



HRC Heartbeat April 2020

(abbreviated version)

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"Our help is in the name of the LORD, maker of heaven and Earth." Psalm 124:8

We sure have seen a lot of "firsts" in these past few weeks, haven't we? The first time our worship services have been canceled due to a global pandemic. The first time our Consistory has held a meeting in a virtual online capacity. The first time our church has had a serious discussion about toilet paper. Lots of firsts lately. As the life and ministry of HRC continue to evolve because of the coronavirus outbreak we should expect to see a few more firsts along the way, too. In the meantime, you and I have received a calling from God that hasn't changed. You and I must connect people to God's family, Word, and way of life no matter what kinds of firsts we face. I continue to pray that each of us individually, and all of us together, can and will make these connections happen with God's gentle leading. I'm here with you, and I'm here for you. *Pastor Adam*

P.S. Would you like to help me connect people to God's Word after Easter? Write down your favorite passages from the Gospels where you see Jesus promoting HRC's deepest held values (**Compassion, Community, Generosity, Understanding the Bible, Prayer & Lost People**). Be sure to pass them along to me by **Wednesday, April 8**. I will use them in our next message series titled, "The Big Church Connection". I can't wait to hear from you!

Scripture Readings for Holy Week

Sunday, April 5 – Jesus Enters Jerusalem: On the first day of the week Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling an ancient prophecy concerning God's promised Deliverer. The crowds welcomed Jesus with words and gestures that portray Him as the coming King of Israel. Texts: Psalm 118:24-25; Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

Monday, April 6 – Jesus Clears the Temple: After entering Jerusalem Jesus addressed the unjust and insensitive behaviors happening in the temple courts. By driving out the money changers and turning over their benches and tables Jesus made space for people who were genuinely seeking after God. Texts: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48

Tuesday, April 7 – Jesus Get Controversial: In the week leading up to His crucifixion Jesus spent time teaching in parables and confronting the religious leaders. Texts: Matthew 21:23-24:51; Mark 11:27-13:37; Luke 20:1-21:36

Wednesday, April 8 – Nothing of Consequence: The Gospels do not mention on record that anything important in Jesus' ministry happened this day. Texts: Mark 14:1; John 12:1

Thursday, April 9 – Jesus Prepares to Suffer: In an upper room Jesus gathered the disciples to prepare them for His death. In their last meal Jesus declared that the wine and the bread, which previously represented God's saving activity in the world through Israel's history, are now represented in His death. Texts: Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-23

Friday, April 10 – Jesus is Crucified: Following his betrayal, arrest, desertion, fixed trials, denial, condemnation, beatings and mockery, Jesus was required to carry His cross to the Place of the Skull, where He was crucified with two other prisoners.

Saturday, April 11 – Jesus is Dead: In Christian tradition this day is known as "Holy Saturday". For the disciples this day was filled with confusion, deep pain and lost hope; not realizing at the time that Jesus would soon rise from the dead. As followers of Jesus we can honor this day by not moving too quickly into a celebration of the resurrection. We ought not to say to ourselves or to others aloud, "Sunday is a-coming".

Sunday, April 12 – JESUS IS ALIVE: Through the proclamation of angels and the testimony of women and men Jesus was declared to be among the living. As time went on Jesus began to appear to his followers in various, spectacular ways. Texts: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-49; John 20

Consistory Chronicles

March Elders Meeting & March Consistory (virtual) Meeting

- The Elders met with two parents who came to voice concerns regarding a Youth Group event. Pastor Adam and Brian Kleinheksel will follow up.
- The Consistory held its first ever online meeting through a group chat-room called Zoom. In this meeting they discussed urgent HRC business regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on our members, finances, staff and building hours. A motion was made and carried to have the Deacons send a letter to HRC staff inquiring about voluntary pay and/or hour cuts. By working with our Staff members now our leadership can prevent having to mandate cuts later if and when our financial resources are taxed.
- The Deacons are encouraging members to continue with their tithes at this time. Undesignated gifts and offerings made directly to the general fund are preferred as they allow HRC leadership the greatest latitude in making crucial financial decisions in the future. During these first few weeks of the coronavirus outbreak we have been barely averaging \$3,000 in giving each week while we need at least \$7,000 to cover expenses for HRC ministries.
- The Consistory agreed that the office will continue to be open Monday through Friday from 8:00am-1:00pm even while the state is shut down. Under the Governor's Executive Order, our staff members are legally designated as Critical Infrastructure Workers according to Paragraph 4 and Paragraph 7(a)(2). All other in-person activities at HRC have been suspended apart from those needed to perform our minimum, basic operations. We have implemented social distancing and have restricted the number of staff members present on the premises at any given time to no more than is strictly necessary.
- The Consistory also agreed that our partnership with Love INC. should be strengthened at this time. We will continue to keep our personal needs pantry open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings along with the first and third Thursday evenings. If you would like to help serve our neighbors at this please consider giving directly to them and/or helping to keep the resources in the pantry well stocked.
- The financial reports are as the following:
 - o General Fund: \$17,887
 - o Building Fund: \$11,839
 - o Building Maintenance Fund: \$36,217
 - o Memorial Fund: \$18,924
 - o Love Fund: \$4,079
- The Elders will be holding a virtual meeting on Monday, April 6, at 6:30pm.
- The Consistory will meet again on Monday, April 27, at 6:30pm.

