



SOUTHSIDE

MIDWEEK NEWSLETTER

4.15.20

#frontlines – Barrett

I am so encouraged by those in our church family who are courageously serving our community on the front lines during this unique time in our country's history. I am very proud of the work you are doing. I would like to stand and applaud the exhausting efforts you are making each day to serve others. Thank you to the doctors, nurses, first responders and medical staff for your commitment to ministering to the hurting and hospitalized. Thank you to the postal and delivery workers for your diligence in helping our lives and businesses continue from the comforts of our homes. Thank you to the grocery store employees for your dedication to creating shopping environments that are both sanitary and accessible. Thank you to the pilots, mechanics, and others in the transportation industry for your hard work in keeping those who have to travel during these times on the road. When I think of you and the many other essential workers that I have not mentioned, I am reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 1:3, "I thank my God every time I remember you." You all give the members of Southside many reasons to thank God during these trying circumstances.

The cartoon I have included on this page has been passed around among the crewmembers at Trader Joes as a way to improve morale. It may be a bit overstated but the point is a good one. During this time of staying at home, we admire those whose jobs keep them from staying at home. Perhaps you do not feel like a Superman or a Wonder Woman but please know we admire you just the same. And it is my hope that the knowledge of a church family praying for you by name will give you the courage to continue. We are together in Christ.



Front Line Worker List

Chad Ahn	Stephen Hasselbring	Brooke Rogers
Jessica Brooks	James Haubenreich	Adam Scrogam
Barrett Coffman	Dan & Jessica Hauer	Blake Smithson
Kristi Corman	Anthony Herrmann	Julie Smoot
Alvin Cox	Tim Herrmann	Ysamar Spear
Taylor Dodd	Wes Johnson	Suzanna Stewart
Ann Robert Finke	Glen C. Knauer	Kayla Strother
Logan Forrest	Johnson McKenzie	Jan Taylor
Justin & Katie Gagel	Madison McKenzie	Meredith Thompson
Kate Gardiner	Jad Morris	Jared & Megan Ward
Mark Gordon	Robby & Jennifer Noffsinger	Cory Williams
Hannah Hale	Shane & Leann Pickerill	Michael Williams
Riley Hall	Meredith Rice	Kevin Wright
Taylor Hall	Tony Rogers	Carly Williams Young

A Shepherd's Prayer – Mike

In the midst of all that is going on, I am reminded, "My Grace is sufficient". God shared those words with Paul when he asked God to remove the 'thorn in his flesh'. We find it in 2 Corinthians 12:9. The whole verse reads like this: "But he said to me, "My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

I am guessing that there are many who are growing more than a little weary and are reaching new levels of frustration with our current situation. Many who are on the front lines of service and interaction with the public are exhausted. Workers in essential retail, healthcare, police, fire, EMS, restaurants, funeral services, education, federal and state services, ministry ... and the list goes on, all of these folks are operating in an abnormal environment. Stress is higher, and so are expectations. Then there are others who are not able to go to work because they no longer have a job, have been furloughed, or their hours have been cut to a minimum.

I have had opportunity to interact with folks in most all of these categories lately due to my mom's illness and passing. I know they are all working hard to serve, provide care and compassion, and meet the increased expectations of the public. Letting them all know we appreciate the effort is the right thing to do, so make a point of saying Thank You maybe even more than you usually do.

Frustration comes easy and hope is not as bright as desired. But take heart, because God's Grace is still sufficient. He has not left us, nor will He. His Grace and His Spirit are with us. Now is our time to be the light. Greet people with a smile and a kind word. Even if from the other side of a mask, smile with your whole face. Let people know it is a temporary situation and we can get through this. God will take care of us.

There is much more to say, but I will save some for later. Remember these facts: You are loved, God is still in control, God's Grace is sufficient, your service to others is appreciated, your light is shining, you are not alone. If you find yourself in need, please reach out, we want to serve you.

Father, my prayer is simple. Remind us how close You are even when we feel all alone. Tell us again how Your Grace is sufficient. Help us to lean on Your Spirit for strength and understanding when things around us don't seem to make sense. Father, please be with all those folks who fall into the essential workers category no matter their profession. Bless them with safety and health, and grant them the energy and attitude to persevere through the trials. Let the blessing of knowing Jesus be fresh on our lips when we speak. And may we always look to you, Father, as the one who works all things for the good of those who love You. We place our trust in you, Father!

In Jesus name, Amen.