



Christ • Communion • Community

# CASCADIAN WEEKLY

June 4, 2021

Week 65

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Cascade Christian Church:

Welcome to the month of June! This is a lovely time in West Michigan, and we welcome summer with renewed hope and joy as COVID-19 restrictions are easing with so many of you being vaccinated. The church is carefully resuming some of the events we have enjoyed in summers past, and we appreciate that there will be a variety of comfort levels as people reengage. Here are the protocols we are currently using:

**Here are our COVID-19 new protocols, as determined at the May Church Board meeting**

- We are reopening further within CDC and MDHSH guidelines
- Mask wearing is required for those not vaccinated and is optional for everyone else
- Singing can resume
- We will still use the health check-in every Sunday
- We will continue to be seated every other row.

We have some wonderful summer events planned, and please mark your calendars and join us:

**June 10: Church Brown Bag Picnic in the courtyard.** Join us at 12 noon for lunch in the courtyard, safely distancing. A brown bag lunch will be prepared for all who sign up in advance by calling the church office at 949-1360 or signing up on the list in the office or narthex. We will have lunch in the courtyard, and then move into the sanctuary to hear Alma Coon speak about her life in the Philippines. Make your reservation asap and see you then!

**June 19-20: The Grand Rapids Triathlon** returns to our campus! If you would like to be an aid station worker (using new COVID safety protocols) please be in touch with the church office. Many thanks to Rebekah and Ryan Condon for being our volunteer coordinators for the aid station.

**June 20-25: Elementary Camp at Crystal Conference Center:** Please pray for the success of this first Crystal camp since the pandemic began.

**June 27: Congregational Meeting - By Mail.** Our church Board has considered inviting people to meet in person for our annual congregational meeting, has thought about proxy votes, and pondered having a Zoom meeting. All of that has been a bit daunting, so at this time we ask you to vote on our slate of

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

officers and the 2021-2022 church budget by mail. A mailing will go out, as it did in 2020, and please read through the budget and slate of officers. You will be able to ask the Board questions, and we request that you mail in your response postcard as soon as possible. Please be part of this joyful look into our future as we thank our Board leaders who have gotten us through the pandemic, and as we unite in support of the ongoing mission of Cascade Christian Church.

**June 28-30: Our middle and high school students are off to Mackinac Island** with Michael Dirksen and Adam Carlson – the first road trip and overnight in over a year! Please be in touch with Michael if you would like to chaperone this trip to Michigan’s most beautiful island.

May God bless you this summer with joy, hope, and peace as you keep the faith, Jill

| WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <u>Sunday</u> (6/6).      | Sunday School - 9:30 AM<br>Worship - 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM  |
| <u>Monday</u> (6/7).      | Cancer Club - 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (Coffee House)<br>Worship Board Meeting - 5:30 PM (Zoom)<br>Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)                            |
| <u>Tuesday</u> (6/8).     |   |
| <u>Wednesday</u> (6/29).  | Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)   |
| <u>Thursday</u> (6/10).   | Griefshare - 10:30 AM (Zoom)<br>Brown Bag Lunch - Alma Coon - 12:00 PM (Courtyard)<br>Board Meeting - 7:00 PM (Zoom)<br>Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House) |
| <u>Friday</u> (6/11).     | Church Office Closed  |
| <u>Saturday</u> (6/12).   | Days for Girls Workshop - 1:00 PM -4:00 PM<br>Coffee House  |

Financial giving  
for the week  
ending in  
5/30/2021:  
Budgeted:\$8,432  
Given: \$9,308.90

# OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church Brown Bag Picnic

Thursday, June 10 12 noon

In the courtyard of Cascade Christian Church

**Special Guest Speaker: Alma Coon will speak on  
her life in the Philippines**

**A brown bag lunch will be provided – please make a  
reservation by Monday, June 7 so we make enough lunches**

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who helped with our Memorial Day worship service:

- Fay Johnson and Bob Van Strien for their thoughtful reflections and prayers
- Marsha Steensma for organizing and coordinating the service
- Tim Hartley, Dana Froumis, Josh Boone, and Jacob Relph for working tech
- Mark and Kathy Bird DeYoung for lighting the memory candles
- Chuck and Barb Dykhuizen for their communion and offering elder meditations
- And to all of our veterans who came to honor those who gave their all for God and country

Thank you to John Steensma and Diane Phelps and their crew who have completed the work around the entrances to the chapel and sanctuary – the new stones and mulch look so clean and beautiful.

