

Barry Good News!

Carol Studebaker, Editor

June 1, 2020

Church Office: 816.436.0462

Email: office@barrychristianchurch.com

Join us for Sunday Worship!

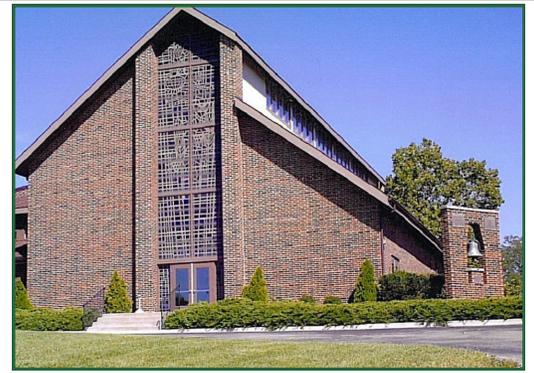
8:30 - First Worship Service

9:45 am - Sundays School classes
for children and adults

11:00 - Second Worship Service

Wednesday Bible Study

6:00 pm



*Barry Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
since 1840*



Honor God, Seek Christ, Serve Others Together

Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Dennis Patience – dennispatience@gmail.com

Family Life Director: Jim Frentrop - Jim.frentrop@gmail.com

Director of Music: Andrew Schmidt - andrewpauls@gmail.com

Organist: Lenora Remmert - klremmert@yahoo.com **Administrative Secretary:** Carol Studebaker - office@barrychristianchurch.com

Ponderings of Patience Certainty?

John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist church once said, "When I was young I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half so sure of most things as I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me."

We Americans, who have dwelt in the luxury of the post-World War II era, have often thought that we are "certain" of nearly everything. Compared to the full scope of human history, we've been blessed with decades that have been marked by a great measure of predictability. Most of us have lived our lives believing that, as we lay our heads to rest, the next morning will be pretty much, just as predictable as the day coming to a close. As the Chiefs won the Superbowl back in February, we felt rather certain that the warmer weather of the Spring Season of 2020 would spring forth the welcomed routines of Royals Baseball, bar-b-ques with friends, and road trips to see relatives.

Then, there came "coronavirus" and with it, not only a plethora of new words, but a restructuring of how we do life - daily. And with this - "certainty" has become, well, "uncertain!"

Even though pandemics have, in past centuries, been world-wide events, and even as the prospect of them have been the speculation of scientists and emergency response teams across this nation - little thought has been given by the majority of us, that the theory of a pandemic could become our reality. And even as weeks have now pressed on to months, what we must realize is that the great truth of our human predicament is that, even as we strive to live the fairytale idealism of "certainty," there really is so little of human existence that is in fact, "certain."

Yet, despite this truth, we strive, time and time again, to believe that we are the masters of our own destiny, the captains of our own success. In our culture, we are led to believe that with all the right planning and initiative, we really can determine the idyllic outcome to which we believe we are entitled! Concerning our attempts to secure such an idyllic outcome, consider for example, the quest for the perfect out-door wedding!

Several years ago, a young bride thought she had selected a most memorable backdrop for her picture-perfect wedding ceremony. The reflection of the setting sun on the placid waters of a small lake. The guest chairs, the arbor, the flowers, the camera man - all were positioned to capture this most wondrous backdrop at the appointed early evening hour.

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Yet, mother nature chose not to cooperate. A typical spring thunderstorm was building immense black clouds just beyond the opposite shore of the lake. As officiating pastor, I went to the bride to plead the case for an earlier start to the ceremony. All the guests and bridal party participants had arrived. "Could we start now, rather than wait for the appointed hour?" I asked the bride. She was insistent that we wait until the strike of the hour. We did. The blacked thunderous clouds - did not. Before the ceremony was concluded, we were all drenched. The Bible my grandmother had given me was sopping wet. So were the bride, the groom, the guests, the flowers, and . . . you get the picture.

The young bride? She was furious! Not only then, but even as I spoke with her months later. She just couldn't figure out how mother nature had the audacity to "ruin" her special day! She had grown up in a cocoon of self-indulgence. "Her life's experiences will gain a few more miles as her years progress," I thought to myself, "and then maybe, just maybe, her self-centered attitude will be tempered by the harsher reality of life's true - uncertainties."

Are these "unprecedented" times? Yes, certainly in the magnitude of what is being experienced the world over - they are. Our grandchildren will be asked by their grandchildren as they look up from reading the textbook story, "What was it really like back in the Pandemic of 2020?"

Our challenging circumstances today lay bare the grim reality that the "certainty" in life that we imagine and strive to control, is really more of an illusion, rather than truth. We Americans usually have the luxury of pretending that we are immune from the challenging and precarious circumstances experienced by millions of people the world over.

Yet, as we are people of faith, and as we call upon the name of God, we must ask: "In our uncertain world, of what can we truly be certain?"

