

INTERMISSION

JUNE 2020

2400 WILCREST DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77042
713-784-6620

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

SAFELY RETURNING TO WORSHIP

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic CTS staff and Council have worked diligently to prepare for the time when we can return to worship in person. That time is now at hand. We will return to in-person worship with our normal 8:00 and 11:00 services on **Pentecost Sunday, May 31**. In so doing we are taking extra precautionary steps to try to ensure the health and safety of our congregation, and to comply with all federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations.

We recognize that in the current environment some people may not feel safe in social gatherings. We leave it to each individual to decide whether he or she is comfortable attending in-person worship and will certainly respect that decision. **For our vulnerable members and those who prefer to not attend in person we will live stream services and also make podcasts available for viewing on the internet** (<https://www.christtheservant.net/>). For those members who choose to attend in person, we urge you to practice good hygiene, wash your hands, and follow the medical guidance of the CDC or your personal physician. **If you are experiencing symptoms (cough, fever, chills, etc.) we strongly encourage you seek medical attention and stay at home until you have recovered.**

In order that our members may make an informed decision on whether to attend in person, and to know what to expect, we have prepared a detailed plan that is posted on our website. A brief summary is as follows:

- Ushers will guide people to their seats in the sanctuary to ensure adequate social distancing between groups. Families will be seated together. Seating in the sanctuary will be limited to comply with current regulations, with the narthex available for overflow if necessary. It may take a bit longer to seat all members and we ask you to plan your arrival time accordingly.
- Service volunteers will continue to play very important roles in our worship services. They have worked with the staff and Council to develop appropriate procedures to mitigate the risk of spreading the coronavirus.
- Hymnals, Bibles, worship booklets, pens, and attendance pads will be removed from the pews in the sanctuary.
- A self-contained worship booklet will be created each Sunday and will include hymns and lessons that can be discarded after each service. This booklet will be handed out by the Greeters. For those interested in going paperless, a QR code will be available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Congregants can simply scan the code with the camera on their phone or tablet and it should bring up an electronic copy of the worship booklet.
- Gloves and masks will be provided for those who wish to use them but will not be required in the sanctuary unless mandated by local authorities.
- The offering plate will be placed on a table in the center aisle for people to use when they enter or exit.
- We will refrain from shaking hands or hugging at this time. We will pass the peace only to people seated nearby with a simple bow and greeting.
- Communion will be received in a continuous line with recipients spaced to provide adequate social distancing. The Pastor and Liturgical Assistant will devote extra attention to hygiene and sanitation.
- We will continue to use music as a key part of the worship experience. We will mitigate the perceived risk of spreading the coronavirus while singing by increased social distancing between the Choir, Cantor and seated attendees. For congregational singing, attendees will be encouraged to hold their music sheets in front of their faces to prevent projecting aerosols.
- The ushers will dismiss people by row. Attendees should not shake hands with the Pastor and other service volunteers when exiting the sanctuary.
- We are taking extra steps to clean and sanitize the facilities, including disinfecting the sanctuary, sacristy, and liturgical objects between services.
- The fellowship hall, kitchen, narthex, and conference room will remain closed for the time being. We plan to open the rest of the facility in **July** for Homeless Ministry, Adult Sunday School, and other activities.

Staff and Council will incorporate lessons learned and make adjustments as the summer progresses. We welcome suggestions at any time from our members!



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

I am going to forgo my series on the liturgy this month in view of the reopening of the church and changes to worship coming with it. These are covered in a general way in the statement from the council and staff in this issue. However, there are a few points I would like to highlight.

First, there will be no books in the pews for a while. They will be replaced by one-time use booklets or by an electronic version available by a QR code posted near the sanctuary doors. As an odd aside, the booklets are a “droplet blocker.” Hold them high while singing.

Second, once the appropriate media can be installed and sanitizing between services is ensured, we plan to have a “safe room” set up in the fellowship hall with both video and audio feeds of the worship service. The tables are six feet apart. Family units can sit together, but individuals should sit two to a table.

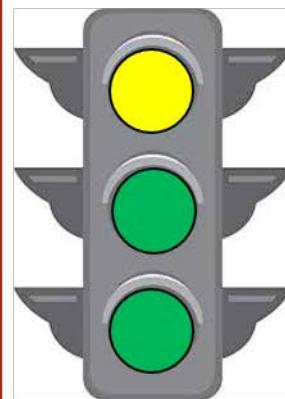
Third, choir singing will be limited to quartets. This won’t be a problem in early service but may take a little work in the second service. In addition, the only people seated in the “music” section of the pews will be the musicians and a/v personnel.

