



SOUTHSIDE

MIDWEEK NEWSLETTER

5.6.20

To gather Together – Barrett

Jimmy Fallon is the host of the Tonight Show and he has been compiling a list of the funniest things he has heard people say during this time. He calls these sayings, “quarantine quotes.” This one is my favorite: “Now I understand why pets try to run out of the house when the door opens.” That is a funny statement and one I think we can all relate to. Even though I am getting out of the house quite often during this time, I am excitedly waiting for the day when I can run out of the house to eat at my favorite restaurant, work out at the gym, and be with my entire Southside family at the church building.

Yet, I think we have come to realize that there is not going to be a magical date when we all just run out of the house to return to doing normal activities. Instead, this is going to be a process. It’s going to be a transition that includes several phases. The leadership team at Southside acknowledges this reality with our decisions about meeting again at the church building. With that stated, we would like to share some good news with you. We have decided to launch the first phase of this transition by inviting a certain number of our Life Groups to join the live stream at the building starting on Sunday, June 7. You will recall our efforts this school year to have an additional “Life Group Worship” time in the Gathering Place classroom. We will use a similar format of inviting different Life Groups to join us each week at the building.

We will be discussing the many details of this initial phase over the next couple of weeks in preparation for the big day. To help us in this work, we need your input. Your input will be very valuable in helping us to think through all of the specifics. Here is a link to a survey we are asking for you to complete and submit to us by next Wed, May 13.

<https://forms.gle/yfKGCbT5L9oxsi8dA>

Life Group Worship
at the building
starts on
Sunday, June 7

Those of us who have been asked to serve in this role are taking the responsibility very seriously. I have been thinking about the quote that Kevin shared with us Sunday about how “God walks slowly because he is love.” Even though many of us are ready to run out of the house as soon as the door is open, we think the appropriate speed for this process is to be slow. It reminds me of taking my family to Croatia last year. As we journeyed together through airports and train stations, we could only go as fast as the entire group was able to go. I could have made the journey much more quickly and easily by myself, but it was my responsibility to make sure my entire family made it through the process. We will do this together. We love you and look forward to going through this transition with you.

Be Still – Kevin

“Still” is a highly versatile word. “Still” is an adjective – the lake is still at sunset. “Still” is a noun – the still shot of the heron was so detailed. “Still” is an adverb – we paid some of the bills but there are still more. And “still” is a divine command – Be still and know that I am God.

Being still may be experienced in as many ways as the myriad of ways we use the word “still”. Being still may happen while we sit without much motion in a quiet place. Being still may occur while we focus on a single task. Being still might involve simply slowing your thoughts by reducing the amount of input streaming into your senses.

For Mary and me, being still is experienced quite differently. Some of my best still moments come when I have on my running shoes and I’m out on the pavement by myself. I choose not to run with headphones – no music or podcasts – just the wind in my ears. I want to hear the sounds I pass and pay attention to God’s world as I wind my way through the neighborhood. The experience of running is calming to my mind and my soul. I enjoy hearing myself breathe. Running slows down my soul.

Mary finds stillness by actually being still, solitary, quiet. She can engage stillness for long periods of time, reading, writing, listening, thinking, feeling, watching. She doesn’t miss the moment. In fact, the moments in her stillness are where she finds peace, purpose, joy and energy.

Being still is worth the effort. I want to encourage you to find your groove. Try a few different ways to see what helps calm your mind, slow your soul. Find ways to relieve the hurry. God is waiting to meet you, to find you, to let you know how much you’re loved. Meeting him is always worth the effort.

A Shepherd’s Prayer – Hunter

We all have heard many quips and colloquialisms about change – “change is constant, nothing stays the same, if you don’t like the weather in Kentucky, stick around 15 minutes and it will change,” and the list goes on and on. We can really see and feel change when we look at old photos we have in photo albums or on our smart phones. Photos mark change for us in many ways, remembering past birthdays, weddings, and other special events that mark change in our lives. The passing of time and the changes we all go through are obvious when we see photos of our family members that are no longer with us, a family pet we loved, or the first time we held each of our children, children who now may have children, or even grandchildren, of their own! We are all finding out just how drastic change can be in our lives and for those of us who don’t like change very much, this year has truly been a trying time. I hope you find comfort in knowing that our God, as always, is with us and reminds us through his holy word that He does not change!

Malachi 3:6, God tells us, “For I, the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”

Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

James 1:17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change life shifting shadows.”

How comforting it is to know that Our God, His Son, and His Holy Spirit are unchanging! We can count on His promises to be the same, His expectations of us to be the same, and His care for us to be the same! In our world where life is constantly changing, we thank and praise God for His unchanging love for His people.

Father in Heaven, You are our God, our Savior, and the Master of the Universe. You hold time, the planets, and the heavens in your hands. Yet you also know when a single sparrow falls to the ground and when our hearts are hurting from dealing with the changes we go through while on Earth. We love you and want to please you at every turn, bringing honor and glory to your Name always. We want you to be pleased with us for our ability to deal with change and pray we never waiver from loving you, regardless of what season of change we are in. We pray your will, not ours, be done! You remind us “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and to not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Please be with us all, save us with your grace and mercy, forgiving us of our sins, until we are reunited with you in Heaven forever.

In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.