First of all: we are certain of God's great love for each of us and for all his children the world over. We are certain that nothing of our earthly existence will ever separate us from his great love. As Paul declares in Romans 8:38-39: *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Secondly: we are certain that, as we live out our allotted days, we are privileged to do what we can for the benefit and blessing of others in the name of Christ. For Christ set forth the greatest example of servanthood for us to emulate. As Paul tells us in Galatians 6:2 *"Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ."*

And then, thirdly and of greatest importance: we are certain of the hope of life eternal granted to us by God's great grace and Christ's willingness to become the final sacrifice for the forgiveness of humanity's sin. And although we may not really know in our present day, what the experience of eternal life will truly be, we are absolutely certain that our spirits will dwell in the presence of our loving God and his son, our Lord Jesus Christ. As the Gospel of John 17:3 tells us: *"And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."*

So, while these certainly are "unprecedented" times in which we are living, the uncertainty of our human predicament really isn't that unusual; for life in this earthy realm really is always uncertain and circumstances quickly turn on a dime.

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Yet, may we rejoice in the true certainties that are ours:

We are certain of God’s love.

We are certain that we are privileged to serve others.

We are certain of the hope of life eternal granted by God’s great grace and the sacrifice made by our lord Jesus Christ.

Of these three, we are always certain! Thanks be to God!

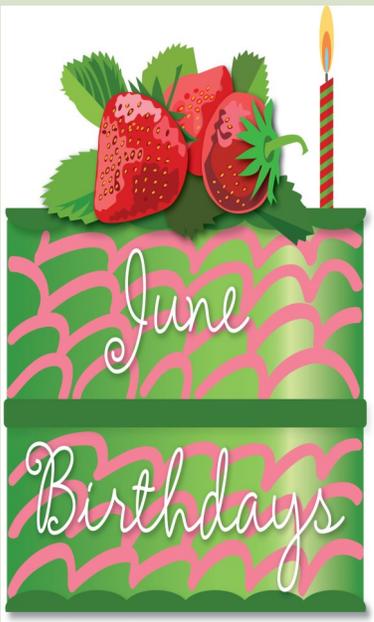
Pastor Dennis

CONGRATULATIONS!

John & Mary Jane Adams have another GREAT—granddaughter! Eila Jane Nicholson was born on April 11, 2020, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Her grandparents are Jay & Brenda Adams in Smithville. Her proud parents are Drew & Kristen Nicholson and her older sisters are Norah & Vera.

A COVID PRAYER...from James Reynolds

Lord, help us to see that we are on your ventilator
In trance dreaming Covid dreams
Soon to awake from the dream of life
Help us to persevere with your Grace
In the name of Christ we Pray
Amen



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS!!

Happy
Birthday to
you!

If you have a **June** birthday or know of someone from Barry who does and is not on this

list, please let me know so I can be sure to include them. Call Carol in the church office at 436-0462 or email her at

office@barrychristianchurch.com

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Todd Eacret - 01 | Elizabeth Carroll - 20 |
| Melody Sawyer - 03 | Nancy Bartlett - 21 |
| Rita Knopf - 06 | Doug Gentry - 22 |
| George Schaer - 07 | Gayle Gentry - 22 |
| Cathy Gorman - 10 | Joan Hamilton - 23 |
| Bill Blowers - 14 | Brett Stone - 23 |
| Ruth Ann Solomon - 14 | Mary Davis - 28 |
| Skyler Clark - 15 | Arthur Kinder - 29 |
| Paul Wendt - 15 | Judy Thomas - 29 |
| Kyleigh Milford - 16 | Michelle Eacret - 30 |
| | Brian Grigsby - 30 |

What Will Worship Look Like, Once It Is Re-started?

Still No Set Day for the Re-start of Worship Services

As we have been stating, we still do not have a specific day in which we will be able to re-start worship services. Once we hear more from the office of Mayor Quinten Lucas and are thus able to establish that definitive date, we will communicate significant details to everyone by e-mails, telephone calls and by letters in the mail. Due to the median age of our congregation and the fact that it is unknown who among us is a carrier of the illness, we are exercising caution, even while we await further guidance from the Mayor's office.

Once Services Do Resume - What Will Worship Look Like?

We will be offering three shortened worship services for people to choose from. This will help us maintain a required six-foot distance among families in the sanctuary. The sanctuary can accommodate about 90 people while maintaining the six-foot distance guideline. Presently we believe the service times may be at: 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Once worship does resume, it appears that there will be a number of restrictions in place to optimize our safe assembly. This is especially important as it is unknown who may be a carrier of the virus and closed spaces with many people assembled makes the possibility of contracting the illness a greater concern. Through conversations with our medical personnel in the congregation and with many of our church leaders, we are suggesting that a re-start of worship will observe the following guidelines in the foreseeable future:

We will be unable to offer Sunday School Classes, Nursery Care or activities for the children and youth among us. The Education Wing and Fellowship hall will not be used.

Sanitation crews will wipe down commonly touched surfaces such as doors, railings, etc., before each worship service. Ted and Cathy Gorman will be scheduling people to perform this task.

