

SCC Reopening for Worship Update

We are happy to announce, **on March 21, 2021 we will resume our in house Sunday worship services at 8:15 and 10:15am.** The 10:15am service will continue to be live-streamed thanks to the efforts of Allen Percy and Joe Edmiston.

Remember, in order to have a successful reopening, we ask that we all follow these guidelines:

- 1. Wear a face mask.**
- 2. Maintain social distancing.**
- 3. Wash hands and sanitize.**
- 4. If you are showing any COVID symptoms, please stay home.**

When working with our reopening committee, I am reminded of Galatians 5:13 in which Paul says we should “serve one another humbly in love.” This committee has served SCC humbly in love. Committee members are, Evan Cogswell, Gunner Condre, Rev. Ron Degges, Rev. Katie Griffin, Wilma Heller, Rich Hoerger, Sandy Hostrawser, Vicki Jarrett, Bobbi Jones, Holly Polites, and David Shank.

Since the inception of this committee I have quoted the following verses several times to remind us of where we are and what we are going through.

Nehemiah 9:19-21 - 19 “Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the wilderness. By day the pillar of cloud did not fail to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. 20 You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. 21 For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you Christ Jesus.

Chuck Bennett

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

We are happy to announce that **we will have three separate Easter worship services on Sunday, April 4, 2021. The Sunday morning worship services will be held at 8:15am, 10:15am, and 12:15pm.** We will need to have an accurate count for each service. There will be a limit of 60 per service, to maintain proper social distancing. We do have plans to add a fourth service, **if necessary.**



Please contact the church office at 317-244-7656 to sign-up for the service you plan on attending.

Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday
 March 28
 Worship Services
 8:15am & 10:15am**

**Maundy Thursday
 April 1
 Communion & Blessing
 Drive-Thru @ SCC
 11:30am—1:00pm
 5:30pm –7:00pm**



**Virtual Ecumenical Good Friday Worship
 April 2**

**Easter Sunday
 April 4
 Worship Services
 8:15am, 10:15am & 12:15pm**

Please keep in Prayer

Jack Mayhugh Hannah McDonald
Teresa Gorrell Jim Hollis
Teri Planalp Shirley Casady
Don Westrick Shirley Westrick
Don Bosma Martha Bosma
Sarah Clark (Anita Clark's granddaughter)
Greg Littrell (Deanna Beaver's brother)
Jeff Williams (Bil & Linda Carter's grandson)
Becky Patterson (Andrea Baestle's sister)
August Baestle (Brad Baestle's brother)
Geist Christian Church

Our Sympathy

To the friends and family of **Harriette Aichele**, who passed away on February 16, 2021.

To **Laura & Ray Tice and family** upon the death of Laura's father, Kermit Martin who passed away on March 8, 2021.

To **Christy Morris and family** upon the death of Christy's father, Robert Willmann who passed away on March 14, 2021.





The family of Harriette Aichele and Julia Allen thank you for all the prayers, cards, messages and kind words. Your compassion and caring were most appreciated.



to Ann Oliver! As the seasons change, Ann changes the display at the 14th Street triple wooden doors to welcome the new season and each of us. Ann's work is a beautiful display of her talent and herself.



Interim Iterations

A few years back, then Editor/Publisher John M. Buchanan, writing in *The Christian Century*, quoted a few sentences from Frederick Buechner's essay titled, "The Church." You can find this essay in Buechner's book, *Secrets in the Dark*. I believe these words can give some direction to the members and friends of Speedway as you move through your time of transition.

Here are Buechner's words:

"Maybe the best thing that could happen to the church would be for some great tidal wave of history to wash it all away — the church buildings tumbling, the church money all lost, the church bulletins blowing through the air like dead leaves, the differences between preachers and congregations all lost too. Then all we would have left would be each other and Christ, which was all there was in the first place."

I first read these words back in 2015. It was long before the "great tidal wave of history," Covid-19, would appear. Nevertheless, his words seem appropriate to address where we find ourselves today in the church. I am reminded that our call into existence as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), our birth certificate if you will, was a last will and testament. Ask me about this if you do not understand what I mean.

As I write, has been reported that over 500,000 Americans have died from Covid in just a little over a year. The bells of death have tolled and continue to toll until we get this dreaded virus behind us. All the while, we need to face the current realities facing the church with openness and candor. No proverbial sweeping of the dirt under the ecclesiastical carpet will suffice any longer.

And what are the current realities facing the church? Many of our congregations are struggling to pay the preacher, keep the lights on, and fix the leaking roof. Births, baby dedications, baptisms, marriages, and developing and growing the membership are not keeping pace with the congregation's rate of attrition due to people leaving, resigning, retiring, moving, and dying.

