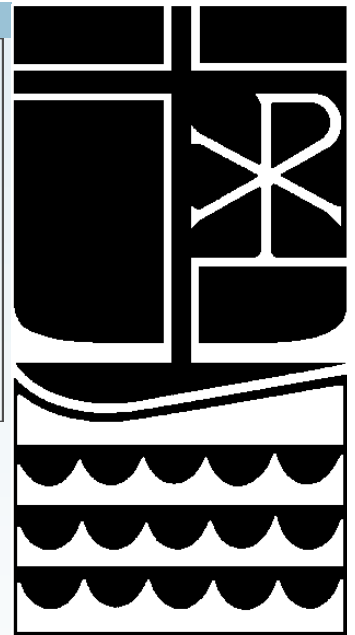


Crescent Hill
Baptist Church

June 2020

SPECIAL EDITION #3

Life Together



In the May edition of Life Together, Crescent Hill Baptist Church staff members wrote about their professional and personal experiences since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than reflect upon what has been, this month we are turning our attention to what may be for us as a community of faith moving ahead.

According to scientists, roughly three billion years ago deep within the earth's crust a phenomenon occurred. Roughly 90-120 miles beneath the surface of the earth carbon atoms went through a period of intense heat and pressure. At that time and at those depths, temperatures soared to 1650-2400 degrees Fahrenheit. Scientists believe that the carbon atoms were put under a pressure of 725,188 pounds per square inch. Under such intense heat and pressure, many carbon atoms became diamonds.

Health concerns, financial worries, routine disruptions, and social distancing have taken a toll on all of us. Like diamond formation, however, these difficult days have given us a chance to reflect upon ways in which we may better be a community of faith in the days to come.

In the days to come...

I hope we will continue to remember that the church never closes because the church is her people. For several weeks in the midst of the pandemic I repeatedly misspoke. When we began discussing the resumption of actual, physical gatherings at the church, I referred to those exchanges as "church re-opening conversations." Fortunately, it dawned upon me that the church never closed. The building located at 2800 Frankfort Avenue closed, but the church did not. In his epistle to the Romans, Paul writes that nothing can

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WORSHIP WITH US

We continue to offer an online worship service each week.

The recorded worship service will be on the church website (www.chbcky.org) and Facebook page by Sunday at 10:45 AM. The services will be viewable on our homepage for one week when we will upload the new service

There is Closed Captioning available on the worship videos. If you need this service, just click the CC box on the lower right hand corner.

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separate us from the love of God. This experience has reminded me of that truth. Furthermore, it has reminded me that nothing can separate us from one another. Yes, we may be physically distanced, but we have discovered and rediscovered ways of being emotionally and spiritually present with one another that I hope will continue well into the future.

I hope we will continue to expand our technological capabilities and online presence. Last year around this time our Church Council held a retreat. At that retreat members of the Council envisioned what the future could hold for Crescent Hill Baptist Church. One objective that particularly enthused members of the Council was the idea of expanding our technological capability and online presence. Since the summer of 2019, a great deal of work has been done in these areas. A new Technology Team was formed. We upgraded our WiFi capacity throughout the entire building. We initiated conversation about purchasing cameras and other equipment needed to livestream worship services and other events. Then, the pandemic hit. If the work done prior to the onset of the pandemic had not been done, we would not have been able to quickly and professionally produce worship services that could be shared online or move most meetings online. People all around the country are participating in the life of our church (many are financially supporting us as well) because of our enhanced abilities in these areas. I hope that this work will continue well into the future as well.

I hope that we will continue to value the importance of solitude and quietness. Life has been busy around our house during the pandemic. Kate and I are both working as much as we can in between bouts of assisting our kids with NTI (non-traditional instruction). However, without extracurricular activities for the kids and social gatherings, each of us has found that we have much more time to be alone and to be quiet. Most of you know that I am a person hard-wired to go and to do. I am not sure I would have ever made time just to be alone and quiet if it were not for these pandemic days. It has been good for me. In these days of slower pace, the dark and muddy water in the canals of Venice have cleared. Now the water flowing through the city looks like what one finds in the Caribbean Sea. The air has cleared above Katmandu, Nepal. Now, for the first time in decades residents of that city can see Mt. Everest out their windows. Just as the slower pace has cleared the water and air, it has helped me clear my mind. I hope that I will not soon forget that.

Life will be different when we emerge from this. One thing is for certain, this is a time of transformation. I hope and pray that we will not soon stray away from valuable lessons we may have learned during this unusual season of our lives.

In peace - Jason

Giving Saturday 2.0

A big thank you to all those who made control unions to UCHM, Waterstep and McCreary County on Saturday, May 9. Crescent Hill folks have always been generous when there is a need.

We are planning a repeat on Saturday, June 13 from 10 - 2. Donations will be accepted for UCHM, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and La Casita. A list of needed items will be available soon and will be posted on our website, Facebook page, and the enewsletter.

Small Groups and Children's Ministry

The children continue to meet via Zoom once a week and leave each other messages on the Marco Polo app. During our Zoom meetings, we talk about what we've been doing. Sometimes we read a book together. Often times we play games like Pictionary and charades. But mostly, we are just glad to be able to see our friends' faces.

When we are able to return to meeting in person, things will not be as they were. We will not be able to meet in small groups, in confined spaces, so Sunday School and team meetings will still be happening virtually for a while. This also affects Children's Ministry and childcare. During the worship services, when we begin meeting together, there will be no extended session (childcare during the worship service). Therefore everyone will be in the services together. Some of our elementary aged children and youth are accustomed to sitting together, but as we gather together, we will have to sit together as family/household units. We will need parents to help us keep their children and youth with them at all times when in the building.

We will be requiring that everyone wear a face mask that covers their mouth and nose while inside the building, this includes children over the age of two. Trust me, I am aware of how difficult it is to keep a mask on a toddler, but it can be done, and it will most likely be the norm for a while anytime we are in any public place. Start teaching your children now how to wear a mask, as well as getting your children used to seeing yourself and other adults wearing a mask.

Wear masks around the house. Teach your child how to put on and take off their masks. Play with a mask. Put the mask on their favorite stuffed animals. Decorate the mask so they have ownership. Be consistent. Make sure they see you wearing a mask anytime you are in public. If you need more tips regarding how to get your child to wear a mask see <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-masks.html>.

As of the time of writing this, we will not be able to offer in-person children's activities in June. Which means, we won't be having our camp-out, art camp, or going to Passport (the three events scheduled for June). This is disappointing, but we must stay as safe as possible. We will be offering Messy Art Camp Kits for use at home. Each kit will be offered for \$10. There is a preschool kit and an elementary kit. Each kit will include all the supplies you need to complete approximately 7-10 projects. Emails have been sent and information has been on the church website. Reservations to receive a box must be made by June 1 so that supplies can be ordered and boxes put together. Boxes will be available for pickup on June 15 (the day we would have began our Messy Art Camp).

We will be offering some sort of VBS/ Passport Camp experience in July. If we are able to meet in person, we will; otherwise, kits will be put together so that you can do some of those activities at home. Parents, check your email. I will update you with our July plans as we are able to make decisions about what and when we can do together.