Thank you to Dick Byerly and Tim Hartley who are working with Jacob Relph to install a new projector and computer in the chapel so we can resume services in the chapel later this month. And many thanks to Dick Byerly for installing the new rope for the chapel bell, and to Kevin Murphy who faithfully rings the bell at 11AM every Sunday.

## KEYS AT CASCADE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

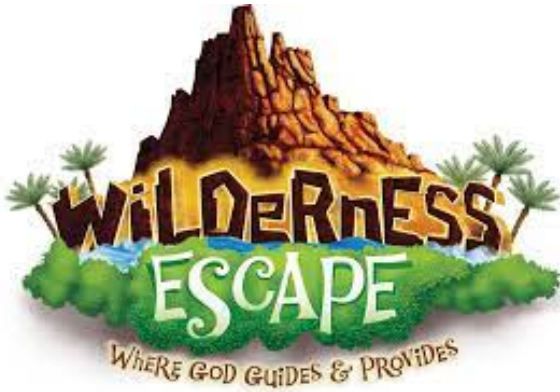
By now many of you may have noticed we have a new key system here at the church. The new key system opens and closes doors with key fobs as oppose to traditional keys. That means that going forward we are asking everyone **NOT** to use their keys to open and close doors. While they still work now, by the end of June the only way to unlock doors will be by calling the church office and scheduling the doors to be unlocked. This system is designed to be more secure, with less doors getting left unlocked, and help us have greater control over who is in our buildings and when. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

# CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

## SUNDAY SCHOOL VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Every week at the **9:30 service** we have in-person Sunday School for children ages 4 on up. The children begin the morning in the sanctuary with their families and then are dismissed to go to class.

Students will be brought back down to church after the service. For elementary school, we are also offering a virtual Sunday School, which is mailed out with the Cascadian each week. If you would like your child added to this list, please call Adam or Michael in the church office.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

Mark your calendars as we look forward to a full Vacation Bible School over July 26-30 from 9:00AM-11:30AM. We'll be studying the life of Moses and the Exodus with "Wilderness Escape." Sign ups for kids and volunteers will begin in June.

## CRIB ROOM REOPENED

Our crib room has reopened for infants and toddlers through age 3 at the 9:30 service. Parents must make a reservation for this kind of childcare. Call the church office by Wednesday to make your reservation.

# ADULT MINISTRIES

## GRIEF SHARE

Grief Share Support Group will continue through mid-summer, and all who are mourning a loss are invited to participate through Zoom on Thursdays at 10:30AM. Call Jill for more information.

## YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The young adult group is starting to form! We are going to launch a weekly study that will begin **June 7th**. We will meet at Michael Dirksen's house (739 College Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503) where we will discuss faith and action.

## THE CHURCH OFFICE & CASCADIAN WEEKLY

With Keely on maternity leave and summer upon us we just wanted to let you know that as Michael, Adam, and Pastor Jill go up to camp and take the Middle School and High School Youth Groups to Mackinac Island, there will be a few weeks where the office will have limited availability (9:00am - 12:00pm), and the Cascadian Weekly might be a little shorter than normal. Those weeks are the week of June 21st, 28th, and July 12th. Thanks in advance for your patience.

## CHURCH COVID UPDATE

With the new guidelines from the CDC and State of Michigan our Church board has updated our policies surrounding COVID and the precautions we are taking here at Cascade Christian Church. The services are now mask-optional for those who are fully vaccinated. Moreover, we are once again singing in church. We will continue to check in and do health screening for the foreseeable future. If you have any questions about the updates to this policy, please let us know.



# MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**IF YOU WOULD STILL LIKE TO GO TO MACKINAC OR CAMP -- PLEASE CONTACT MICHAEL DIRKSEN**

## **SUMMER AT CCC**

As we approach summer, I just wanted to give you all an update on what our plans are for the summer with youth group. Wednesday night programming will stop for the months of June, July, and August (last Wednesday night is May 26th), but we will still be doing a special event every other week or so with the middle and high school youth. We will also be taking them to Camp Crystal (a few times!), Mackinac Island, on a Mission Trip, and hopefully, at the end of the summer, to Michigan's Adventure! If you know anyone who would like to be involved in a youth group, we welcome any and all middle school and high school students to join us for any or all of these events! We hope to see you there!

