

The Messenger

N. Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene

A loving, caring, serving community of believers in Jesus

May 2020 ~ Volume 11, Issue 1

A voice is calling,
“Clear the way for the
Lord in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert
a highway for our God.
Let every valley be lifted up,
And every mountain
and hill be made low;
And let the rough ground
become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;
Then the glory of the
Lord will be revealed,
And all flesh will see *it* together;
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
Isaiah 40:3-5

For the Mothers
For those who wait ...
Those who mourn ...
Those who are tired ...
Those who pray ...
Those who ache ...
Those who are alone ...
Those who laugh ...
Those who cry ...
For the mothers ...
All of them

Happy Mother's Day!

Lamenting

As the days of isolation increase, I have found myself thinking more and more about the lessons we are supposed to be learning. I have heard and read so many theories for the truth behind our current circumstances. *Is this current crisis some form of conspiracy? Is it a judgment that has come upon the world? Is it the beginning of the tribulation? Have we somehow brought this crisis upon ourselves?* The swarm of theories is hard to ignore and can easily captivate our minds – especially when we are found with too much time to allow our thoughts to wander and wonder.

As I have studied on this and have also pleaded with the Lord for discernment and direction in the midst of our current situation, one word has consistently bubbled to the surface – “*lament.*” Dictionary.com defines that word *lament*: “to feel, show, or express grief, sorrow, or regret; to mourn deeply.” I am also aware that, in these days, we have all been drawn to II Chronicles 7:13-14 – “*If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*” I’m not certain we could find a better passage of scripture for today’s circumstances than that one.

Pretty simple – the answer for so much of what ails us is turning to the Lord in sorrow for our sin and lamenting. The act of recognizing our sin, mourning over it, turning from it, and asking GOD to forgive us – individually, as the Church, and as a nation.

So many have dreamed about the kind of celebration we would have when we return to the sanctuaries of our church buildings – dancing, shouting, singing with gusto. Maybe you’ve even smiled thinking about the possibilities. What if instead of imagining ourselves coming back together as celebrants, our highest desire is to come back together so we could join our hearts as one heart in pleading with GOD for forgiveness, tearing our garments, throwing ashes on our heads and crying out to Him for His mercy? Isn’t that a truer picture of what we see in this scripture? According to Ecclesiastes, there is a time to mourn. Maybe this could be that time? A true return to GOD would be worth celebrating. BG

Join us for our Wednesday night devotional at 6:00 P.M. on Facebook live-streaming. If you are unable to watch live, you can watch the recorded devotional at your convenience on FB. and ...

Join us for our Sunday worship service at 11:00 A.M. on Facebook live-streaming. Those services have been recorded and are available at: <https://www.nfmnazarene.com/messages>



CHURCH ONLINE



BE BOLD. BE BRAVE.
SAVE LIVES.

DONATE BLOOD

#Donate4Life

**Saturday, May 9, 2020
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**North Fort Myers Nazarene Church
6781 Bayshore Road,
North Fort Myers, FL 33917**

As a thank you for saving lives, all donors will receive a FREE OneBlood T-Shirt, an Applebee's FREE Appetizer coupon and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

To make an appointment, please visit www.oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code #10089

ID REQUIRED

ID required. Donors must be at least 18 years old. Those who are 16 years old need parental permission. See website for more details. *One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not redeemable. If you have recently donated, thank you. Please visit us when you are eligible to donate again.

oneblood.org
1-888-9-DONATE



Church Directory



GREAT NEWS – The updated church directories have been printed and are available for pickup at the church.

NOT SO GREAT NEWS – We have already identified some omissions and mistakes. We are in the process of making an addendum to help with clarifications. We are also working on making the directory available on the church's website with a password protection so our church folks can access it safely and their information will be protected at the same time.

We will keep you updated on our progress.



Arnold Burris will be holding an adult Bible study Tuesdays at 6 P.M. on Facebook and Pastor Becky Garner will be holding a Ladies Bible study on Thursdays at 7 P.M. We are looking into holding the Ladies Bible study at the church with appropriate social distancing measures. Otherwise, we will be trying to hold the meetings by Zoom.

May Church Calendar

- 9 – One Blood Blooddrive
- 10 – MOTHER’S DAY!
- 14 – Church Board Meeting
- 25 – Memorial Day



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 04 – Louise Asbury
- 05 – Michael & Linda Romano
- 07 – Melanie Kelly
- 08 – Lee Monroe
- 10 – Judi Predko
- 16 – Libby Smith
- 17 – Carl & Lucille Logan
- 20 – Julia Moore
- 22 – Bud Barr
- 26 – Sue Vance-Jones
- 30 – John Haddad

