

Auburn Presbyterian Church
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Rev. David Lawrence



APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

"CORONA ADDITION"

May the One who blessed our ancestors bless all those who put themselves at risk to care for the sick. Physicians and nurses and orderlies, technicians and home health aides, EMTs and pharmacists, hospital social workers and respiratory therapists including other frontline healthcare workers. And bless especially those who navigate the unfolding dangers of the world each day, to tend to those they have sworn to help. Bless them in their coming home and bless them in their going out. Ease their fear. Sustain them. Source of all breath, healer of all beings, protect them and restore their hope. Strengthen them, that they may bring strength; keep them in health, that they may bring healing. Help them know again a time when they can breathe without fear. Bless the sacred work of their hands. May this plague pass from among us, speedily and in our days. We ask this in your name. Amen.



Just a reminder that the PW Circle will NOT meet in April. We will let you know about May in the weeks ahead.

FRIENDS' TABLE UPDATE: Friends Table is discontinuing service for the month of April. This is being done in cooperation with the larger community effort to slow the spread of the Corona Virus.

FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ—I continue to hold all of you in prayer. We are living in the midst of challenging times and prayer is most definitely needed. These times test us in a variety of ways as the Corona Virus continues to spread across the country almost unabated. Daily we watch the number of infections and deaths inch upwards. We're bombarded by news reports about the virus and all my conversations seem to circle back to that topic.

The challenge of these times is greater due to the news and our conversations. These influences thicken the atmosphere of fear that surrounds us. I don't know if our unsettledness and fear can rightly be termed a lack of faith. Rather, we find ourselves living in the midst of the unknown—and that's the worst. There is not a lot of reliable information and the rules are changing every day, which creates an enormous strain as we attempt to adapt to an ever shifting reality.

My meditation for today suggested taking some time, stepping away from electronics and other people to find the time to focus more fully on God and my internal condition. I don't know about others, but I get caught up trying to get information to better understand Covid-19. My mind is always working to think of ways to care for my family and the congregation—who needs a call? can I send a card? Taking the time to quiet my heart and mind frees me from a lot of that noise that disrupts my soul.

Reinhold Niebuhr wrote one of the most well-known prayers in the world. Embraced by 12 step programs, the Serenity Prayer is a good mantra for these days.

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
the courage to change the things I can;
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

To that end, this newsletter is intended to be a little different. Tracy and I hope to provide something a little more lighthearted that can help you step away from your anxiety for a bit. We don't mean to make light of our situation, but we try to remember the injunction to “wear the world as a loose garment”.

Blessings, David



Locked down Canadians gather on balconies, struggle to collectively sing really fast part of One Week by Barenaked Ladies



[Photo Credit](#)

TORONTO – After witnessing the popularity achieved by a group of locked down Italians singing in unison on their balconies a couple of weeks ago, a gang of Canadians assembled to try to sing ‘One Week’ by [Barenaked Ladies](#) with little success.

“I was so moved by the spirit of unity I saw in that, excuse my pun – viral video, that I immediately called the condo manager of the building across from mine to set up our own Canadiana version!” gushed student Samuel Chisamore from [self-isolation](#).

The group amassed on their respective balconies at around 6 pm last night and began screaming the lyrics at each other.

“There was so much going against us,” sighed Laci Coldstrop, a recently laid-off server. “It was really hard to hear the other people so no one started singing at the same time. Oh and after the first line of the song, most of us just mumbled until we got to ‘Chinese chicken,’ then we just struggled through again.”

“There was one guy across the balcony from mine who seemed a little too intense about it. Like he knew the lyrics too well, if that makes sense? Unnerving.”

The tenants of the two condominiums had gone back and forth over which song to sing together over the past week.

“We tossed around the names of a couple other musicians before settling on Barenaked Ladies,” reported Leyla Barzani, a payroll accountant working from home. “[Gordon Lightfoot](#), Celine, Alanis Morissette, [Drake](#), the Hip, and so on. Ultimately we wanted to do ‘One Week’ as a sort of fun nostalgic challenge! How naive we were to think that this kind of teamwork could ever be fun!”

