

March 30, 2020

Hi ECOB Family,

God is good – all the time! The storms of life are wonderful opportunities for us to develop faith, seek deeper guidance and understanding, and discover ways in which God loves us beyond measure. It is tough to think they are opportunities; however, when we do look at the big picture, I am a firm believer that what we go through now, will, in some way, empower us in the future. May your hearts be lifted and encouraged as you keep walking this road that we are on together. YES TOGETHER! We are here for you and if you need anything please be sure to reach out. There are so many that are ready and willing to serve and help you. You are loved and appreciated friends, and as always, stay safe, stay strong, stay sane!

1. Last week March 23-27

a. Connect

- i. We moved our prayer time to Wednesday nights at 8pm. It was a blessed time of sharing and reflecting, a time of prayer.
- ii. We started putting into works ways in which we can be in touch with everyone in the congregation. Specifically, we started our new Caregiving ProtoCALL by having leaders of KidMin, Students, and Young Adults make direct phone calls to those whom they have walked beside and served. This has been a blessing for both the leaders and the recipients.

b. Grow

- i. Our Kidmin/Student Ministries are still connecting through weekly read and chat times as well as lunch together and SNL (Sunday Night Live – Students).
- ii. We are excited to share that the Happy Hearts have used Zoom for their first Sunday school class together! Everything went really well and they are going to try and use video this week.

c. Live

- i. We continue to worship an amazing God! We are not only streaming live on Facebook, we are also streaming on Vimeo, YouTube, and can be seen on our website, www.ecob.church.

d. Radiate

- i. PowerPaks – this week, through PowerPaks, almost 100 families were fed for the next 2 weeks! In addition, there was a special donation given by an anonymous donor that gave each family \$50 to get groceries from Martin's. That is God moving friends! As part of this ministry, ECOB'ers went to unload food, make food bags, and distribute on Wednesday and Thursday. Trish Schlegel has been a point person and we are grateful for her leadership.
- ii. We continue serving and supporting Ephrata Schools with supplying drivers for those who cannot come to schools themselves and need help.

e. Operations

- i. We are currently adhering to the Governor's orders in all forms. Unless a company receives a waiver, they are not allowed to be on the premises working. As a Life-Sustaining "organization", congregation members are allowed to help with the maintenance and upkeep the facility and grounds during this time, making sure we keep the 6-10 foot distancing requested/required by our officials.
- 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. The office was closed this past week. More updates for this coming week are below.

2. This coming week March 30 – April 5

- 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: Jericho - Bridging the Gap

1. Date/Time: Mar 31, 2020 06:00 PM
2. Zoom Information: <https://zoom.us/j/630271816>
3. Call In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 630 271 816

- ii. What: Community Prayer Time
 - 1. Date/Time: Apr 1, 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/ephratacob/>
 - 4. Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/user65628481>
 - 5. YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNaNiDBGKmkQ4v9-W6ysqYA>
- c. KIDMIN
 - i. What: Preschool and Pets Story Time
 - 1. Date/Time: Mar 30, 2020 10:00 AM
 - 2. Zoom Information: <https://zoom.us/j/218552456>
 - 3. Dial In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 218 552 456
 - ii. Topic: Elementary and Pets Story Time
 - 1. What: Mar 31, 2020 10:00 AM
 - 2. Zoom Information: <https://zoom.us/j/195005088>
 - 3. Call In: 1 646 558 8656 - Meeting ID: 195 005 088
- d. Student Ministry
 - i. What: StudentMin Lunch
 - 1. Date/Time: Apr 2, 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 US - Meeting ID: 922 133 809
- e. Young Adult Ministry
 - i. What: Young Adult Gathering
 - 1. Date/Time: Apr 1, 2020 06:00 PM
 - 2. Zoom Information: <https://zoom.us/j/819759898>
 - 3. Call In: 1 929 436 2866 - Meeting ID: 819 759 898

3. OTHER ITEMS

- a. Family Caregiving ProtoCALL - we are going to start this ministry at some point this week. If you get a call from someone at church, we pray it will encourage and lift your spirits. We also pray that you will take the time to get to know someone new.
- b. Office Closed – the office will be closed for the month of APRIL
- c. Worship – we will continue to hold online worship through the month of APRIL
- d. Ministries – other than LOVEPHRATA ministries – or - in cases of facility maintenance/repairs, all ministries are cancelled through the month of APRIL
- e. LOVE FEAST/EASTER – While we will not be meeting in person, we will still do love feast and have Easter services (more details to follow).

Friends, thanks for your faith and faithfulness. I have appreciated your care for the staff as they work hard to keep God's mission moving forward at ECOB. In addition, I wish to thank the dozens of people who are being innovative, adaptable, and fearless disciples for Jesus during this time! You are loved and missed.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian