

March 23, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Friends,

I believe in the promises of God! I believe that God's movement during this time is palatable and that His desire for us is to be connected like ever before. Over this past week, you have been faithful servants, prayer warriors, and an amazing church – I am proud to be your pastor. This email is to serve a couple of different reasons; first, to let you know what has happened this past week, and second, to let you know what is coming up this week. We will be sending out an email like this at the beginning of each week.

1. Last week March 16-20

a. Connect

- i. We held our prayer time on Thursday night and had a blessed time of sharing and praying for the world and our church.
- ii. We began making congregational calls – something which we will be sharing more about this coming week.

b. Grow

- i. Our Kidmin/Student Ministries have continued to provide leadership in online gatherings.
- ii. We have encouraged and supported Life Groups to use Zoom for their meetings. If you would like to use Zoom, please be in touch with me.

c. Live

- i. Worship on March 15 was great! Pastor Kim led us in a powerful word of hope and peace in Christ. It was our first online worship and it went well, having over 1,500 views in the first couple of days this past week. Thanks for sharing it to your page so that more of our church and those outside the church can connect. This is a great way to introduce someone to our church as well as encourage them to begin a journey with Jesus.

d. Radiate

- i. Worked along with Javateas to provide over 250 cups of coffee to health care workers at Ephrata Hospital. Our youth wrote inspirational verses and encouragement on the cups. This has spurred others to give to this cause.
- ii. PowerPacks – as a church, we gave \$6,000 to supply them for food over then next 4 months. In addition, ECOB'ers went to unload food, make food bags, and distribute on Wednesday and Thursday.
- iii. From our own fridge, we gave out over 40 meals to families, serving about 200 people, thanks in part to Big John Nolts!
- iv. We are serving and supporting Ephrata Schools with supplying drivers for those who cannot come to schools themselves and need help.

e. Operations

- i. We have followed the rules of the Governor's order regarding our renovation – specifically knowing who can or cannot continue as part of the renovation. We are looking into the waiver process as to whether we can invite AMES back to the process.
- ii. The Ephrata Church of the Brethren Children's Center is also applying for a waiver to continue serving those in our community that need childcare (specifically those in the health care industry)
- iii. Because we have closed our physical presence at ECOB, this has affected our finances - we are keeping an eye on this and have plans in place if we need to make some adjustments. If you can use PUSHPAY to give God's tithe and your offerings (as some of you have started doing this week), that will help greatly, or you may mail in these gifts to the church office.
- iv. The office was closed this past week and will continue to be for this coming week.

2. This coming week March 23-29

- a. The following information will help you connect with your ECOB faith community. Just click the links at the time they are supposed to happen, and you will be connected!
- b. CONGREGATION WIDE

- i. What: Bridging the Gap
 - 1. Date/Time: Mar 24, 2020 6:00 PM
 - 2. Zoom Information - <https://zoom.us/j/963441244>
 - 3. Call In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 963 441 244
 - ii. What: Praise and Prayer Time
 - 1. Date/Time: Mar 25, 2020 08:00 PM
 - 2. Zoom Information - <https://zoom.us/j/163473464>
 - 3. Call In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 163 473 464
 - iii. What ECOB LIVE WORSHIP
 - 1. Date/Time: March 29, 2020 10:00 AM
 - 2. ECOB Website: www.ecob.church
 - 3. FB LIVE: <https://www.facebook.com/ephrtacob/>
 - 4. Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/user65628481>
- c. KIDMIN
- i. What: Kindergarten/First Grade Life Group Story and Chat
 - 1. Date/Time: Mar 24, 2020 10:00 AM
 - 2. Zoom Information: <https://zoom.us/j/999664431>
 - 3. Call In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 999 664 431
 - ii. What: 2nd/4th Grade Life Group Story and Chat
 - 1. Date/Time: Mar 26, 2020 10:00 AM
 - 2. Zoom Information: <https://zoom.us/j/634075302>
 - 3. Call In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 634 075 302
- d. Student Ministry
- i. What: Student Ministry Lunch
 - 1. Date/Time: Mar 26, 2020 12:00 PM
 - 2. Zoom Information: <https://zoom.us/j/211138684>
 - 3. Call In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 211 138 684
 - ii. What: SNL (Sunday Night Live - Students)
 - 1. Date/Time: Mar 29, 2020 06:00 PM
 - 2. Zoom Information: <https://zoom.us/j/922133809>
 - 3. Call In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 922 133 809

A note about worship: This past weekend, we have heard a few people sharing that the volume is low. At this point, all our checks and double checks are saying that the levels we are sending are strong and the volume is good. We will still work at getting it better, giving the signal boost some more “umph”, but here are some things for you to consider when listening:

1. Are both volumes up? Both the volume on the video and the volume on your computer/phone/tablet?
2. Can you wear headphones? Wearing headphones will help drastically.
3. What are you using? Some computers have a lower volume than others. For example, on my computer, the volume is great, but on Jenn’s it is low. Try switching to another computer/phone/tablet.

Wow, that was a long letter! Thanks for your patience in reading it. The staff and leadership at ECOB are working hard to make sure that our faith community remains strong and connected. We are doing that through emails, phone calls, texts, etc. We believe the best days are yet ahead and that God is bringing a sense of unity more than ever before. Remember God’s promises – to never leave us, to strengthen us, to redeem us!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or anyone on staff.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian