

“THE BELL”



BANGOR LIBERTY
FRIENDS
NEWSLETTER

March, 2020

The Socially Distanced

Today, I opened the computer in my office and started reading through the various news sites to catch up on what was happening in the world. One reported that Kourtney Kardashian, of the reality tv show “Keeping up with the Kardashians” had read in the Bible that God had foretold of a time when he would punish the evil with a pestilence. The passage she shared on Instagram with her 88.2 million followers was from 2 Chronicles 7:13-14: *“Whenever I hold back the rain or send locusts to eat up the crops or send an epidemic on my people, ¹⁴ if they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again.”* (Good News Translation)

The context of the passage is the dedication of the Temple by Solomon. So the passage isn't a threat, or promise of future punishment, but a message of future forgiveness when the people of repented and turned away from sin and turned once again to God. Just prior to this Solomon and the people of Israel had sacrificed 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep, then held a seven day feast as part of the Temple dedication. Then God appears to Solomon and communicates the passage above. At a time when the nation and its leader, Solomon, were united in their trust and worship of God, He knew it would not last. In essence, God is telling Solomon and the Israelites that, “everything is great right now, but there will come a time when you will doubt, stumble, sin, and turn the wrong way. However, I will always be here. I will never change. My salvation is available to those who are humble, who pray, who seek my will in their lives.”

The Covid-19 virus has turned the world upside down for many people and the coming months are uncertain in many ways. Schools have been canceled, the Chicago Cubs opening day may not happen this year, and we are not meeting on Sundays for Worship.

There was an individual on the news last night explaining that what we are experiencing right now will change the way we live in the future. I don't know what that looks like going forward. Maybe we'll all stock pile a minimum of 500 rolls of toilet paper just in case. Maybe we'll more readily turn off the electronics and spend time outside, with friends and family sharing our lives with each other. No matter what happens in the near or far future, some things will not change. God is still God. You are still His. This will all work out for the good.

So as you sit at home and get testy with the kids, or your spouse, remember we are supposed to be light in the darkness of the world. There is no clause in the Bible that suspends that command due to “social distancing.” These are times when we can reconnect with our families and grow closer to them and to Him.

As you know we have cancelled worship services for the next four weeks, however, you may receive a call from a member of M&C to check on your welfare, but also to support and encourage you. If you need anything please don't hesitate to call me or someone on M&C.

As a final note, please remember that while we are not meeting during this time, there are still financial responsibilities that the church must satisfy. Please continue to make your regular financial offering to the church

I look forward to seeing all of you in the future and encourage each of you to spend some time worshipping where you are with those that are trapped in your house, knowing that God is still on His Throne.

Our Mystery Friend for March was born in Marshalltown, IA. They have 3 sisters and 2 brothers. In their job they work as a customer service Rep. Favorite foods are brisket and pizza. This person has visited Europe. Most people would not know that our Mystery Friend has a pointed ear. They commented that they love Bangor Liberty Friends because the people are real and caring.

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The answer will be in next month's Bell.

The Mystery Friend for February was Richard Noel Hoover

Popular Authors

This month, at the suggestion of a friend, I am reading **At Home in Mitford** by Jan Karon. I rarely read fiction, however, this one has captured my attention from the start. It is written well, and has so many descriptive words, that I can actually see the town in all its beauty and all its characters as well. If you like fiction, I highly recommend it. We also have twelve other books by the same author, so I may be busy for a while. Come see if there is something you haven't read. A few of the books by Jan Karon that we have are: **Home to Holly Springs**, **Esther's Gift**, **A Common Life**, **The Wedding Story**, **Light from Heaven** and **Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good**.