

Noth Hamilton Church of Christ

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Announcements

During this time while we are having to worship apart from one another in our homes, we have opened up the option of being able to make your contribution electronically through the Venmo app for those who would like to do so. The ID is @NorthHamiltonChurchOfChrist. Joe Anderson can answer questions if you need assistance.

Our Sick & Recovering

Patricia Farmer has asked for prayers for her sister **Debbie Driver** whose pathology report following a lumpectomy was not encouraging and she now faces additional surgery and treatment.

Marilyn Everett has not been feeling well lately and would really love cards and notes of encouragement at this time.

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

March 30 – Margaret Smith
April 1 – Ben Battles
2 – Addison Satterwhite
Kelly Hemming
3 – Carroll Oxford

Anniversaries:

March 30 – Jack & Pat Smith
April 3 – Brad & Sissy Jones
4 – Joel & Brenda Laney

“Isolation Introspection”

David B. Smith

Things happen sometimes that are out of our control. That's just life. What we are experiencing currently, with everything related to the Covid-19 virus, is most certainly out of our control. We didn't cause it. We didn't ask for it. We weren't expecting it. But this is our reality now. And life is defined more by the way we react to our circumstances rather than how those circumstances came to be. For us, this includes our *social isolation*. On many levels this one of the worst consequences of the virus. We understand its purpose. We see the need to “flatten the curve” and give medical staff and scientists time to combat the disease. But it is still horrible.

What may be the hardest hitting consequence of our isolation is the step some people will take backwards in their faith during this time. Sure, there are plenty of people talking more about God than ever before. But there are just as many people that aren't really doing anything right now. This is the concern. The same people who always claimed to be too busy to be involved in God's work suddenly have lots of time on their hands. We aren't participating in public events. We can't go anywhere. This means we have more time than ever for nurturing our faith. God tells us to “redeem the time” (Col. 4:2-6). Are we? Are there things we are leaving undone, during this time of isolation?

1. Are we worshipping? Social isolation does not mean Christians have Sunday off. It is still the Lord's Day, and the church must still worship her Lord. Can we assemble corporately at this time? No. But our inability to gather at the building does not cancel our responsibility to come before God's throne with thanksgiving (Heb. 13:15). God still deserves our worship (Jn. 4:23-24). And the pattern of the New Testament is still set for the first day of the week (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).

2. Are we investing ourselves in the work of the church? Maybe one thing we've been taught thus far by our isolation is that the work of the church isn't confined to a building. The church's mission has always been about people (Luke 19:10). The church is an evangelistic body (Mt. 28:18-20). This means we go where the people are. Since everyone is confined to the house at the moment, we are learning ways to connect to and teach people out side the church building. Covid-19 did not cancel the work of the church!

3. Are we studying the Word of God? There has probably never been such an opportunity as this for the church to reset and establish good Bible reading habits. People have been going on and on in social media posts about their boredom. Why not use this time to read the Bible? Instead of a twenty-four-hour Netflix binge, why not pick up the Bible and listen to what God is saying? All of us will be better off for it (1 Pet. 1:22-2:3; Psa. 119).

4. Are we financially supporting the church? I've already read the stories of a few smaller congregations that, because members aren't giving, are forced to weigh which works to cut. Think about that for just a second. Members aren't giving, so missionaries are potentially going to be without. Materials for evangelism can't be ordered or printed. Websites and television programs can't be funded. Benevolence as a congregation dries up. As we prosper, we must give to the work (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Understandably, people are nervous about what may or may not happen to the economy in the future. Remember this, that in spite of their own poverty and need, the Macedonian churches “abounded in the riches of their liberality...and beyond their ability, they were freely willing” (2 Cor. 8:1-7). Social isolation is not an exemption from the contribution.

Let's consider carefully how we use this unique time. We didn't ask for it, but it is our reality for the moment. For however long it lasts, let's show our passion for God by our pursuits.