



## November 1, 2020

### Weekly Newsletter

#### The Preacher's Post – *Darin Kennedy*

We've heard a lot of words this year that we don't want to hear—contagious, exposure, symptoms, pandemic. But I have been thinking that, while they scare us about our physical health, I wouldn't mind hearing them concerning our spiritual health. The gospel is meant to spread all over the earth, the ultimate pandemic, but it should result in eternal life and not what COVID has produced.



Last week, I was serving at Kids Kitchen, and I was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID. Thankfully, I had no symptoms, and the person who tested positive had no symptoms. Thankfully also, I have tested negative for COVID and am free from quarantine. But I was exposed to more than that at Kids Kitchen. I was exposed to lives changed by Jesus Christ. I was exposed to passion for sharing not only food but also dignity. I was exposed to partnership that spans racial and economic boundaries as well as the state line. I was exposed to grace, joy, and love. As soon as Kids Kitchen opens back up, I'll be going back because I want to be exposed.

In the language of disease, I am fortunate because I have had no symptoms. But in the language of the gospel, I want lots of symptoms. I want salvation to infect me. I want to catch the ecstasy of gospel life. I'd like the image of Jesus to rub off on me. While I want to avoid a runny nose and a nagging cough, I'd love for holy words to come from my mouth. While I want to avoid a fever, I'd love for the word of God to burn

inside me. While I want to avoid breaking out with spots, I'd love for joy to be written all over my face. Rather than lethargy that sends me to bed, I'd rather have energy to worship and serve enthusiastically. How sad it would be if I were exposed to the gospel and to people living like Jesus and had no symptoms!

The highest compliment I would hope to receive is that I was contagious. No, I don't want people avoiding me "like the plague," but I would be thrilled if they hungered for my presence because there they found healing, welcome, joy, comfort, home. Could they say that they felt better about themselves, about the future, about the world because of what they experienced in me? Would they be so changed that others would then receive something from them? What will people catch from me, and who will catch it from them?

#### Birthdays: November 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

Kimberly Kennedy – 1<sup>st</sup>

Pat Kreisel – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Maddie Wycoff – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Payton Brady – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sean Turner – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Freda Renick – 4<sup>th</sup>

Jackson Brady – 5<sup>th</sup>

Shane Hall – 6<sup>th</sup>

## Prayer Requests

**Earl Fultz's** sister (Jo Rainbolt) – had surgery this week. She is doing well, **Pat Kreisel** – is experiencing some back pain and is limited in her mobility, **Jerry John** – is currently in hospice care, **Michael Kennedy** and his fiancé (Helen Isaac) – are experiencing mild cold/flu like symptoms due to COVID, **Jeannie Ewens's** uncle (Burney) – passed away, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (David Ellifrits) – had a cardiac catheterization and it was successful, **Larry Sullivan** – had a shoulder replacement surgery on Monday. He is home and recovering, **Joe Harber's** wife (Charlotte) – is suffering from some ongoing health issues, **Bill Haley's** childhood friend (Mark Lough) – is in a nursing home in what seems to be the final days of his life, **Hannah Guntert's** grandmother (Wanda Thomason) – has been diagnosed with breast cancer, **Mitch and Peggy Rush's** granddaughter (a family from East Independence church) – is suffering from a severe head injury. She is 6 years old. She was in a car accident., **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – has been put on a liver transplant list, **Hannah Guntert's** cousin (Grant Funderburk) – is in the process of receiving a nerve stimulator implanted in his colon. He is 7 years old, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Matt Bomstein) – has COVID and is in the hospital with complications, **Jurhee Bench** – is well and is able to leave her room more now, **Buddy and Sharon Self's** daughter (Lisa Self) – has a blood clot and fluid in her lungs. She is slowly regaining her strength, **Shirley Simmons** – had open heart surgery. She continues to make improvements everyday but is still recovering, **Kelly Seuferling** – **UPDATE:** she had surgery again this week. Surgery went well. She is still recovering. She will start chemotherapy in approximately four weeks, **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) – is still taking chemo pills, **Andy Hester, Joel Morehead, Bruce Keeton, Will Kreisel, Lena Bramlett, Dave Nash**



Payton Brady is turning 10!!!  
Jackson Brady is turning 7!!!

## Daylight Savings:

Daylight savings ends this Sunday. Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday, October 31.

## Announcements:

Michael Kennedy is getting married!!! Him and his beautiful bride, Helen Isaac, will be wed on June 10, 2021.

Darin and Kimberly Kennedy are celebrating 17 years with Blue River on November 5th!!!!

## Service Opportunities:

### Harvesters

Harvesters serves 26 counties in the KC area. This holiday season they are asking for food donations to pack holiday food boxes. Here are the items needed:

pkg. stuffing mix; 15 oz. cans of sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, and corn; packages of gravy mix, corn bread mix, instant potatoes, and 10 oz. cans of mushroom soup. A collection tub will be in the lobby of the church.

### 2020 Youth Christmas Project

This year we will be adopting 10 underprivileged kids and buying them Christmas Presents.

If you are interested in donating money to buy presents for these kids add "Youth Christmas Project" to the note section of your offering. **You can also give through Breeze. There is a fund set up in Breeze called "Teen Christmas Project".**

### New Wednesday Night Classes:

Starting November 4 at 7:00PM, we will begin new Bible Classes on Wednesday nights.

0-4 years - A staffed nursery will be available.

K-6th grade - Trek 812 will be held downstairs

Jr and Sr High – led by Shane

Adults - Brian Wahlen will lead a class about eschatology (the science of last things) in the auditorium.

**THIS CLASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED.**

### Volunteers Needed:

We will need volunteers for the Nursery and Trek 812. If you would be willing to help, please let me know.

### Small Group at the Building:

The 4PM small group at the building will resume this Sunday, November 1.

Volunteers serving food for poor people outdoors - Olga Yastremka © 123rf.com  
children read a bible on the bed - Volodimir Kalina © 123rf.com  
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