

Following the Same Jesus

More than ever, we question what God expects of us now. We know he said go make disciples of all nations, but we are having enough trouble deciding what following looks like for us. The things we knew to do before are much more difficult now. What does it mean to follow Jesus? We could live our life completely on our own if we do not intentionally make it a point to let Jesus in. When we do choose Jesus, we find following Jesus is still the same in many ways.

By following Jesus, we find forgiveness and salvation. We are still to Repent of sins and be baptized into Christ to seal the covenant and receive the Holy Spirit. It is not a digital baptism or an online event; this one is done with real water to make a real change in our life. Forgiving sins and giving grace is done by God regardless of viruses or wars or any other kind of disaster. It always works because God is behind it.

When we follow Jesus, we worship. The location may be different, but that just means there is more opportunity for people to encounter Jesus. Come to church and you will see the same things as before, even if you are behind a mask. But now people can visit and learn if they choose to watch and worship online. It is still us singing behind the mask in our living room. If one does not work for you, then use the other.

We can learn about God and Study. We are more limited in our ability to hear from other people and to discuss. We do not get discussion input as much unless it is on Zoom and we learn a new technology. There are more video instructions available than before, but we may miss our previous discussions. It is a different way to learn, but we can still learn about God. Much of the learning in schools now is online. And just maybe it is easier to share a link in an email with someone than it is to knock on doors. Can this be what we need for our evangelism to be better than ever?

--Terry

Welcome to the Family

No New information this week--please notify the office of new addresses, phones and email updates

Order of Worship

Song Leader: Jonathan Green

Song 23: "Our God, He Is Alive"

Welcome & Prayer: Joel Soumar

Song 290: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Song 429: "Oh, to Be Like Thee"

Song : "10,000 Reasons"

Communion & Contribution: Daniel Fenwick

Song 745: "Humble Yourself"

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:7-11 Alex Green

Sermon: "Move Up Higher" Terry Singleton

Song 791: "On Bended Knee"

Shepherd's Prayer: Jackie Hinkle



Thanksgiving Pantry

Thanksgiving Pantry will be drastically scaled back this year due to social distancing. There will not be a breakfast, so bags and turkeys will be handed out to neighborhood families as they are on a typical pantry Saturday. The cost to sponsor a family meal is \$30--food will be purchased as needed. Today is the last day to contribute to this special event.

Widows' Ministry Request

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." (James 1:27)
At first glance, this scripture could be understood solely as helping widows in their financial distress. While this would certainly be true, perhaps a more common distress would be their lack of companionship. Christianity is designed to be relational--a blessed fellowship and genuine concern for one another. What better way to show our faith than to visit a dear sister who is alone. In these COVID times, it may not be feasible in every situation to make a physical visit to a home, but certainly a "visiting" phone call would be wonderful and encouraging.

--Robin Verdugo, Widow's Ministry

Blankets & Socks

Ilmer & Maria Ortiz are over a ministry in the Spanish congregation that works with the homeless. They are collecting blankets and socks to be delivered during the month of December. Socks need to be new (of course), but blankets can be new or gently used. There will be a drop-off box in the foyer during the month of November for collection.

Under Construction

Please note that the restrooms in the Fellowship Hall area are in the process of being remodeled and are not available for use!

Thank You

A number of men responded to the request for assistance with locking up of the building, and a schedule is currently being worked out for this. A few also agreed to assist with the counting process during Bible class and/or worship services. Thanks to all those who stepped up to fill a gap where needed!

MISSION SUNDAY GOAL: \$88,930

Contributions as of Friday: \$64,522

Pledges as of Friday: \$23,230

TOTAL: \$87,752

****Contributions can be given by marking checks and/or online contributions for "Missions." Pledges can be made by completing a card at the Welcome Center or emailing the office with the information.****

Children's Bible Hour Open

CBH is now up and going again for children ages 4 through 3rd grade. Remember to register each week prior to arrival at www.mesachurch.org/events. There is a cap as to how many children can be present due to social distancing. If you are unable to register, that means the session is full for the week. Masks and hand sanitizer are required for teachers and students. Please pick up name tags in the foyer at the check-in stations upon arrival at the building each week.

Teaching Force

In the announcements last Sunday, the shepherds put out a plea for children's Bible class teachers. In the re-opening process, projections are being made to open children's classes around the beginning of 2021. The first step in this process is to make sure there are teachers who are available and ready to be in person to cover the classes. If you are ready and able to teach or assist in a classroom, please let one of the elders know or email office@mesachurch.org to let us know!

A Way to Help Our Area School

A tax credit donation is a way to direct some of your state tax dollars to support a school. Lowell Elementary (our neighborhood school) indicated that donations made to them (\$400 per couple; \$200 filing single) through this program and designated for "general" or "tutoring" would be very helpful. This is a "credit" which means you will receive credit, dollar for dollar, on your state income tax. Thanks for any assistance you might be able and willing to provide to help our church neighborhood school!

Praise and Prayers

new and critical

Lori Howerton Health
Michelle Black Healing of broken arm
Gaby Ivy (Wilburn's Daughter) Hodgkin's Lymphoma
Jon Hardin Surgery recovery
Tewana Carter Surgery recovery
Jerra Bonebrake Home

on-going health problems

Martha Carroll, Heather Jette, Luana Guthrie, Malta O'Gorman, Joan Piercy, Samuel DuBoise, Lynnita Knoch, Peter Ballesteros, Kevin Olson, Julie Vega, Debbie McMorries (S. Young's mom), April Norment (D. DuBoise's mom), Shirley Mathis, Kathy Marstein (P. Watkins' mom), Lori Howerton's Parents, Lynda Campbell, Troy Price, Gloria Hadley, Jerra Bonebrake

military prayers

Andrew Jones (C. Burd's G'son), Anthony Galvan (Millers G'son), Jake Hinkle (Hinkle's G'son), Briana Aston (S. Yeats' Niece), Michael Ford, Jake Teague (Grandson-in-law of Sue Johnson), Jared Cannon, Kyle Sharp, John Dunwoody, Zack Ubrig, Chris Kingsbury, Estevan Lopez

Shepherds

Jack Farr C.R. Gaines
Jackie Hinkle Kevin Hubby
Vince McNeil Chuck Watts

Ministers

Pulpit Minister: Terry Singleton
Spanish Minister: Edison Quevedo
Family Minister: Joshua DuBoise
Youth Minister: Joel Soumar

Attendance & Offering

Sunday Worship: 224+online

Wednesday: On-line only

Budget: \$13,027

Giving: \$15,136

YTD Average: \$11,810

Children's bulletins are available at the Welcome Center. Please help your child choose the appropriate age level.

Contributions can be dropped in the containers at the doors following worship, given on-line, by setting up through your bank, by mail or dropped off at the office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.