Prayer Needs:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Phoebe Barr | Patrick Lindsey | Betty Coolie | Ben Bergman |
| June Carsey | Rich Harris | Nikki Morgan | Anna Marie Anderson |
| Ida Chaplow | Elis Lodge | Pastor Tim Taylor | Pastor Jim Spear |
| Laurel Chapman | Judi Predko’s family | Eileen Massett | Mark & Lisa Koch |
| Ernie Rybold | Paul Jones | Betty Predko | Tom Blakeman |
| Sheryl Colie & Family | Tim Dillehay | Dorothy Chapman | Paul & Grace Boling |
| Ardyth Eldridge | Marlene Ryan | Joseph Groves | Lorraine Jungles |
| Mark & Kim Barr | Louis Perez | The Monroe Family | Dave Peck |
| Kenny & Gail Goodman | Phyllis Obney | Regina Williams | Allice Daugherty |
| Children & Teen Depts. | Eileen Jennings | Kitty Baxter | Our District Family |
| A Youth Pastor | Unsaved Loved Ones | Those affected negatively by the Corona Virus | |

01 May 2020 - *Dear Pastors and Leaders,*
The season of Easter reminds us that the power of Jesus’ resurrection creates the momentum that moves us toward Pentecost. How timely that we are facing the challenges of this day with the hope of the empty tomb and the promise of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks to God that you continue to minister so well. Holy creativity has defined your work as you continue to share the gospel and disciple those within your sphere of influence. As we send this letter, we join with the apostle Paul in praying for you. “We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light” (Colossians 1:9-12). We recognize that some are already thinking ahead and planning for the day when you will be able to gather again as the people of God. We urge caution and diligence when it comes to decision-making regarding re-opening our facilities for public gatherings. Please work with your local and government authorities, as well as your district leadership, to ensure that the proper practices necessary for the safety and protection of the most vulnerable are in place before meeting together. Sadly, we continue to receive news of those who have become ill with COVID-19 and are suffering. A number of our churches and districts in Brazil have lost members and pastors in the past week, and have many who remain ill. Several districts in the United States have also sent word of pastors and members who have fallen ill or passed away. We grieve with these local church communities and join them in prayer. We also have churches in various parts of the world that are experiencing financial stress because of abrupt economic changes. Please join us in lifting our sisters and brothers in prayer who have found their daily food supply interrupted
Letter to Pastors and Leaders Page 2 01 May 2020 and their economic future on shaky ground. We are a global church community, interconnected and interdependent, and therefore we help one another through this season. Thank you for your valuable partnership in this ministry. Grace and peace to you all,
 Board of General Superintendents ~ Filimão M. Chambo Eugénio R. Duarte David W. Graves David A. Basic Gustavo A. Crocker Carla D. Sunberg

The latest Headline!

What you need to know about getting an antibody test for COVID-19 right now.
From 'COVID Toes' to Hives, These Are the Skin Conditions Dermatologists Think Could Be Signs of
Coronavirus.
We Are Doctors Who Study Trauma. Here's How To Cope With The COVID-19 Crisis.
11 FL Counties Report New Deaths From Coronavirus; 32,138 Cases
Tokyo Olympics could be canceled if COVID-19 persists next summer, organizing leader says

Just reading these few headlines this pandemic is hard to process. Who do you believe? What do you believe? Is it worth spending my time on research when so much seems to be slanted one way or another?

If you are reading this and you have your sins forgiven by our Lord Jesus Christ, you have nothing to worry about.

John 16:32-33 (NASB) tells us...

Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

It is easy to fall under the spell of the media. So much of our media these days has an agenda, it is very difficult to know what to believe unless you take the time to watch everything live. Very few will take the time to do that. What we need to take time to do is lean into the power of our Savior. He tells us that He has already overcome this world. Which means He has overcome the biased media. He has overcome your fear and anxiety. He has overcome COVID-19. Praise the Lord!

Do you truly believe that today! What we believe underscores everything about our lives. Our politics. How we raise our children. How we treat others. Whether we respect others, their property and their lives.

Often, competing belief systems clamor for our attention; we all know people – maybe friends and family members – who lost Christianity in the shuffle and hubbub of living. We turn aside from believing in Christ at our own peril, however, because the heart and soul, the very essence of Christianity, is belief. That is, believing that this man named Jesus is the very Son of God and that it is through Him, and only through Him, that we can find forgiveness and salvation that will reserve a place for us with God.

However, believing is more than simply acknowledging intellectually that Jesus is God. Even the demons who serve Satan know that. Belief that makes a difference is belief that goes so deep that we entrust our lives and our eternity to Christ. We live like we believe it, because we do!

1 John 5:3-5 (NASB)

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Before too long COVID-19 is going to be a distant memory and we will look back on the lessons we have learned and the blessings we have received, and we will be thankful.

Blessings and safety, Pastor Van



North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene
6781 Bayshore Road
North Fort Myers, Florida 33917
239-567-0150

Website: nfmnazarene.com
Facebook: N Fort Myers Naz
Senior Pastor: Van Garner