



# first edition

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*HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE*

## Pastor's Pen

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*<sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

*<sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*<sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*<sup>5</sup> a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*<sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;*

*<sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

*<sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

I wonder what the author of Ecclesiastes would have included if they had written this familiar passage in the first half of 2020.

*A time for sickness, a time to heal;  
A time for social isolation, a time for ZOOM;  
A time for hand-washing, and a time for more hand-washing;*

*A time to cancel corporate worship, a time to find new ways to worship together;*

*A time of racial injustice, a time to stand together!  
A time to grieve, and a time to advocate change.*

You could probably add your own verses from your own experiences these past few months. If someone would have asked me what I thought the first half of 2020 would hold; in my wildest dreams I could never have suggested or contemplated what it has been like!

And when life hits us hard (like it has these past few months), it can be easy to become

discouraged and look for someone to blame for all of our misfortunes. That is just our human nature. The book of Ecclesiastes is an example of this human response. The author looks back over his life and wonders what it was all about. The NIV Study Bible offers this commentary:

*The author looks about at the human enterprise, he sees man in mad pursuit of one thing and then another - laboring as if he could master the world, lay bare its secrets, change its fundamental structures, break through the bounds of human limitations and master his own destiny. He sees man vainly pursuing hopes and expectations that in reality are "meaningless, a chasing after the wind" (1:14; 2:11, 17, 26; 4:4, 16).*

*But faith teaches him that God has ordered all things according to God's purpose and that man's role is to accept these, including his own limitations, as God's appointments. Man, therefore, should be patient and enjoy life as God gives it. He should be prudent in everything, fearing God and keeping God's commandments.*

Ecclesiastes teaches us that a life not centered on God is purposeless and meaningless. Without God, nothing else can satisfy.

So, while we may fret and worry about what tomorrow will hold; perhaps we should spend more time praising and thanking the one who holds tomorrow. Thanks be to God!

In His Service,  
Pastor Kemper



### Congregational Meeting

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, we have not been able to schedule our necessary Congregational meeting. We need to gather to elect new officers (Elders and Deacons) and just catch up on what is going on with the church. Stay tuned! We will announce the date as soon as possible!

### Mission & Social Justice

Hunger continues to be a daily problem for many in community, state, nation and world. The problem is even worse with so many people out of work and social services stretched even thinner than normal. Our Little Free Pantry continues to be utilized daily and we are in need of more food. Please prayerfully consider donating. We can use non-perishable items (please check expiration dates as we cannot use expired food), money or gift cards. I am happy to pick up items up if that is easier. Just text, send a facebook message or call and we can set up a time for contactless pick up and can be reached at 816-262-5044.

Blessings to all!  
Natalie Ward, MSJ Committee

### Feeding the Hungry

FPC is still serving the community at the Open Door Food Kitchen monthly! Thanks to all who helped cook, serve, provide cookies as well as sending in your donations :)



### Pastor Nominating Committee

As the church moves closer to electing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), we need your help! Please prayerfully think about the people you feel would best represent the voice of the congregation and ones you think would be an asset to this process and let Pastor Kemper know. If you feel called to serve your church by being a part of the PNC, let Pastor Kemper know.

### Mission Study & Survey

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mission Study Survey that was sent out. Your voice will be very helpful as we look forward and will also be critical in the process of calling a new Installed Pastor. The information will be collated by Dorothy Maglione and then analysed by and commented on by Rev. Sharon Amstudz. We hope to have the results in the near future. Anyone who wants to see the results is welcome.

### Prayer Concerns

Though we are separated by space and closed doors, we continue to pray for our community, our church, and our world. If you have prayer concerns that you would like to have lifted up, or you know of someone who needs our prayers, please let Pastor Kemper or the church office know. You may call and leave a message or e-mail your requests to [pastorkemper@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorkemper@yahoo.com)



## BIRTHDAYS (INCLUDING BELATED)

### April

3 Ruthie Bireline  
7 Bill Barr  
8 Jan Thielen  
9 Lynette Rockwood  
14 Alberta Crandell  
Steve Wurtzler  
15 Michael Jasper

### May

1 Mike Capps  
14 Merle Corf  
15 Sarah Seymour  
17 Shelby Corf  
19 Jaxon Thornton  
21 Beth Lukehart  
24 Thane Armbruster  
26 Lisa Logan  
Dave Shinneman  
27 Jason Jasper  
30 Emily Johnson

### June

3 Maree Daise  
6 Becky Hampton  
Ralph Young  
11 Dave Merrifield  
13 Sherry Trout  
15 George Fountain  
Mick Kneale  
16 Barbara Wurtzler  
17 Jim Wallerstedt  
19 Jerry Reeves  
20 Kay Simpson  
27 Lana Gibson  
Liam Thornton  
28 TJ Fee  
29 Jeremiah Reeves

### July

1 Judy Long  
John Syemour  
2 Cassie McAllen  
3 Mary Jo Hornaday  
11 Betty Moles-Specker

Happy  
Birthday!

## ANNIVERSARIES (INCLUDING BELATED)

### April

17 Richard & Natalie  
Ward

### May

17 Shelby & Merle Corf  
20 Bob & Laurel  
Vartabedian  
28 Bryan & Emily Fite

### June

1 Reed & Brenda  
Graves  
10 Donald & Loah  
Stallard  
11 Jim & Ann Ringer  
22 Mike & Amanda  
Davis  
26 Steve & Barbara  
Wurtzler  
30 Bob & Susan Fay

### July

1 Gary & Sue  
Patterson  
16 Dick & Lana Gibson  
28 Lee & Alice Osborn  
29 James & Terry  
Wallerstedt

Happy  
Anniversary

