

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Opportunity to Let your Light Shine!

Good Morning Westover Baptist Family,

Today marks the second Sunday that we will not meet collectively for worship. It has been an interesting experience not meeting for Sunday morning worship. It has evoked many feelings and thoughts within my heart and mind, as I am sure the same goes for you. But it would be wrong for us to think that church has stopped.

This past week I was reminded of the quote by Elton Trueblood that hangs up next to our dining hall:

“You cannot go to church. You are the church wherever you go.”

How true this statement is! Westover Baptist Church is not a building located at 1000 Westover Hills Boulevard. Westover Baptist Church is the community of believers that exists to help bring God’s will to Westover and the surrounding communities – to bring heaven to earth.

The 13th apostle, Paul, wrote in Philippians 4, “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength” (Phil. 4:12-13).

No doubt Paul was able to find contentment in all situations because of his close relationship with and utter dependence on Christ. But in addition to this, I imagine Paul’s ability to find contentment was due to his ability to find the opportunities that present themselves in every situation.

In most situations we are presented with opportunities to learn and grow, to love and serve. In our present situation, with social distancing and self-quarantine, I believe this is especially the case. At this moment we are presented with many opportunities. Some have used this time to pick up a new hobby, learn how to cook, and even write a book! In these unprecedented times, what opportunities are present for you to grow and learn new things?

As a church we are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, not for our own benefit but that others might receive God's blessing. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." In these unprecedented times, what opportunities are there for you to let your light shine, to help others, to serve and love? Is there anyone who could use a phone call? Is there anyone who needs help buying groceries or cutting their grass? Is there anyone that could use some encouragement?

This week I thought it would be nice to hear from each other via email. So I want to invite you to share the ways in which you are using this time to find opportunities to serve and love; to grow and learn. How have you been using your time? How has God spoken to you in the past few weeks?

Please respond by clicking "reply all" so that everyone receives your reply. Please use this as a time to share anything that you'd like to with our community. I look forward to reading your replies.

Here is a link to hear a little music from Andrew: https://youtu.be/jlC0z2_89Is

In closing, I'd like to share with you another powerful passage from Philippians 4:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4-9)

With Gratitude,

Drew Nagy

Pastor - Westover Baptist Church

<https://www.livingwaterrva.com/>