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A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVE PURSUING GOD CAMPAIGN

When all of this started, we launched a campaign called PURSUE. We all hoped for a quick conclusion to the pandemic, but that didn't happen. So, we need to renew our commitment to be the Church scattered throughout the county. Here's a quick reminder of our three pursuits.

Pursuing Jesus (Pursuing our spiritual growth and life)

- 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Live services at church and livestream worship every Sunday morning if you are home
- Weekly devotional
- My most-days practice is: Thanks / Read Passage / Cast My Cares (1 Peter 5:6-7) and ask God what He would have me do today

Pursuing His Church (Pursuing relationships so the body is connected, and we practice the one another verses)

- Join a LifeGroup
- Encourage two believers every week
- Pray for one another



Pursuing our Neighbors (Pursuing the health and well-being of our neighbors)

- Stop by and ask how they are doing
- Invite them to your backyard at distance for a campfire or just to visit
- Find ways to encourage your neighbors

What's happening?

In Daniel chapter 10, Daniel mourned, fasted, and prayed for three weeks. He was seeking an answer to some events that were disturbing to him. For three weeks he waited. Then the angel appeared to him.

"10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, ... 12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. 14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

Have you ever wished to peek behind the veil and see what is really going on? Daniel didn't know what was happening as he prayed, but God revealed to him that battles were taking place in the heavenlies.

I sense that there is an alignment of spiritual powers preparing to bring destruction on our nation. I have real uneasiness in my soul about the November elections and the road ahead. You can be sure that the evil one has the church in his sights, that believers are

clear targets, and he has the proclamation of the gospel in his crosshairs.

As I watch the anger, rebellion, and surety that our positions are right, I see the strain it puts on the “love one another” texts. 1 Peter 4:8 says, “*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins*”. What is more important than the body of Christ standing together unified as we battle darkness with the power of Jesus?

Our battle is not ultimately against a virus, or racism, or political parties. Scripture says, “*we do not wrestle with flesh and blood but against rulers and authorities, against demons and darkness*” (Ephesians 6:12). We would do well to remember that our enemy isn’t people.

The evil one is a god of division, of pride, of hatred, of murder, of self-righteousness, and of injustice. As my favorite evangelist said, “We don’t have a skin problem, we have a sin problem”. He, a black evangelist, knew firsthand the injustices that had to be endured because of the color of his skin. He also knew that these real issues were only symptoms of a greater darkness. Life without Jesus.

Matthew says that when lawlessness is increased, many people’s love will grow cold (Matthew 24:12). If you have earned everything you have, then, by all means, become hard-hearted. What other choice do you have? However, if you have been undeservedly forgiven by the sacrifice of a holy God, if you are the recipient of the Holy Spirit, not earned, not deserved, but simply given as the abundant grace of an infinitely loving God, well then, your love cannot, must not, grow cold. That would be a denial of the abundantly undeserved grace and love that flooded your life when you put your trust in Jesus Christ.

I want to remind you of three targets that our enemy is always lining up in the crosshairs of his weapons.

First, the unity of the Church. Satan loves to get believers separated and alone. It is the roaring lion in him. He knows a believer separated from the herd is vulnerable prey.

Second, he desires to destroy the testimony of believers. Beware in the coming days. Guard your minds and your hearts from evil. Watch to make sure that neither pride nor bitterness take hold of you. Be careful what you put into your mind. Guard your marriage. Pray together. Guard your hearts from lust, greed, and fear. Pray for your pastors as they are often the targets of his first fiery darts.

Third, guard your hope. Our hope is in the promises of our awesome God. The promise that He will be with us all the way. Even through troubles. Our hope is in the coming kingdom when the Lord Jesus returns. Our hope is in the future in eternity that Jesus promised to those who believe in His finished work. Our hope is in the strong hand of the Lord who uses us to show love and grace, to work towards justice, and mercy.

When you decide you are the solution, you are in for a big disappointment. When you think you can make other people the solution, again, you are in for a big bummer. Our hope is in Christ and from there we simply surrender ourselves to whatever He calls us to lay down our lives for. What we know for sure is that it will bring Him glory and show that only God can bring lasting change and real hope.

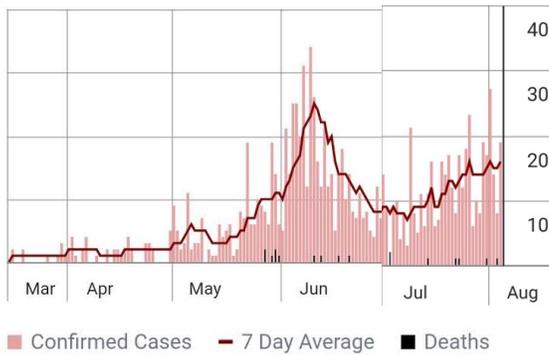
So, get ready. Pray, guard your life, hold on tight to the body of Christ, and keep your mind set on our eternal hope.

By the Numbers

We watch the number of actual new cases of Corona each day. There is no question that they are rising slowly right now in Winnebago County. The hospitals currently have about four hospitalized Corona cases each. Up slightly.

Last week the average of new cases was twelve, this week it is sixteen (see chart on page 3). We intend to keep meeting. We will be asking you to wear a mask according to the Governor’s executive order. Please continue to practice staying at home if you have symptoms and wear a mask unless you have a medical reason not to. It is the best way we can protect each other as we meet.

Daily New Cases in Winnebago County



RVC | kids

Reopening - Phase 2
Beginning August 16th

We have been tiptoeing through our soft opening and I feel it has been going really well. Parents, you have been doing an amazing job signing your kids up, picking them up immediately after first service, and respecting our guidelines. We are now ready to proceed with phase 2!

Phase 2

- Family units = anyone ages 1-7 can be signed up for RVC kids
- Sign up by
 - Email: Tracy.fettner@rvcoshkosh.com
 - Text: 317-289-4394
 - Call church office: 920-231-9690 (Monday – Thursday)
- One parent drops off in large fellowship area
- Temperature check upon arrival
- Sanitize hands before entering
- Immediately pick up your child after to allow for cleaning

Check out our helpful video on Facebook RVC | kids or the RiverValley webpage <https://www.rvcoshkosh.com/connect/rvc-kids/>

We are currently looking for volunteers. If you are willing, please contact Tracy Fettner.

GIVING UPDATE

YTD Giving 5/1/20-7/31/20

Actual: \$179,738.68
Budgeted: \$173,732

Weekly Giving: 7/27/20 - 8/2/20
\$17,510.37

PRAYER TEAM

RiverValley Church’s prayer team meets every Thursday from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. On the first, third, and fifth Thursday of the month we meet at RVC. On the second and fourth Thursdays we meet at Oakbrook Church on 20th Avenue in Oshkosh.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

We will be offering a Tuesday Night Ladies’ Study on Zoom this fall, starting September 1st, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We will study Jackie Hill Perry’s Jude study. Women can RSVP to Amanda Heise by August 25th at heise.amanda.m@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

You may want to participate in these events/opportunities. It is up to you to decide what is safe based on your comfort level.

- Lake Lundgren Bible Camp will be at Plymouth Church (1325 Georgia Ave) tomorrow, August 8, from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. There will be many camp-related activities and a Bible message. Admission to this event is free, but there will be concessions and T-shirts for sale. For those who would like to attend, please contact Plymouth Church by phone or email at 920-231-8231 or info@plymouthchurchoshkosh.com.

The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:7-10