Parkview Baptist Church
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THE JOURNEY

Motto for Mission 2020: Magnify Jesus as Lord

Mission Statement

The Mission of Parkview Baptist Church is to lift up Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and to obey His Great Commission.
Matthew 28:18-20

Our Purpose Statement

The purpose of Parkview Baptist Church is raising the family of Jesus Christ by leading every member to:

…….MAGNIFY HIS LORDSHIP IN WORSHIP

…….MULTIPLY HIS FAMILY THROUGH EVANGELISM/MISSIONS

…….MATURE HIS CHILDREN THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

…….MODEL HIS LIFE THROUGH SERVICE/MINISTRY

…….MINISTER HIS LOVE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
10:45 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY AND
PRESENTED ON PARKVIEW FACEBOOK
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM
PRESENTED ON WWW.ZOOM.COM

July 2020

Attention Church Family and Friends!

Personnel Notes!

Parkview will have a special celebration of Pastor Greg's 20th anniversary of service at our church on Sunday, August 16. If you would like to share your memories in pictures, video clips, or words, please contact Linda Ballard at 352-278-0732 or at 9731mami@gmail.com by Friday, July 24. Please note that financial contributions must be received by Monday August 10.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Let's Celebrate!

******One accord-One place-One God******

July 14th, 5:15 pm

CALLING ALL FOR A

NIGHT OF LEADERS

ONLY LIMITED TO 250 Pastors!

SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE IN EFFECT
PLEASE BRING AND WEAR MASKS

Sign your church up at accpa.org or
Call 1-888-440-1112

Everyone is invited to join us on
Facebook Live!
From the swamp

Volume 21 Issue 7 July 2020

The Pastor's Letter

Doing Church during a Pandemic

How has your life been during the shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic? For some people, life has changed very little. They still go to work, they still shop at the grocery store, they still order food from the fast food restaurants, and they still have family outings. For others, life has taken a drastic turn. They have lost their jobs or been laid off. They seldom leave the house for fear of infection. If they do go out, they make sure they are loaded with hand sanitizer, face masks, and even plastic gloves. They especially make sure they stay six feet away from everyone they come into contact with. Some people are approaching this pandemic with a nonchalant attitude and refuse to wear masks or take other precautions. Others are fearful and isolated because of the virus even to the point of not allowing family members to enter their homes. No matter what approach you take to the pandemic, all of us can agree that it has disrupted our lives, our relationships, and our routines in ways we could never have imagined just six months ago.

Churches have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some churches have not met since March. They have tried to maintain worship services through an online presence or have chosen to meet in chat rooms on Zoom and other social media platforms. Churches that had never heard of live streaming before the coronavirus hit have now purchase equipment and developed the means to broadcast their worship service to their members and to the public. Other churches have gradually reopened their sanctuaries and have put in place strict guidelines for public worship. Masks are required, hand sanitizer is available, and pews are roped off to maintain social distancing. The pandemic has forced churches to do church in a completely different way.

The Parkview Church Council met on Monday, June 29, to discuss the ministries and business of the church. We received reports from various organizations and ministries in the church and shared plans for the future. The meeting was enlightening, inspiring and encouraging. We came away with a sense that even though we have had to adjust and be flexible during this pandemic, we have come up with creative ways to continue to "do church." Let me share some of these stories.

The financial report revealed that even though we missed several months of actually meeting together, we were still faithfully giving to the church. Our finances have remained steady even though they are under budget. We are still in good shape financially in a large part because we have been able to cut expenses during this virus crisis. Thank God that Parkview is a giving church!

Worship services immediately were affected by the pandemic. We had to stop holding on site services until things began to open up again. But Parkview was ready for the adjustment. We already had the equipment to record and broadcast my messages on Facebook and YouTube. Due to the expertise of Steve Ingram and others, we were able to provide a means for members to tune in and worship. With the addition of other equipment, the broadcast ministry has expanded to include songs and the PowerPoint slides of the Pastor's sermons. We now have a full service presented each Sunday. We have people tuning in from all over the USA and the world. We have local people tuning in that have never attended our services before. Praise God for this new means of ministry to reach the entire world!

The Trustees allowed us to transition back into sanctuary worship. They roped off the pews for social distancing, provided hand sanitizer dispensers, set up guidelines for entering the building, and even offered masks for those who did not come prepared to wear one. The Trustees hired a professional cleaning service to make sure the building was spotless and hygienically safe. We have averaged over 20 people per Sunday since we reopened the sanctuary in June. Thank God for our Trustees.

One ministry we were not able to open up on campus was our small group ministry. We could not provide a safe environment for adult, children and youth Sunday School classes. For a few Sundays we did not offer the small groups. The Pastor continues to lead a Wednesday night Zoom Bible Study but that still left a large segment of our members without small group interaction. Thanks to the leadership of Jean Paul Calixte, we were able to set up phone conference calls and Zoom meetings for our adult Sunday School classes. There is an article from Jean Paul in this newsletter that gives the information if you would like to join a class. Mary Lynne Moore leads the Holladay/Fidelis Class every Sunday morning and Steve Gilly and Dennis Durant team teach the Life Source and Glow Sunday School class. Joelle Calixte started a Zoom class for children grades 3-5 on Sunday mornings too. Other classes for younger children and teens are in the works at this time. Thank God that we can still connect students of all ages during this time of pandemic!

We are anticipating new ways of ministry in the days ahead. Mary Lynne Moore is reworking the International Learning Center for the fall classes. She wants to provide on-campus classes as well as virtual classes for the ILC. This has the potential of enlarging the outreach of this ministry to include students that are overseas as well as in Gainesville.

We have also continued to reach out to the community in a variety of ways. The Farm Share Food Relief distribution has been going on every Friday since May. We are close to serving 10, 000 families during that time. Our church and other churches have provided funds and workers to make this happen. Some of our members have been on the front lines passing out food to needy families going through a difficult time during the pandemic. Thank God for faithful workers!

We look forward to an upcoming rally in the Swamp on July 14. Called 7:14 based on 2 Chronicles 7:14, the churches of Alachua County are gathering to pray for our nation during this time of spiritual and health crisis. We are gathering to pray for a cure for COVID-19. We are praying for racial reconciliation and the end to racism. We are praying for unity in the churches and revival in the land. We are praying for our national leaders to provide moral and ethical leadership unmarked by partisan politics. We are praying for an economic recovery and the restoration of jobs to those who are out of work. We invite Parkview to join in prayer for our nation. We have provided information about the rally on the front of this newsletter. If you cannot make it to the Swamp, then join the live stream recording of the event.

We can still do church during the pandemic. Let's continue to follow the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor Greg