

Grace and peace be with you!

Although we are entering a season of worshiping apart from one another physically, we remain a family of faith whose bonds in Christ are now more important than ever. It is in these moments that turning to Jesus with our burdens and turning to one another for support and encouragement matters most. No matter how strong, faithful, or in control of our lives we may think we are - if the wind blows hard enough and the waters rise fast enough and the waves crash loud enough, we can find ourselves overwhelmed and cry out like the disciples before: "Don't You care that we are perishing?" To which Jesus responds, "Peace, be still!" Please read Psalm 46 and Luke 8:22-25 this week, and reflect on how the Lord continues to be our Mighty Fortress in times of trouble.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

*In Christ's Love,
Pastor Brian King*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Effective until at least April 13, the Nazareth building will be open only from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. The building will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. With these reduced building hours, we have also reduced staff hours. Thank you for your patience as we take these precautions to keep our congregation and our community safe. For the latest COVID-19 updates, please go to www.naz.org/coronavirus.
- ◆ The Salvation Army is in need of volunteers to serve "TO GO" meals in the coming weeks. Please call Reg Nelson at 319-235-9358 to learn more or to sign up.
- ◆ The Nazareth Food and Essentials Pantry continues to serve our neighbors in need. To help, send to the church office a financial contribution to "The Nazareth Good Samaritan Fund" or provide pantry donations. (Find a list of pantry needs at www.naz.org/localmissions.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

As we deeply desire to continue to do the ministry God has called us to here at Nazareth, your continued generous support – of prayers, service, and financial gifts – is so important. Even if you are unable to attend worship in person, giving is still possible online at <https://naz.org/give/>. Or, you can mail your donation to the church office. We truly cannot do this without you and are deeply grateful for your continued partnership!

CONNECT WITH US!

Address: 7401 University Avenue, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Phone: 319-266-7589 Email: info@naz.org

Website: www.naz.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MyNazareth

Instagram: www.instagram.com/mynazchurch

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE IS ONLINE!

Each week, our Sunday Worship Service will be posted online at 9:00 a.m. You can watch by going to our Facebook page or by clicking the "WORSHIP ONLINE" icon at www.naz.org.

WE ARE FAMILY. MAKING CHRIST KNOWN.

This past week, an enthusiastic, intergenerational group of servant-hearted Nazareth volunteers went to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank to pack bags of nutritious food - which will be distributed to children and families in need in our community. Each of these folks in the Nazareth family of faith got to know one another a bit more while working side by side. And, the littlest ones serving exclaimed as they left for the evening, "When can we do this again?!?"



Do you know someone in the Nazareth family of faith who is making Christ known? Tell us about their story so that we can share it with others! Email your story (and photo or video) to info@naz.org.

FROM THE NAZARETH CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

How much our world has changed since my first letter to you only a few weeks ago! And yet, the one thing that has not changed is God's sovereignty and His Word! Aren't we so blessed to know the One who changes not?

We've all heard the precautions we need to take to remain healthy, so I won't repeat those here. However, let me share a few thoughts on how to remain healthy spiritually in this time of pandemic.

- Log off! Social media and the newsfeeds are in a frenzy 24/7 to provide new (or repeat old) information. Certainly we need to stay informed, but overload leads to stress. Check the news occasionally. During the rest of the time, here are a few things I enjoy listening to (even before COVID-19 hit) that help me through my days:
- Myfaithradio.org – the online version of 93.1FM with great teaching all day long from Greg Laurie, Colin Smith, David Jeremiah, Focus on the Family and Minnesota locals Susie Larsen and Bill Arnold. You can also download the My Faith app on your phones to listen anytime, anywhere.
- PureFlix movie subscription—like NetFlix only with Christian-based family movies.
- RightNowMedia.com—if you are a member of Naz and don't have this great online resource yet, you need to sign up! Hundreds of video Bible studies online by outstanding teachers.
- Yourmove.is -- teaching from Andy Stanley available online or download the free app.
- Christian Crusaders Radio and Internet Ministry - there is even a new podcast! Go to www.christiancrusaders.org to listen or learn more.

Sing praise music! Satan flees when he hears God's people singing songs of praise, especially during crisis! My latest go-to is *I Raise a Hallelujah!* from Bethel Music — great words for our troubling times.

Be careful what your words and actions are showing others. I heard a lady say her eight-year-old granddaughter is afraid of what will happen when “the grocery stores close and we have to be locked in our house!” Little ears (and not-so little) are listening and watching to see how we act. We should be diligent in taking the necessary precautions, but Christ is our hope; as followers of Jesus, we are called to be a light to others who are living in fear and darkness during this time. Remember where our help comes from!

Memorize some scripture for times of anxiety. Here are a couple great ones:

- For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid, nor be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you where you go. (Joshua 1:9)
- You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in You. (Isaiah 26:3)
- And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? (Luke 12:25-26)

Have a spirit of GRATITUDE! I read a correspondence from a missionary in China in the epicenter of the coronavirus. She talked of the abundance of blessings she and her family have received during lock down— from listening to the birds singing to making close friends with neighbors. I pray that God uses this time in our country to help us all restructure our priorities, put Him FIRST, and have grateful hearts for all of our many blessings.

Finally, remember how temporal this life is. This is not our home. We are travelers here for a time on our way to our eternal home. Jesus reminds us not to fear the one who can destroy the body but not kill the soul. (Matthew 10:28) If the Lord tells me my days here are done, I'm ready to dance in heaven!

Pray for our healthcare workers. Pray for those with compromised immune systems. Pray for the elderly and their caregivers. Pray for our businesses and our economy. Pray for wisdom and guidance for our leaders—from our pastors and local leaders to our national and world leaders. Pray that God will use this crisis to draw millions to Him so that our lives might truly reflect His light, love and glory!

For His glory always—

Joyce Barbatti

Nazareth Church Council President