Fourth, the choir, cantors, and I will be singing without masks because doing so will muffle the sound to the point of being unintelligible. As for the congregation, please use masks if you feel more comfortable. Reports from both the CDC and the Military University of Munich indicate that safe distancing and good room ventilation (which we have in both the sanctuary and fellowship hall) are effective defenses with or without masks, excepting unguarded sneezes and coughs.

The liturgy (and music) is a ritual, and rituals can adapt or change. For example, the cup was taken from the laity in 1025 because of a plague. Heinrich Schutz wrote music for the people he had during the Thirty Years’ War, which is what I will be doing going forward. “This is the Feast” has more or less replaced the Gloria starting with the Green hymnal in 1978. Whether or not these current changes are permanent, we will continue to adapt as conditions dictate.

CTS Financial Dashboard

Through APRIL 2020



YTD Contributions

\$ 200,228

below forecast for income

YTD Expenditures

\$ 191,771

below budgeted expenses

Cash Reserve

7.1 months coverage of average monthly expenses

Excludes programs outside of General Fund (OEF, Homeless Min, Memorials, AED, Microphones, Piano)

YTD Status versus Budget or Cash Reserve Goal

- At or better than forecast or >6 month cash reserve
- <5% worse than forecast or 3-6 month cash reserve
- >5% worse than forecast or <3 month cash reserve

Contact Treasurer (Susan Collins) with questions

Thank you for your continued support for CTS! With your continued support are financially able to move forward to make the changes necessary due to COVID-19, continue to meet our budget, and be ready for future ministry.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Russell and Gloria Reider
- 12 Dale and Teresa Dickman
- 15 Frank and Deb Lehoski
- 16 John and Ena Puder
Dale and Alene Olson
- 20 David and Judie Deeds
- 26 Todd and Nancy Fredin
- 27 Russell and Marina Farmer
- 28 Pastor Jim and Carolyn Giannantonio



PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Archer and Katiana
Karen Bauer
Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
Barry Feldt, father of Jennifer Beaver
Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
Fred, brother-in-law of Nancie Blair
Doug Gibson, friend of Phyllis and Monte Richard
Donna Inouye, sister of Phylis Karas
Margaret, grandmother of Tina Blockhus
Cathy & Rob Roberson, daughter of Jodie Davis
Valerie Schick, granddaughter of Nancie Blair
Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
Robert Spear, father of Tina Blockhus
Connie Sully, friend of Jodi Davis
Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
Frank Welsh, neighbor of Mike and Phylis Karas
Lori Wood
Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Megan Carlson
- 3 Colleen Blockhus
- 4 Leah Japhet Mfungo
- 7 Barbara Elstad
- Jacquelyn Siegele
- Taryn Siegele
- Michael Siegele
- 9 Reece Stallwitz
- 10 Kristin Palfreyman
- 16 Cayden Rweyemamu
- 19 "JT" Jason Thomas
- Nayibe Carrillo
- 22 Ocean King
- 26 Linnay Cummings
- 28 Roger Cutler
- 29 Kurt Goedecke
- Rev Stephen Kelly
- 30 Nick Hauser
- Bill Olds
- Cheryl Skillman
- Karl Schrader, Jr.



CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio
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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy Riggs
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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

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NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

713.784-6620

CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713.784-4742

This newsletter and a calendar of church activities are available on the CTS website at:

www.christtheservant.net

July newsletter information deadline is:

June 15

Please submit information and articles in **MSWord documents** to Laura Wilhelm at lvhwilhelm@comcast.net
Information may be edited to available space.

CALENDAR

Live services in the sanctuary begin May 31, 2020.

Church Council will be held June 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Homeless Ministry is planned to begin July 6, 2020

Adult Sunday School is planned to resume July 5, 2020

Please continue to watch your email and the CTS website for further updates on schedule changes.

OPPORTUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Below is a summary of grants awarded by the Opportunity Endowment fund in 2020.

The maximum amount available to donate this year was \$43,400 (\$35,300 from the Thrivent Account plus an \$8,000 donation)

Jason Thomas Education	\$ 375.22
Nabor House Community	\$ 5000.00
Neighbors in Action	\$ 5000.00
LutherHill Ministries	\$ 5000.00
Tool Bank - Tool Purchases -	\$ 3000.00
WHAM for Covid19	\$ 15000.00
Houston Food Bank for Covid19	\$ 5000.00
Karatu Hospital	<u>\$ 5000.00</u>

TOTAL GRANTS \$ 43,375.22

While we've been away...

