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April 2020 Newsletter  
Wednesday, April 1, 2020

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## April 2020 Newsletter

In lieu of a printed newsletter this month, we are emailing information to you. This will also be linked to our church website. If you know of someone who would like to receive the information but does not utilize email or our website, please let the office know and we would be happy to mail a printed copy to them.

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Dear Friends,

We are in a challenging time but our God is faithful and at work during this situation. We are told in scripture that we can rely on God through his Son Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. We continue to minister through this time. Our offices are open at various times throughout the week and we have a team to deliver groceries or offer rides for medical purposes as well. We are also available to give food to those in need. We continue to provide meals for the homeless in city of Canton.

Please continue the 40 days of prayer we are in. Also we have our message online each week and children's program on the website. We also want to encourage you to keep giving as we can continue to minister to our church and community. You can give online, mail in to 7945 Portage St NW, Massillon Ohio 44646, or drop it in the Sports Drop Box by the Arlington entrance doors.

Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

In Christ,  
Pastor Dave

### *Devotional from Pastor Chris:*

Spring is in the air! The warming of temperatures means the kids are restless to get outside, and let's be honest... it's not just the kids. Many of us are anxious to get outside for fresh air on a walk or hike, anxious to start the springtime landscaping chores, or maybe we're just ready to start seeing nature budding and growing new life after a dreary winter. God's design of nature is an incredible process we here in Ohio get to see in full cycle through all four seasons, and it's honestly something we can take for granted pretty easily. We'll celebrate Easter, and new life is obvious because of Jesus' victory over the grave and it doesn't hurt that our resurrection celebration coincides with a whole lot of plant life coming back into bloom.

There are obvious parallels for us to understand the new life that Jesus offers us; we who were once seemingly dead from an outside perspective are brought out of dormancy into a vibrant new life through Christ's indescribable offer through the cross. Praise Jesus! But isn't it true that as we get used to being outside, seeing, hearing and smelling nature coming alive a little bit more, we begin to get used to life blooming around us and begin to not notice so much? That can happen to us spiritually as well. We can get comfortable in our surroundings and can stop noticing new life; we can stop looking for the new flowering buds. It seems easier than it should be to become settled in and lose the wonder we once had in our faith. But it doesn't have to be that way.

This spring I want to encourage you to look for new life. Strive for and recognize new life in your devotional times, new life in seeing transformation happen in people's lives, finding new life in worshiping together with our church family. And just like we can get too used to the change in nature around us, don't forget to do things that will keep you noticing the amazing work that God is up to in you and all around you. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

Better Together,  
Pastor Chris



### *Encouraging Word from Karen Tebbs, Women's Ministry Director:*

You are in my prayers and thoughts during this challenging time. Little did I know just how fitting the women's Bible study of "Jonah, A Life Interrupted" would be. Perhaps you feel like Jonah as he was confined in the belly of the big fish. Hopefully, your captive environment is more pleasant than his! Even in those circumstances he was able to discern where his hope and strength came from, the Lord. In Jonah 2:1-2, from inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord His God. He said, "In my distress I called to the Lord and He answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead, I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

In times like these we can feel isolated and alone, but God sees us and hears us. We are not alone! Challenge yourself to reach out to others as a source of encouragement, in a responsible way of course.

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### *Praise and Worship*

You can find videos of some great praise and worship on the Worship Ministry Facebook page (Jackson Friends Church Worship Ministry) and it will be linked to our website. You will also find links there to some contemporary music. Join our Facebook page at Jackson Friends Church Worship Ministry.

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### *Sports and Recreation*

Keep an eye on our church website and Facebook page (Jackson Friends Sports and Recreation) for updates about when our soccer season will begin. Also, let's try to stay active during these times. Joel has recorded a video of some soccer drills to work on this week while we #StayAtHome. Watch it on the sports Facebook page and stay tuned for another video next week!

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### *Attention Youth Groups...*

We are continuing to meet ONLINE! This includes our regular events (youth groups, Sunday school, etc) as well as some extra events! Contact Moby at 330-224-0695 or moby@jacksonfriends.org for meet up details, prayer requests, needs, or just to say "Hey!" Soul Blast has been postponed.

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### *Children's Ministry...*

Have you seen Miss Shelly's Preschool message on our church website? Or have you followed Miss Susie's daily devotions on Facebook? Check them out! On

the website, you can find Shelly Wyder's video under the "Sermon Videos" tab. Join our Facebook page (Jackson Friends Church Children's Ministry) to watch Susie Bell lead a daily children's devotion. Lea also posts regularly with some encouraging words, ideas for discussion, and links to some great resources for the children.

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### *News from Feed My Sheep and Bread from Heaven...*

*Feed My Sheep* is still holding outdoor downtown events each Saturday. Last week, we fed 150 hot meals and passed out 200 to-go lunches. This week, we provided 100 hot meals and 100 to-go lunches. Watch the Feed My Sheep Facebook video and see what great things God is doing with restaurant donations! The Feed My Sheep T-shirt sale is on hold and no new volunteers are being accepted at this time.

Our church food pantry, *Bread From Heaven*, assisted 12 local families last week. The shelves are sparse. If you want to buy items now and store them until the Sunday we return, that would be great! Or you can call the church office and drop them off when someone is available at the church. Items most needed: Canned chicken and tuna; pancake mix and syrup; green beans, peas; and red sauce for pasta.

Thanks for caring and sharing! We will continue to be the hands of feet of Jesus as we serve our community during these trying times.

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### *Who to contact...*

If you have a need, please reach out to us! Call the church office at 330-966-0616. Messages are monitored daily even when the office is closed. *Here are email addresses for our church staff. Please feel free to reach out to anyone if you have a need or just want to connect with someone!*

Pastor Dave Tebbs: [dtebbs@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:dtebbs@jacksonfriends.org)

Pastor Dan Hanny: [dhanny@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:dhanny@jacksonfriends.org)

Pastor Chris King: [cking@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:cking@jacksonfriends.org)

Worship & Young Adult Leader, Adam Erbrick: [aerbrick@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:aerbrick@jacksonfriends.org)

Youth Pastor, Moby Dick: [moby@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:moby@jacksonfriends.org)

Church Administrator, Lori Osugi: [losugi@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:losugi@jacksonfriends.org)

Children's Director, Lea Nathaniel: [lnathaniel@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:lnathaniel@jacksonfriends.org)

Nursery Director, Marty Shomali: [mshomali@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:mshomali@jacksonfriends.org)

Sports and Recreation Director, Joel Bankert: [jbankert@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:jbankert@jacksonfriends.org)

Choir, Orchestra, and Drama Director, Peggy Bergstrom:

[pbergstrom@jacksonfriends.org](mailto:pbergstrom@jacksonfriends.org)

Contact: **Debbie Gudat**

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