For everyone's safety, we will be encouraging everyone to wear cloth or other protective masks while in worship. This is again, because of the a-symptomatic nature of the Covid-19 disease. Cloth masks are being secured for those who may not already have one. Cloth masks can be washed and reused.

Ushers will greet people at the sanctuary's front doors and assist people to safe seating while striving to maintain the six-foot distance. Pews will be marked with tape to indicate where to sit and every other pew will not be used. Ushers may also record names of people entering the building, since a record of persons staying more than 10 minutes in the building may prove beneficial in the case of an outbreak. Kathie Connell will be scheduling people to serve as ushers.

Worship services will focus on worship through prayer, hymns of worship and the sharing God's word through the pastor's message. The paper bulletins will include the hymns used for the service and the hymnbooks will be removed. There will be no children's moment, greeting time, Lord's Supper or passing of offering trays. An offering receptacle will be placed in the foyer. We will refrain from handshakes and hugs. All of this is to minimize touching of persons or common surfaces.

At the close of the service, ushers may dismiss people from the sanctuary by rows to help maintain distance among participants while exiting the sanctuary. People will be encouraged to visit personally in the parking lot after worship in order to help maintain six-foot distancing. We are also striving to acquire quantities of hand sanitizer as it is becoming available for purchase.

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These guidelines may seem radical and will certainly at first seem awkward, compared to what we are accustomed, but we must reiterate that worshiping God in the safest way possible will still be most essential until a vaccine or a dissemination of this deadly virus is achieved.

Sharing the Recorded Word

Presently we continue to share the Word of God through the recorded messages accessible on our **BarryChristianChurch.com** web site. Click on the word, "Sermons" in the green bar. The most recent message will appear first with recorded messages from subsequent Sundays will follow. We have chosen to continue the audio recordings because this particular electronic means seems to be most easily accessible by the majority of our congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Brooklin Mattheyer, granddaughter of Pam Roberts, graduated from Davenport Oklahoma High School. She will be going to college at TTC and plans to be a Vet Tech.



Jessika Emili Taneko Zuber, daughter of Mike and Lianne Zuber, graduated from Oak Park High School in the top 10-percent of her class. She had perfect attendance since 5th grade, received the A+ scholarship, and was on Oak Park Leadership. She also lettered in 3 years of soccer and received her CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant). She will be going to Park University (her parents' alma-mater) and received a \$5000 soccer scholarship. She is interested in becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Jadyn Vanzant, granddaughter of Lou & Kathryn Banks, graduated from Krum, TX High School. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and plans to attend Wichita State University this fall.



Jake Dyer, son of Greg Dyer and Janice Dyer, graduated from Missouri State University on May 15, 2020. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology/Wildlife Biology. He was in the honors program and a member of the Delta Chi fraternity. Jake has recently moved back to Kansas City with his fiancé Mae Haler and they will be getting married on June 18, 2020.

Mercedes Peck, granddaughter of Perla Mora, will graduate from Liberty High School this year. She plans to attend Maple Woods in the fall. She is working now at Herbal Life.



Landon Treece, grandson of Jerry & Peggy Treece, is graduating from Jenks High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He plans to study Music Therapy in the fall.

Nikolis Clark, grandson of Susan Cox is finishing his undergrad degree at Pacific Lutheran University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with minors in Sociology and Philosophy. Nikolis will begin Grad School next fall at Pacific Lutheran University.

Barry Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1500 NW Barry Rd, Kansas City MO 64155
Phone: 816-436-0462
website: BarryChristianChurch.com



Return Service Requested



In our thoughts and prayers

Jon Frentrop
Michelle Jacobo
Reyana Ralston
Cindy Berry
Sheryl Theiss
Pam Matus
Dave Haynes
Jill Gregory
Perla Mora
Kay Yocum
Barbara Holiman
Rusty Daniels

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bob and Jackie Rockhold as Bob's mother, Grace, passed into the Lord's presence in Arkansas, where Bob and his family moved a couple of months ago. During this era of coronavirus, visits had also been restricted due to the social distancing protocols. Please keep Bob and Jackie and their family in your prayers during their time of loss and as they establish their new residence in Arkansas.

We also send our sympathy to the family of Freddie Nichols, as Freddie passed into the Lord's presence shortly after 11:00 p.m. this past Friday evening, May 22, 2020. A private burial service was held on Wednesday, May 28th at White Chapel Cemetery. A Celebration of Life Service will be delayed until such time as more people are permitted to gather for a public service. We keep Freddie's family in our prayers as we also claim the victory for Freddie's spiritual presence now joined in the "assembly of the Saints" (Hebrews 12:1) in God's eternal realm.



Is your giving to the support of Barry Christian Church up to date?



The month of May had 5 Sundays.

Financial Update

Expected Expenses for June
General Fund: \$24,063

Funds received May 3: \$5,761

Funds received May 10: \$7,750

Funds received May 17: \$3,662

Funds received May 24: \$2,877

May Total so far : \$20,050

Youth Ministry Fund Balance as of May: \$25,995