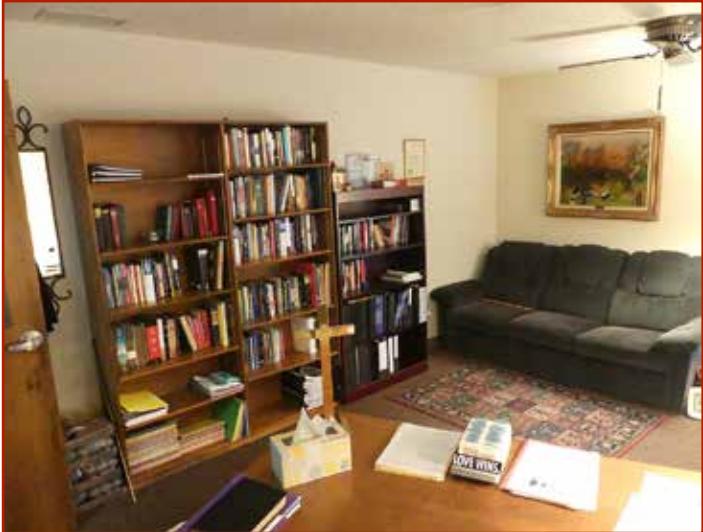


Houston Food Bank distributing food purchased with funds from the CTS Opportunity Endowment Fund.



Coach Anthony Medina and members of the University of St. Thomas Men's basketball team came to move all the books from the sanctuary. Julian Medina, age 1, helped out, too.





Pastor Jim cleaned out his office for the first time in years. The dumpster was full! There's plenty of room to gather new ideas now.



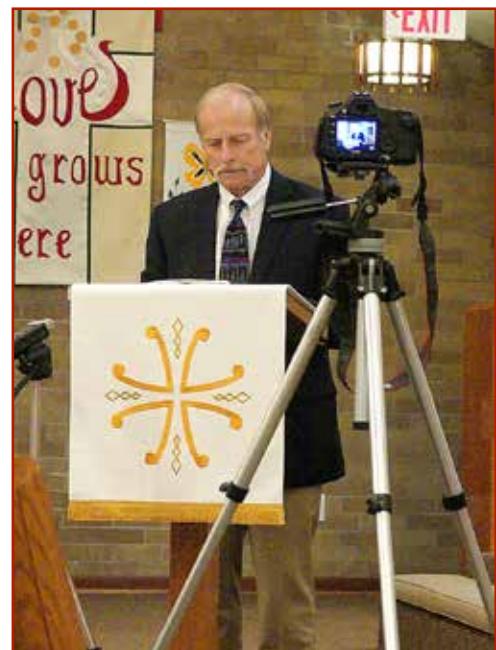
Both kitchens were cleaned, contents organized, and labels placed on all doors and drawers.

All closets, the sacristy, all the Sunday School rooms and storage spaces were cleaned and organized.

Rosalie Fontenot, Carolyn Giannantonio and Paul Siegele worked for days cleaning, sorting, organizing, and hauling trash to the dumpster.



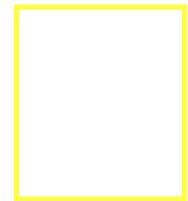
JT, Pastor Jim and John Krueger continued to perfect filming of services, skills that will carry on even once we are able to resume in-person services.



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2020 COUNCIL

President: Chandler Wilhelm

President Elect:	Barry Rava	At Large:	Zach Edwards
Secretary:	Karen Carter	At Large:	Dale Dickman
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large:	Neema Makia
Financial Secretary:	Emma Chanimbaga	At Large:	Joanne Dumler

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, GROUP LEADERS, CONTACT PEOPLE

Acolytes	Inga Carlson, Michele Byrnes	Memorial Service Coordinator	Linda Iversen
Adult Christian Ed	TBA	Men Who Love Spaghetti	Roger Cutler
Altar Guild	Lori Wood	Nursery Attendant	Sandra Ani
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Opportunity Endowment Fund	DJ Blockhus
Care Team	Pat Korge and Mary Puccini	Personnel	Ken Smith, Shirley Downing
College Ministry	Tina Blockhus	Prayer Chain	Marti Hatcher
Disaster Response Team	Ron Herbanek	Property	Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek
Family Aid Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio	Sound Team	TBA 8:00 Service
Fellowship Committee	Rosalie Fontenot		Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Greeters	Donna Schneider	Stewardship	Cliff Mabry
Homeless Ministry	Shirley Downing	Ushers	8:00 Russell Farmer
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters		11:00 Pat Welborn
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	WHAM Representatives	Ken Smith
Lectors	Cliff Mabry	Women's Ministry	Marsha Bower
Liturgical Assistants	Cliff Mabry	Worship and Music	Lori Wood