## **VOLUNTEERING WITH YOUTH**

As we begin to look at ministry here after COVID, we are really hoping to have an amazing VBS this summer, distinct middle school and high school youth groups, and differentiated learning at Sunday School in the fall. In order to do all of that, we are in **need** of some parent volunteers to help us out. If this is an area where you may have an interest in helping, please send an email to Michael Dirksen at [mdirksen@cascadechristian.com](mailto:mdirksen@cascadechristian.com). No need to have kids in the program! All volunteers need to be screened before they are able to help.

## **BEACH DAY**

We will be going to the Grand Haven State Park on Monday, June 14th to have a fun day at the beach. Meet at the church at 12:00 noon. We will be back at the church around 6:00 pm. Please bring sunscreen, a towel, a swimsuit, and money for lunch.



## 5.30.2021 SERMON – GOD DOES NOT FORGET

We do not forget those who have gone before us. May God lift the hearts of all who grieve, all who mourn, all who need comfort. However your heart is broken, let's not forget, the Lord God is here. The thoughts, pictures, and meditations have been so moving, so touching today, and I want to thank Fay Johnson, Bob VanStrien, Marsha Steensma, Kathy Bird and Mark DeYoung, and Chuck and Barb Dykhuizen for their leadership and witness.

Friends, we need to sorrow, grieve, and mourn in times of loss. And the losses have been many. There are a lot of candles burning today, there are many people we miss. But let's not forget God is here, too. No matter what our sorrow, however deep our pain, God does not leave, and God will get us through this. We are in a sermon series on Joseph's story in Genesis, referencing Max Lucado's book "You'll Get Through This". We all have a "this" – everyone has some area of life that is hurtful and challenging. Our "this" can trap us, our pain can imprison us, troubles can make us feel like there is no way out or up, our grief can lock up our hearts. Joseph's story is a guide on how to deal with pain and loss, lest we forget.

Before we begin looking at scripture, I invite you to read aloud this declaration of hope and confidence in our Lord and God: **With God's help I'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. In the meantime, I won't be foolish or naïve, but I won't despair either. With God's help, I will get through this.**

What is your "this"? How has life made you feel imprisoned?

- As we observe Memorial Day, some of you may have been or know someone who was a prisoner of war, or maybe you feel imprisoned by combat memories that time has not erased, or post-traumatic stress disorder from war.
- You're not in prison, but you might be in debt, infertile, in limbo, in search of a job home or spouse, or in mourning for a parent, spouse, child, sibling, or friend.
- Maybe you feel locked up by a betrayal from a family member or friend, or locked in with addiction or economic hardship
- Or maybe it is the prison of loneliness, of being misunderstood, the prison of being judged, not accepted,
- Or you might have a quiet lock on your heart, silently carrying your pain – too hard to even name aloud.

We all have some "this" to get through, we have all felt locked away, and so did Joseph. But God was with Joseph and did not forget this great-grandson of Abraham. Joseph was no longer in Israel, but he was a son of Israel and was not abandoned by God. Some severe tests occurred in Joseph's life that shaped his character and help him depend on God alone. But the imprisonment, the tests, result in a more mature Joseph, who will, by the hand of God, save nations and reconcile with his family. Here's what happens: Genesis 39:1-6

**Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.**

**The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.**

## 5.30.2021 SERMON – GOD DOES NOT FORGET

Look with me at this passage again – what do you repeatedly see?

- The Lord was with Joseph.
- His master saw the Lord was with him,
- the Lord gave him success in everything he did,
- the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph,
- the blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had,

God is with Joseph, God has plans for Joseph, and even as uncertainties and hardships rattle Joseph's world, God is at work. Joseph was betrayed by those he trusted, forced to march with captors down to Egypt, and was sold off as property. These things sound like what happens to people during times of war. There is warfare here, the battle is over the role Joseph would play in the future of God's Kingdom. The evil one, Satan, fought to break Joseph, thinking by doing this he could ruin God's plans. To break the line of Abraham is to cut the family tree of the Messiah. To cut this branch, to break Joseph, would most likely, in Satan's eyes, end it all. In this story, a devastating famine would shake the world, and famines have a way of killing off the masses. Satan must have thought ending Joseph, could end Abraham's line, so there would be no Emmanuel, no God with us, no Jesus. But it was not so.