However, the gang of balcony-bound singers is planning on assembling every night to work their way through Barenaked Ladies’ 12 studio album discography, even if the [COVID-19 quarantine](#) ends.-reprinted from *The Beaverton*

Man In Coma For Past Month Arrives At Church, Assumes He's Been Left Behind



BACKWATERTON, AR—Local man Rayford Williams has been in a coma for the past month, so he was excited to get back to his church family. Unfortunately, he was totally unaware of the COVID-19 outbreak, which has caused most churches to move their services online.

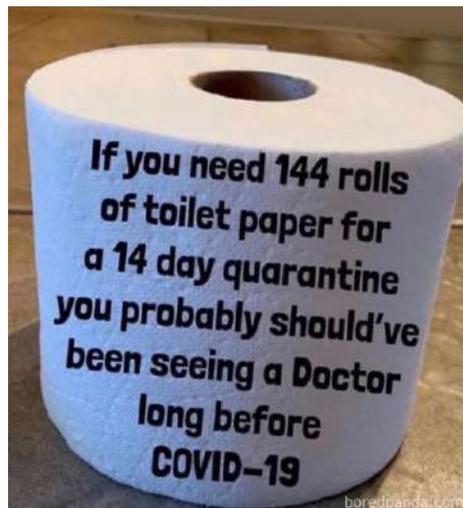
"Oh man," he said as he walked into the empty church building on Sunday, assuming he had missed the Rapture. "I knew I should have paid more attention to that Kirk Cameron movie."

Luckily, the church had prepared for such an occasion with a pamphlet titled "So You've Been Left Behind" available in the lobby. Williams read through the material and searched his heart, wondering when he had fallen away from his faith. "It was probably that time I played *Dungeons & Dragons* with my kids. I ran the race for years only to disqualify myself at the end."

-Reprinted from the Babylon Bee

The Top Ten Corona Virus Jokes

10. I know a great joke about Corona Virus, you probably won't get it though.
 9. A man walks into a bar and goes up to the bartender and says "I'll have a Corona please, hold the virus"
 8. If I get quarantined for two weeks with my wife and I die. I can assure you it was not the virus that killed me.
 7. With all this talk of Corona Virus, the people who make sanitising gel are rubbing their hands together.
 6. I went to the chemist today and asked the assistant "what kills the Corona Virus?" She replied to me "Ammonia Cleaner"
I said "Oh, I am sorry, I thought you worked here"
 5. ***Breaking News!*** - Apparently the first person in Melbourne has died because of the Coronavirus. In his house they found 1000 cans of food, 50 kilos of pasta, 80 kilos of rice, 300 toilet rolls and 50L of hand sanitiser which he had panic purchased from the supermarket and stock piled "just in case".
The whole lot collapsed and buried him.
 4. Day 3 without sports. Found a lady sitting on my couch yesterday. Apparently she is my wife. She seems nice.
 3. Since everybody has now started washing their hands, the peanuts at the bar have lost their taste.
 2. They said that a mask and gloves were enough to go to the supermarket. They lied, everyone else has clothes on.
- And for number 1. Before Corona Virus I used to cough to cover a fart, now I fart to cover a cough.



Bonus Jokes

- My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately, now when I pee I clean the toilet.
- Back in the day the only time we started panic buying was when the bartender yelled "last call"
- I sneezed in the bank today, it was the most attention I have received from the staff in the last 10 years.
- Ok, so if the Corona Virus isn't about beer, why do I keep hearing about cases of it?
- To the people who bought 20 bottles of soap leaving none of the shelves for others, you do realise that to stop getting Coronavirus, you need other people washing their hands too.
- Chinese doctors have confirmed the name of the first person to contract Coronavirus. His name is Ah-Chu.

**Prediction: There will
be a minor baby boom
in 9 months, and then
one day in 2033, we
shall witness the rise
of THE
QUARANTEENS.**

There are 2 types of people in the world...



Got this big roll of toilet paper as a gag gift for Christmas. Whose laughing now!?



QUARANTINE DIARY

Day 1: I have stocked up on enough non-perishable food and supplies to last me for months, maybe years, so that I can remain in isolation for as long as it takes to see out this pandemic

Day 1 + 45 minutes: I am in the supermarket because I wanted a Twix