deep satisfaction with being in a sacred place, at a sacred time, in the presence of God.
- † Music will be led by a smaller version of our awesome Praise Team, well distanced. Since singing in the congregation is discouraged, we can join in the music by humming, by quietly speaking the words of the song to God, by clapping, dancing, jumping around, doing the Charleston, whatever 😊
- † Special activity packets will be provided for the little ones, that they are invited to use and take home. We can't have nursery care just yet, and we want to make sure our little ones and their parents have a good, Jesus-centered, Spirit-filled worship experience.
- † No bulletins, Bibles, or hymnals will be in the pews. Everything will be on the screen. But you are welcome and encouraged to bring your own Bible and print your own bulletin from home, if you'd like!
- † Everyone will be wearing masks and using sanitizers to help us love and care for each other well. We will have masks available for you if you need one. If you see someone not wearing a mask, please be kind and assume that they have a very good reason. If you don't have a medical reason for not wearing one, please be kind and DO wear one...many of our at-risk members have expressed some worry, that they need folks to wear masks and be vigilant in order for them to feel safe to worship.
- † Every other pew will be closed off for the sake of good physical distancing. Families are of course welcome to sit together, and we will just know to sit 6ft apart from other individuals and families.
- † Some folks don't feel quite ready to come back to worship yet, so you may not see all of the church friends you have been missing. Reach out and tell them you miss them, and are glad they are taking good care.
- † We will still broadcast on Facebook Live and on KVLV AM 980 at 9:30am, as always.

This week in worship we begin a new series on **hope**. Over the next few weeks, we will journey together through the Bible, through history, and through the stories of our own faith to see where God brings the hope we can cling to, even in the darkest times. As you pray this week and prepare your heart for worship, you might like to read and pray with Psalm 40:1-3. And if you think of it, shoot Pastor Dawn an email or give her a call to tell her where you are finding hope and seeing God in your own life right now. 💙



# News and Fun Stuff

## Prayer and Healing Service

Join us for a quiet, sacred time of prayer and healing on Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00pm.



## Farmers to Families Food Boxes, and a Partnership with Fallon Food Hub!

Epworth is so glad to partner with Kelli Kelly and the Fallon Food Hub to provide boxes of fresh local produce to families in need all over our community. At the same time, we are continuing in partnership with New Frontier and Northern Nevada Food Bank in their “farmers to families” project, with food boxes that include produce, meat, and dairy. These have been such a gift to our community, and we are so glad to be a part of it! The Farmers to Families grant is extended through the end of August; the Food Hub local produce boxes grant goes through November. We are inviting all of our Fallon Daily Bread and Food Pantry guests to sign up for boxes, but we have access to even more! So if you know anyone in need, please reach out to them about this. Offer to pick up a box for them, and deliver them. They will be so grateful. And thank you to you who are already doing that!

Farmers to Families boxes arrive at Epworth on Tuesdays at noon. Stay tuned for timing on the Fallon Food Hub ones, they begin soon!

## Epworth Community Food Pantry

Thanks to Tara Koenig and JustServe (a really cool community service website), and to our members who are volunteering for the first time and inviting their neighbors, we have been blessed with a bunch of new pantry volunteers! It is a wonderful thing to see, as everyone cares for each other, helps each other, cleans and organizes and takes inventory, all while wearing masks and being careful about health and safety.

Thanks especially to Margaret Knox and Mary Nelson, for all the leadership and time they provide, and to Laura Butcher for taking care of all of those very annoying reports. You all are such a blessing!

# A Letter to Parents

by Karen DeBoer at [BuildingFaith.org](http://BuildingFaith.org).

## July Birthdays!

Jim Wieboldt, 7/1  
Mike Berney, 7/1  
♥ Debi Kissick, 7/1  
Dustin Stritenberger, 7/2  
Hayden Brown, 7/5  
Barbara Evans, 7/8  
Jackie Warburton, 7/8  
♥ Darline Hughes, 7/9  
Grant Mills, 7/9  
Shirley McDonald, 7/12  
Ariel Endacott, 7/13  
Faye Tewell, 7/13  
Darrell Dugan, 7/16  
Aaron Fraker, 7/16  
Shayda Lofthouse, 7/16  
Dan Wolf, 7/16  
♥ Kathy Albiston, 7/20  
Jaime Lawrence, 7/23  
Jerry Noonkester, 7/23  
Laura Ivey, 7/24  
Bill Hughes, 7/27  
Wilma Myers, 7/31  
Marlene Pierce, 7/31

♥ *Our beloved Debi Kissick, Darline Hughes, and Kathy Albiston were such incredibly important members of our church family. Prayers for their families and friends, who love and miss them still.*

Dear Parents,

Thank you for bringing your babies to worship. When I was a young mom, we were encouraged to bring our babies to the nursery, not the sanctuary, so I missed out on cuddling my newborn while Psalms were read and songs were sung. Seeing you rock your little one to sleep from across the aisle reminds us that God's family includes all ages.

I'm glad you're taking your toddlers along too. One Sunday during worship I saw a 2-year old-girl passed lovingly from one set of arms to another all the way down the row from where she had been sitting with her mom. Everyone wanted a chance to hold her as she waved her hands to the music and watched her father play the keyboard at the front of the sanctuary. Watching each person extend their arms toward this little one and ask, "me too?" was like watching our baptismal promises come to life.

Thank you for including your preschoolers. When little Dakota and Ayo spontaneously held each other's hands last week and began dancing in the aisles to the beat of the music, they showed us what it means to worship God with joyful abandon. And when Lily makes her way over to her grandpa, climbs up on his lap, and looks at him while he sings songs of praise, the two of them are painting a beautiful picture of one generation calling to the next.

I'm so glad you're looking for opportunities to involve your children in worship. I can't think of a better way for God's family to enter the church building on a Sunday morning than by shaking your hand and receiving a high-five from your child. You taught your child what it means to give back the day he opened his zipper sealed plastic bag and poured the coins he'd collected into the offering for the hurricane victims he'd seen on the news.

Thank you for making morning announcements, while your son clings to your leg and your daughter holds your hand. You're teaching them that talking to God's family isn't so different from sharing a story around the kitchen table.

Speaking of supper, participating in the Lord's Supper with your kids nurtures our faith as it nurtures theirs. Lining up with believers of all ages to receive the elements, and observing an adult get down on one knee to make eye contact with a child to say, "Jesus gave his life for you, Evan," reminds us that Jesus died for all of us. Watching a girl balance her pink plastic purse on one arm, as she carefully walks back to her seat while carrying a precious piece of bread and a ready-to-overflow cup of juice, reminds us what a special and abundant gift we're receiving.

Parenting is hard work. I know that some Sundays you're just longing to sit in silence. And I suspect that there have been times when you've felt like your wee ones weren't always welcome in worship. Please persist. Because, in addition to the blessings your children bring to us as God's family when we worship together, you're training your child to do the one thing we get to do forever: worship.

Children learn by observing. But they learn even more by participating. So keep coming. Keep trying. We're glad you're here. ♥