The pampered, favored son of Jacob became a success at running Potiphar's household, growing an agribusiness, managing a large staff. And Joseph knew the success came from God. The slave became his master's right-hand man. Joseph was trusted so much that Potiphar left him in charge of everything. So the evil one tries again - Mrs. Potiphar saw this good-looking, hardworking, successful young man who was her husband's attendant, and wanted attention from him as well. Joseph refused, so she accused, and Joseph was put in Pharaoh's jail. In Genesis 39:20-23 we read: **Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.**

Again, extraordinary success came to Joseph, he was put in charge of the prisoners, and the warden did what Potiphar did, he let Joseph run the place and had no worries. This success came from God. In this passage – look again and see- the Lord was with him, God shows Joseph kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the warden, God was with him and gave him success in whatever he did.

Joseph was joined in prison by Pharaoh's cupbearer, or butler, and Pharaoh's baker. They had dreams that troubled them. Our dreamer Joseph has grown up he sees these two men and the first words we have recorded from Joseph in prison are words of kindness and empathy – he asks- “Why are your faces so sad today?” The men explain their dreams of three vine branches, grapes, and the wine-cup of Pharaoh, of three baskets, bread, and birds, and asked Joseph to interpret their dreams. Joseph did, but not before telling these men that the power to interpret dreams came from God. The butler's dream meant that in three days he would be back in the place, serving Pharaoh. The baker's dream meant in three days he would be rejected by Pharaoh and killed.

Joseph asked the butler to remember him, that if all went well in the palace, remember him with kindness, and to mention him to Pharaoh, that he had done nothing to deserve being in a dungeon.

## 5.30.2021 SERMON – GOD DOES NOT FORGET

The dreams come true, the baker dies, the cupbearer served again at Pharaoh's side. You can imagine the joy of the cupbearer as Joseph prepares for his discharge from prison – "Sure I'll remember you, Joseph, by tomorrow Pharaoh will hear about you. Buddy, I will never forget how much you've helped me, and count on me, I'll be there for you. Pack your bags, you'll be joining me soon!" And you can imagine Joseph, getting his prison possessions together, saying goodbye to the men he had cared for. You can imagine him meeting with the warden to go over a few details on this prisoner, or that schedule. You can imagine Joseph waiting, leaning forward, at the edge of his seat, excited with expectation: Freedom – soon! Justice – Soon! Maybe he could head home to Jacob within the month. But Genesis 40:23 says – **"The cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him."** Joseph waited a week to be remembered, to hear the sound of the warden's keys jingling, to be unlocked, to be set free. Joseph waited a month, two months, a year, another year. Genesis 40 ends with the words – he forgot him. The butler forgot all about Joseph! Genesis 41:1 begins by saying – when two full years had passed... two years of being forgotten. Joseph had two more years in his prison. From the end of chapter 40 to the beginning of 41, two years passed. Why did God allow this? Had God forgotten him?

This is a weekend of remembering- lest we forget. You might feel like Joseph with whatever has locked you in, locked down your heart, closed your doors, shut off your hopes, imprisoned your dreams. You might wonder, has God forgotten you? When loved ones died, when soldiers perished, like Captain Waskow that Fay Johnson read about, like Bob VanStrien's classmate – had God forgotten them? In your times of hurt, grief, sorrow, you might feel forgotten. Does God remember you?

Scripture tells us that even in our prolonged suffering – God does not forget. He didn't forget Joseph, and Joseph continued to do the prison work God had given him. He continued to wait on the Lord and God's favor was with him. Nothing indicates that Joseph got bitter, gave up, or cursed God. Whatever else happened in those two years, in that space between the end of Genesis 40 and the beginning of chapter 41, God was with Joseph and Joseph was with God. You may have experienced this – that sometimes God does not give us a quick answer to prayer, we have to wait. In that time of waiting our character can be tested, shaped, formed, matured, honed into who God intends us to be. Waiting can be a challenge. Times of testing are hard – but tests don't last forever. While we wait, God is at work. And Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that **those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.** While you wait, God is working on you, God is working for you. Just wait and see what God will do.

