

## Joyful in Hope – Day Five, March 23, 2020, (thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”  
Romans 12:9

We woke up this morning to snow gently falling; a reminder that, even though we are three days into Spring, we are also an hour into Michigan (coming from Toledo). These days, I suspect everybody is getting their days and nights, comings and goings, seasons and schedules all confused. But that's all changing. Now, at least your comings and goings will be somewhat more regulated.

In case you hadn't heard, this morning, Governor Whitmer issued a “stay at home” order, asking all Michiganders to take the next step in containing the coronavirus. She just doesn't want that step to be out your front door.

Obviously, this makes it more of a challenge to be of service to people in need. A few of you have asked if there is anything you can do to help those who cannot help themselves – get groceries, provide transportation, etc. I want to say thank you for your willingness. The “stay at home” order allows for taking food and supplies to folks who can't get things for themselves, so we may need your help with that over the next few weeks.

The order, which is in place through April 13, also bans all public and private gatherings of any size outside of a family home. Unfortunately, that means that we will not be getting together on Easter Sunday, nor the Sunday after that. We'll have to see what happens after that.

In the meantime, I hope that our Sunday morning YouTube Worship was, and will continue to be a blessing to you all. If you haven't tuned in yet, you can go to YouTube and type in:

### Heritage Church Imagine That

I will continue to use that title each week, and just add a tag, so you will be able to distinguish episodes. Several of you sent me your Sunday Morning Selfies, and I look forward to sharing those with everybody. If you prefer not to have yours shared – too bad. LOL.

As we enter into the second week of staying at home and not meeting together, let's be creative about ways that we can stay connected, check on, and encourage each other. A card, a phone call, a meal or pizza ordered and delivered, a prayer. If you have a need, or a prayer request, please let us know. The elders will be calling everyone again this week. We are shuffling the directory, so you'll hear from a different elder this week (thanks to Janine, for that suggestion).

This email has been pretty newsy, but I do want to give you this word of encouragement. I've been using the One Year Chronological Bible this year to do my daily Bible reading. This morning, I read about the children of Israel crossing the Jordan River as they prepared to attack the city of Jericho. (Joshua 3-6) After God had stopped the Jordan from flowing, and they crossed on dry land, Joshua commanded that two memorials of twelve stones be set up, one on the west bank of the Jordan, and the other right smack dab in the middle of the river, where the Levites were standing with the Ark of the Covenant. The text, written years later, says, “They (the stones) are there to this day.”

While those particular stones have long been washed away, God's covenant of love, and his forever faithfulness, stand firm. No matter the storm, the difficulty, the virus.

And finally, hats off to Sheila Starnes for posting the cleverest encouragement to do the right thing in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.



### Prayer Updates

1. The Pasquins are still in isolation at home, awaiting word of Percy's test results.
2. Phuong and Ron are home, awaiting her biopsy results.
3. Don and Janet could use some prayers, notes of encouragement, phone calls.
4. Keep Kim Morgan and her family in your prayers.

*“If God is for us, who can be against us?”*  
Romans 8:31