And here's the rub. In Buchanan's words:

" . . . many neighborhood and rural congregations require courageous new thinking if they are to survive — new thinking on the part of denominational executives, pastors brave enough to walk into challenging situations, and people willing to let go of a church model that no longer works."

Continue in next column

Interim Iterations....continued

Now the good news is that there are congregations, large and small, that are leaning into their futures in spite of the current realities of demographic decline and its accompanying spiritual and economic distress. We can learn from them. They have recreated church anew for this day and time. They are passionate about who they are and inspire others to accompany them on the journey.

Congregations that are leaning into their future are congregations that are less gate-keeping and permission-seeking, and more mission and action oriented. They have learned to cut through the red tape of congregational bureaucracy and launch themselves directly into those places of great human need. They define their mission in their specific local context and are tenacious about focusing on it. These congregations do not try to be everything to everybody, but are singularly focused on the welfare and benefit of those they serve.

When all is said and done, it is true that the center and core of congregational life is "each other and Christ, which is all there was in the first place." This is not a bad place to start as Speedway leans into its future during this time of transition. I am glad to be part of the new discoveries you are making. Keep looking through the front windshield and not the rear view mirror. This will surely take you to the place God wants you to be!

Leaning-ly yours,
Ron

Another Way to Give....

The church is working to find ways to make giving more convenient. We have now added Zelle a **free** digital service, as an option for submitting your offering. You are able to use Zelle either through your personal bank or through the Zelle app to safely transfer money directly from your bank account to the SCC bank account. There is no fee involved, no postage needed, and it is totally secure and easy to use.

To submit your offering through Zelle, send to the email address wheller@speedwaychristian.org when prompted.

Speedway Christian Church Stewardship/Finance Update

February 2021 Funds Received	\$ 42,570
February 2021 Expenses	\$ 29,491
February 2021	\$ 13,079

Easter Egg Hunt—April 3

Speedway Christian Church is having an Easter Egg Hunt and everyone is invited!

Please join us on Saturday, April 3 at 11:00am (Easter Saturday). All are invited! Our church congregation and friends are all welcome! The Easter egg hunt is for all children ages 2-10. We will also have a photo booth for pictures with the Easter bunny!



The egg hunt will be open for the community. We hope to have a big crowd and will need lots of help. Currently, we are asking for donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy. On the day of the Easter egg hunt, we will need help greeting visitors, running the egg hunts, taking pictures at the photo booth, etc. We hope many of you will volunteer to help!! If you can help in any way, please let Katie know at

kgriffin@speedwaychristian.org. I hope you, your family, your friends and neighbors will join us!

~ Katie



from Katie...

Remember that, though we are not fully reopened, our ministries with children and youth continue!

- Worship and Wonder videos are released every Thursday in our Weekly Update. You can also find them on our YouTube page, Speedway Christian Church.
- Sunday School for all children is on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. You can find the link in our weekly update. Youth group meets every Sunday evening, 5:45-7:45pm. Friends are always welcome!

There will be no youth group or Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 4.

On **Sunday, April 18** during the 10:15am worship service, seven of our youth will be offering their Confession of Faith. A private baptism service for the families of seven youth will be held at 4:00pm on April 18. At this time, the baptism service will be private, the service will be livestreamed. If the decision is made to open the baptism service up for our church community we will be sure to let all know.

Speedway Christian Church
5110 West 14th Street
Speedway, Indiana 46224

Organ Recital—SCC Sanctuary

On **Sunday, March 21 at 4:00pm**, Evan Cogswell will be doing a Lenten organ recital. The recital will be live-streamed and is open to the community. **Attendance will be limited. Contact the church office at 317-244-7656 if you wish to attend.**



SCC Yard Work Day Saturday April 24 - Earth Day

Please join us on April 24 to help keep the exterior of our church beautiful and welcoming. We will be doing general cleanup, raking, spreading topsoil, seed, fertilizer and mulch. Please bring rakes and shovels.



Lunch & Learn

Please join Ron or Katie each Monday at noon as they lead a study of the scripture that will be the focus of the sermons for the upcoming Sunday. The study is by Zoom. If you have interest in participating, let the church office know.



**Next Official Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

March 28 and April 4, 2021

Easter Offering

a special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund



supporting general ministries of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

SHS Lunch Ladies Cookbook

The 2nd round of the Mim's Pirtle and the SHS Lunch Ladies cookbook are available to purchase. An order will be placed at the end of March, and be ready for distribution early April.



Deadline to place an order is March 22. To place an order, please go to **SHSLunch@gmail.com**.

The cookbooks are \$20 each, unless you want shipped then \$25 each.

Thank you in advance for helping to support a college bound Speedway High school senior.