April Mission of the Month

Western
Theological
Seminary



Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled for April 9 is still happening at HRC from noon-5:45pm.

Now more than ever, blood donations are needed. If you are HEALTHY and are 17 years old, please consider donating. To schedule an appointment, visit: redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Hamiltonreformed) or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Current Office Staffing

The office will continue to be staffed Monday-Friday from 8:00am-1:00pm.

Monday: Nicki 8-11 / Pastor Adam 11-1
Tuesday: Nicki 8-11 / Pastor Adam 11-1
Wednesday: Sara
Thursday: Nicki 8-11 / Pastor Adam 11-1
Friday: Sara

Children's Discipleship Update

We are so glad that we were able to complete our study of The Lord's Prayer during our final session of Kid Connection. It has been a few weeks since we've been able to see many of the kids of HRC. This newsletter looks a bit different from our regular newsletter. Instead of updating you on events and things happening at HRC for kids, we have compiled a list of things you can do while at home with your kids. Enjoy! Thank you! *Nicki Boerman and Gracie Bosch*

- **Lego Easter Challenge:** Do you have some Lego lovers in your home? With Easter coming up you can start this Easter Lego Challenge starting on Palm Sunday, April 5. Visit this link to find more information about the challenge. <https://www.proverbialhomemaker.com/easter-lego-builds-instructions.html>
- **Visit the Zoo:** The Cincinnati Zoo is offering Home Safaris every weekday at 3pm (Facebook Live). If you miss the live show they also have it available on YouTube. The safaris also have an at home activity for kids to complete as well. Check out the link below for more information. <http://cincinnati.org/home-safari-resources/>
- **The Lord's Prayer Music and Dance:** We started learning this song and dance during Song Time on our last Sunday at church. Check out this link! <https://youtu.be/ZqQMxMWXJ7E>
- **Nature Scavenger Hunt:** Head outside for a walk. While you're out there do a nature scavenger hunt with your family. Visit the link below for a checklist to use. <https://howtonestforless.com/nature-savenger-hunt-for-the-kids-free-printable/>

Student Ministries

Gravitate: 6th-8th Grade

The Gathering: 9th-12th Grade

Hamilton Baccalaureate
Sunday, May 17 – 2:30pm at Overisel Reformed

The Gathering Mission Trip to Cleveland is still on for July 10 – 13. Please let Drew know if you are still planning on attending or are interested in attending.

If you need anything feel free to contact Drew or one of the leaders.

Attention Graduates

Are you graduating from high school or college this Spring? We would like to celebrate with you!

Fill out a graduate form and submit it to the church office along with a photo of yourself. Completed forms are due by Sunday, April 19. We will be honoring all of our graduates in the May Heartbeat. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

We are in crazy times with a lot of uncertainty. I have emailed the families of our students, checking if there is anything they need. Two families have made a request.

Four others have let me know they are doing okay.

The state of Michigan is currently under a shelter in place. For most of us that is an inconvenience but for others that is a hardship. I do not have any idea what that means for our KIDS HOPE students but my guess is it becomes a hardship. Please continue to pray for this pandemic and particularly for these families who were already compromised.

I have not made any plans for an end of year party, mostly because I do not know when that will be.

Please continue to watch the Pulse as things continue to develop or as we get back to some kind of normalcy.

As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support. Contact Bev Ende at bendkidshope@gmail.com.



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Please see the church directory for address*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 • Andy Rozendaal • Arlyn Wolters	2 • Jeff Mulder • Warren VanderKolk • Dylan Weerstra • Gertrude Workman	3 • Jim VanGeldereren • Terry & Joan Dougan (50)	4 • Brian Kleinheksel
5 • JoAnn Kiger • Ruth Lubbers • Craig & Maddy Poll (6)	6	7	8 • Ron VanDyke • Jim & Eunice Veldhoff (42)	9 • Dave Bakker • Cal & Sue Lubbers (32)	10 • Bill Sheffield	11
12 • Franklin & Gertrude Workman (63)	13 • Stu VanDyke	14 • Ross Eding • Jackie Taratuta • Stu & Sharon Van Dyke (59)	15	16 • Bob & Shirley Berens (4)	17 • Brooke Mulder • Louis Poll	18
19	20 • Wanda Kraker • Jack Lezman	21 • Brian Kemkpers • Vern Klein	22 • Carol VanderPoppen	23 • Tyler Taratuta	24	25
26 • Madison Fales • Matthew Fales • Gloria Haverdink • Jon & Eileen Schrotenboer (63)	27 • Kevin & Michelle King (24)	28 • Nick & Karen King (48) • Reed & Debbie Lampen (42)	29	30 • Nicki Boerman • Rick & Missy Eustice (26)		

During this time when many of our Friends at Home are receiving limited to no visitors, please take a moment to send them a note or have your children draw them a picture. What a great way to stay connected during this time apart.

Barb Bleeker

Gary Ende

Marlene Joostberns

Leona Boerigter

Ken Haverdink

Alvina Klein

Jill Broekhuis

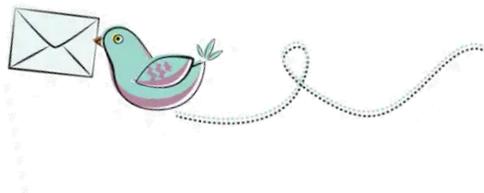
Harvin Bultman

Jean Hutt

Wilma Johnson

Jack Poll

Irene Slotman



Joyce VanDam