

## **This Week @ Good Shepherd**

10-16-20

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### **Loneliness in the Year of COVID**

This week I was talking to a young man who is in college in the Oklahoma City area. We talked about a variety of things. Then, I asked him where do you think people are now in this year of COVID. The answer that he gave me was not what I expected.

He said to me, "I still know several people in high school. I also know people in college and older. I'd say that the main thing people are struggling with now is loneliness and feeling kind of isolated." I can assure you that his answer was a surprise to me.

I could see loneliness and feeling isolated as a problem with older folks who are still having to keep a low profile and stay mostly at home. I could also see that for folks who, having to work from home the past few months, are cut off from the usual day to day interactions of a work environment. I could see it for people who are still out of work because of layoffs caused by the pandemic. I could see it for people who deeply value their connection to the church and haven't been able to be at church for months. But, the fact that loneliness and a feeling of isolation was a significant struggle for teens and college students says something about us all in this year.

Yes, I've had times of loneliness and feeling isolated in my life. For instance, I'm reminded of the time I left the small town of Wellston, Ok. to move to central Dallas to go to seminary. Driving through a sleet storm to find a small dorm room and not knowing anyone there was pretty isolating even in a metroplex of millions of people. But, this year has been oddly isolating at times. Maybe that's why it was so refreshing to hear a group of Christians in Good Shepherd's in-person worship service reciting the Lord's Prayer together.

What can we expect from the Lord in the year of COVID? One thing is his presence with us. We can expect him to be someone to walk with us even in the darkest valleys (Psalm 23:4). He will be someone to be with us even to the end of this current age (Matthew 28:20). He is someone who has promised never to leave us or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8 ; Psalm 9:10). No matter where you are or what your situation is you are not far from God.

Let me suggest that you write these passages out. Place them on your mirror. Recite them to yourself. Share them with someone else. Pray them as a prayer. Then, ask God to refresh you with a sense of his nearness to you. As Jesus said, "the Kingdom of God has come near" to you. Truly, we are never alone.

### **Worship Ministries: Sunday Worship This Week**

Ever wondered who someone really was? Ok, so you knew them for a while. You had a sense of who they were. But, you thought maybe there was more to the story. Then, who they really were came

into focus. Maybe they act in an unexpectedly loving, kind, generous or wise way. So, you saw them in a new way for the first time.

That's where the followers of Jesus found themselves when they were on a mountain top with Jesus one day. Who Jesus really was became clearer suddenly. One of the most amazing events shared in the Gospel of Mark is the Transfiguration of the Lord.

This Sunday Pastor Linda Truitt will be bringing the message on Mark's account of the Transfiguration. Her message is about the power and authority Jesus gives in our lives.

**In-person worship will be at 10 a.m.** in Good Shepherd's Christian Life Center. Live music at in-person worship will be provided by *Matt Cowell, Geoff White, and Logan Walker*. The message by Pastor Linda will be live also.

**Worship online** will be available at [umcgs.org](http://umcgs.org) on Sunday morning.

### **Children's Ministries: Good Shepherd's Annual Trunk or Treat**

Good Shepherd's annual Trunk or Treat will be held this year on Sunday, October 25th from 4-5:30 p.m. at our S.W. 15th campus. Unlike last year, this year's **Trunk or Treat will be a Drive-Through event** in order to maintain safe distancing.

When a car enters the parking lot, they will be given an "I Spy" or scavenger hunt list. Kids will seek out certain things on the cars and Halloween displays as they drive by the Trunk or Treat vehicles. At the end of the Drive-Through, each kid will receive a treat bag.

Our children's ministry needs help with this event. You can help by providing treats to put in the treat bags and/or by decorating a vehicle to be one of the Trunk or Treat vehicles. Unlike previous years, the Trunk or Treat vehicles will not be giving out candy directly to the kids.

For more information on how to help, contact Jamie at [office@umcgs.org](mailto:office@umcgs.org) or Pastor Charlotte at [charlotte@umcgs.org](mailto:charlotte@umcgs.org). You can also call the church office at 324-1900. There is also a candy treats dropbox in the open, glassed-in front entry way to the sanctuary building.

