

Wildwood Church of Christ

April 19, 2020

Surprise, Surprise

Does anyone remember the T.V. show, Gomer Pyle? As a young boy, many times I enjoyed watching this show. In almost every episode, Private Pyle, with his long, North Carolina drawl, would say to his sergeant, "Surprise, surprise, surprise!"

As we all know, and as we see in this epidemic that we are experiencing, surprises come in many forms . . . some good, some amazing, some awful, some tragic, some hilarious. But there's one thing we can all agree on these days (these 33 days of this shut down), surprises get our attention.

When the government and state officials said, that for our protection or our health, to stay in our homes and not be in groups of more than 10, I was very much surprised.

Age and experience have taught us that surprises are woven through the very fabric of all our lives . . . they wait for each one of us at unexpected and unpredictable junctures.

What can we learn from surprises that happen to us through the years?

1. Some surprises **refresh** us. Have you ever been low and discouraged? We all can say yes. Then out of the blue, we receive a letter or card of encouragement and affirmation. Your spirit is lifted higher. These days, you can help your fellow Christian with a phone call that will lift their spirit during these trying times. Refresh their spirit with a loving phone call.

2. Some surprises **relieve** us. This happened to Sarah's sister and brother-in-law back in 2004. Hurricane Charley came through their area with 150 mile an hour winds. They took refuge in their master bedroom closet. They heard windows crash, roof tiles torn off and objects from neighbors' yards hit their house from all directions. When the hurricane moved on, they found themselves relieved and surprised. Just like our situation today, they learned so much more about their neighbors. Surprise, surprise!

3. Some surprises **rebuke** us. When we are faced with hard and challenging times, we realize that life is so short! Life is so precious! Times like these (surprise) have a way of waking us up to the ever-present truth that God is sovereign and will always be. All things are in His hands, not ours. When He allows certain things through various episodes of our lives to happen, (surprise, surprise), He does it for a reason . . . to remind us that He is still in charge.

Remember in Prayer:

Larry Hyder was able to come home this past Thursday and he is doing very well. Carol, his daughter, is helping him with rehab at home.

Leigh Workman is going to have surgery this Wednesday. The doctors feel it is urgent to not put it off any longer. Leigh requests no phone calls at this time.

Richard Menninger has to travel every day to Tampa for radiation cancer treatments. He is starting to feel some side effects but overall is doing well.

Pat Ponsford sent a note to the congregation thanking us for the love and prayers during her surgery and recovery. She is doing very well.

Remember **Louis Rushmore** and his family in the passing of his dad. They will have a memorial service with the family after the threat of this virus is over.

Lois Hutsepiller's family: with various health issues

Janet Sours found out that she has had a heart attack sometime in the past. She will have a CT scan of her heart to see what needs to be done: possibly a stent, hopefully not surgery.

Millie Tudor is still in the rehab with a broken wrist.

Foy Bryant, Gloria Murphy's cousin, is in a rehab after having emergency heart surgery back in March.

Bill & Jane Howell are doing well. Bill misses being able to go see Jane.

Mike Feeser, an elder at Pleasant Grove Rd. Church of Christ has the coronavirus. He is quarantined at home. His wife, **Nan**, now also has the virus.

Bill Cali, the uncle of a friend of Britny Jones, has the virus and is on a ventilator fighting for his life.

Kevin & Rosa Lane started attending services in November. Kevin has cancer and had to have surgery. Their new address is 5677 Henry Loop, The Villages, FL 32163, if you would like to send them a card.

Scott Sams, Everett and Ruth's son had a mass on the back of his neck and had to have surgery. It was a very serious surgery with only a few doctors that could do it.

Linda Grove, Jimmy Slaughter, Gloria Murphy, Peggy Murphy, Marlin Kilpatrick, Ken Scott, Cheryl Botts, Dorothea Wood, Baker family, Jim & Sue Allison, Kevin Freeman, Lois Babbitt, Molly Holly, Shirley Osgood, Helen Barton, John Ward, Lewis Jarvis, Bill Adkins, Donna Rogers, Amy Perkins, Monroe Haltaman, Levi Cook, Ensley Webster

April Birthdays

Gloria Murphy	1	Michael Hartman II	5
Sarah Myers	5	Joyce Yarborough	5
Mary Wise	8	Charity Stambaugh	8
Macie Johnson	8	Loraine da Silva	9
Kody Whited	11	Kaydee Blankenship	11
Wyatt McKay	14	Bailee Vernon	14
Bill Howell	15	Barbara Howlett	18
Dwain Locke, Jr.	18	Elaina Hartman	20
Martha Polk	21	Lynzi Jones	22
Korbin Watts	24	Tracy Jones	27

Anniversaries

Lynn & Charlotte Martin	4
Lew & Dorcas Faulkner	9
Sam & Mary Costa	12

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Announcements

~**Remember**, if you need shopping or other errands run, **please call us!** David, Sarah, Mike and the Jones family are ready to help out.

This Tuesday, April 21st is **Martha Polk's** 93rd birthday and her card shower. We will be delivering the cards to her. It's not too late if you want David and Sarah to take a card for you.

~**Don't forget** to check out our Facebook page and also our church website for information and updates. We will continue to use our auto call system for those who do not have internet.

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"Many things have been cancelled because of the Coronavirus . . . **LOVE** is not one of them!"