Today, I ask you – do you trust God in times of testing and waiting, in your prison? Friends, we all have areas of our life when we feel or have felt imprisoned and forgotten. But God does not forget, not ever. The time of testing wasn't easy for Joseph, and I know it isn't easy for you. But my guess is, when you look back over your life, you can see how much you grew when the times were tough. God was at work. The Hebrew word for waiting has two meanings – it means to bind, or to weave together, and to look forward. What a great way to think of waiting – God is tying all of this together for our good, weaving something beautiful, that we can lean in towards, with hope, we just have to wait. If you're currently in a tough time of testing, waiting or feeling forgotten, I offer you this as a key to freedom and also as a caution: Bitterness arises in our hearts when we do not trust in the sovereign rule of God in our lives. You have a choice, to let your hard times make your heart bitter, or your faith better.



## 5.30.2021 SERMON – GOD DOES NOT FORGET

Your key to freedom is to trust that God in God's sovereignty., that God is who He says He is. In the middle of the word sovereignty, is the word REIGN. God rules, God reigns, and God does not forget or abandon His people. The evil one will try to pull you aside, whispering bitter things to poison your soul. Be a Joseph and don't listen to Satan, stay active with the work God has given you to do. Clearly God is not finished with you – so whatever task God has for you, do it. Do it well. Be faithful even in the smallest of things. Wait for God in your pain, and wait expecting God to weave this altogether for your good, even when you can't see His will. God is sovereign, let God reign, and then watch what God does for you.

Our God is a God of Love, Freedom, and Life. Dreamers and prisoners, you are a child of God, and you'll get through this. By the grace of God your load will be lightened, the depression will be lift, the pain will ease, and you can find joy again. It won't be painless or quick, but God can use your prison for good. Watch God working in your life, and don't despair. Your God fights for you, and your God wins. As you grow in the testing, as you wait in your imprisonment, God remembers you, and God will get you through this. Amen and amen.

## OUR PRAYER LIST FOR THIS WEEK INCLUDES:

### Sympathy:

- **Brian MacInness** died on Monday, May 31st of health complications. Please pray for his family in this time of sorrow. A service will be planned for later in the summer.
- **Paul**, Susan Mozley's son in law died of pancreatic cancer over Memorial Day weekend, Susan appreciates the prayers for Paul and his family.

### Prayer Concerns:

- **Vicki Gaviglio**, daughter of **Fred and Bea VanderPloeg**, has a brain tumor. Please pray for her.
- **Holly Brandsma** recovering from knee surgery on May 13. She is doing well - is walking on her own and is in physical therapy. Holly thanks you for your prayers.
- **Rebecca Warner** recovering from hip surgery on May 12.
- **Joanne Crawford** is back at Mission Point of Forest Hills and would love to hear from you: #48 1095 Medical Park Dr., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546.
- **Aleck**, Lois Slack's grandson, had an accident last week on his dirt bike. He had neck and ankle surgery, and will be off his foot for several months. This was a severe injury, please pray for the return of full mobility and complete healing.
- Our prayers are with **Chuck and Heather Bacle** as Chuck has kidney cancer, and treatments are underway. Please keep all of the Bacles and Robertsons in your prayers.
- And for our **stewardship campaign**, that we stay strong and do the work of the Lord in this place and time.
- **Barb Coger** has been hospitalized and is now back at Porter Hills. Cards may be sent to her home at 4905 Ada Dr. Ada, Michigan 49301.
- **Joyce Kingsland** who has been ill with dehydration, and fluid in her lungs. If you would like to send her a card it can be sent to 1225 Spaulding Ave SE, Grand Rapids 49546.
- **Dr. Brian Lane**, a Spectrum doctor and friend of Scott Robertson, has terminal cancer. Please pray for Dr. Lane and his family for peace and comfort.
- **Marvin Potter**, Doris Burgess's dad – please pray for healing of his various health issues.
- **Those battling cancer: John Goodrich, Leslie, Bill Richardson, Linsey and Sandee (friends of Marsha and John Steensma), and Mike Forton.**
- **Virgil Westdale and Lila Venneman** and all others who are in health care facilities.
- **And those in hospice care: Bev Ferwerda.**

Current military and National Guard members in your prayers: Rachel Carlson, Andy Sullivan, Connor Schwinkendorf, Jason Tiedemann, and Steven M. King.

**If you are in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please email [office@cascadechristian.com](mailto:office@cascadechristian.com), or call our church office at 949-1360.**