

**April 15, 2020**

Dear Church Family,

Warmest greetings to each one of you. I pray you are safe, dry, and warm today!

I wanted to give you an idea of where we are headed over the next couple of months, in terms of sermon themes for our Sunday worship services. The next 2 weeks (April 19 and 26), we will be in 2 Corinthians 4, looking at the "Treasure in Jars of Clay." And then, on May 3, we will consider together a related passage in Jeremiah 18, "The Master Potter." Lord willing, we will then start, on May 10, a sermon series of the 7 "I am" statements of the Lord in the Gospel According to John. My desire is that we gain a greater understanding and appreciation of who the Lord is by how He identifies Himself in these 7 statements. As always (!), I am looking forward to our time of meditating God's Word in these 2 sermon series.

The Youth Retreat on May 2 has been cancelled. Shelby is working to reschedule it at a later time. Remember to pray for our youth. As with all of us, this is a challenging time for them. A list of their names will be in the Prayer Requests distributed with the DVDs/CDs this week, so that you can pray specifically for them. Also, please pray for our youth leadership, Shelby and the youth committee, as efforts are made to stay connected with the youth.

You will also see in the prayer requests 2 families who have recently lost loved ones. **Dean Kellison** passed away last week (April 8). Be in prayer for his wife, Vicki, and their 2 sons, Joshua (Shannon) and Jared (Ashley). They have asked for privacy right now as they grieve together as a family. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. **Rita Johnson**, a good friend of Hilda Harper, passed away Easter weekend, due to complications from the Coronavirus. The Harper and Johnson families have been very close through the years. Please pray for the Johnsons, for Hilda, and for the Harper family as a whole in this loss.

Please keep your prayer requests coming, and remember to send your offering regularly as you are able to Box 99, Gum Spring, VA 23065. The Lord continues to bless in wonderful ways through the DVD/CD worship experience, and the sharing of the discs. I stand amazed at the many ways He has chosen to work through this means. Thank you deacons for your faithful service in ministering to our church family by distributing the DVDs/CDs, and the personal touch you are having not only with church members, but others we are reaching as well.

I leave you today with an encouraging verse from the Psalms.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and faithful in all he does. (Psalm 145:17)

Blessings on each one of you.

Pastor Dennis