### **Outreach Ministries: Missions to Our Communities**

Good Shepherd's **Food for Kids** ministry is helping to provide food and hygiene products for the food pantry at Mustang High School. The food pantry is there for at-risk students. Help is needed more than ever this year.

Possible Protein Options for October that you can donate are:

Breakfast bars	Tuna (can or pouch)	Chicken (can or pouch)
Peanut Butter	Jerky	Shelf stable milk

A collection box marked "Food for Kids" is available in the glassed-in north entry of our sanctuary building. This entry section is always open. You can also donate to this ministry online or by check.

We will also be providing a meal for the homeless and those in need at the **Red Shield Diner** Dinner in the Salvation Army Center near N.W. 10th and Penn. That meal will be on *Saturday, December 12th*. Be looking for information about how you can help.

### **Children's Ministries: Good Shepherd's Pumpkin Patch**

Good Shepherd's pumpkin patch is open. The Pumpkin Patch is a major fundraiser each year for Good Shepherd's children's ministry. **So far more than \$17,000 worth of pumpkins** have been sold. Sales are significantly ahead of 2019. Good Shepherd's children's ministry gets a percentage of the total sales.

You can volunteer to help with the selling of the pumpkins. You can sign up to work the pumpkin patch sales at various times and days over the next few weeks. For more information on volunteering contact the church office or Pastor Charlotte at 324-1900.

### **Care Ministries: Online GriefShare Group Changed**

The **start date** for Good Shepherd's online **GriefShare group has changed**. The original start date was October 22nd. The new start date for the online group is December 3rd.

Holidays can be times when persons struggle more with grief. The GriefShare group is for those who want to work through various kinds of grief using the GriefShare resources and the fellowship and encouragement of others who are dealing with grief as well. Perhaps you or someone you know might benefit from being part of GriefShare.

Here is information about the day and time:

*Thursdays starting Dec. 3 @ 6:00 p.m. Leader: Rev. Linda Truitt* *Online group*

To sign up for this group, send an email to Jamie, Good Shepherd's church secretary, at [office@umcgs.org](mailto:office@umcgs.org) indicating where you want to be part of the in-person or the online group.

Currently there are ten people in Good Shepherd's in-person GriefShare group.

### **Worshipping God Through Our Offerings**

Offerings given in worship to God are deeply grounded in the teachings of the Bible. They are an important way that we are called to praise and thank God for who God is and what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Offerings also help to strengthen and encourage the ministry of the Gospel as we share the Good News of Jesus with everyone in many different ways. Offerings are a way that we come together to bless and help others who are in need physically, materially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Below are listed three ways that worship offerings can be made this Sunday:

First, you can *mail your worship offerings* by check to the church at: 10928 S.W. 15th, Yukon, Ok. 73099. For ease of routing, put "attn: Misha" on the envelope.

Second, you can *give your worship offerings electronically* by going to Good Shepherd's website at [umcgs.org](http://umcgs.org). As you scroll down the page, you will see the "Give" button. By clicking the "Give" button, you will be sent to our giving portal operated by ShelbyNext Giving.

Once in the Giving portal, you will see "My Donation." Under "Fund" is a drop down menu entitled "Choose a Fund." You can donate to the general fund of the church either through pledged or unpledged choices. The General Fund is the main fund used for the work of ministry through Good Shepherd. Check the "Make this gift recurring" if you wish to set up recurring giving. You will also see "+ Add Donation." Through "+ Add Donation" you can donate to a number of special ministries.

Third, give your *worship offering at our in-person worship*. There will be offering boxes at the entry and exit doors. You can drop your in-person worship offerings in one of these boxes if you would like this Sunday.

Ask someone to join you in Good Shepherd's worship in-person at 10 a.m. Sunday or through worship online.

May you experience God with you today,

Michael Burkett  
Lead Pastor  
Church of the Good Shepherd