

The Vistoso Voice

Friday, March 5, 2021

Weekly

AN ALERT FROM PASTOR KEVIN

Last week the U. S. House of Representatives passed a piece of Legislation called The Equality Act. If passed by the Senate and signed into Law, this act will have far-reaching consequences



across many areas of our society. As you know, I very much try to separate our focus as a local church from the political drama that is always playing in the background. However, in this particular case, the potential impact of this legislation on Christian organizations, seminaries, and possibly even the church itself could be extraordinary. So I would like to encourage you to do two things.

Educate Yourself

Educate yourself on this so-called Equality Act. I have made available copies of a brochure on the Act by the Heritage Foundation and an email from Franklin Graham. (Here is an email link: http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2019/2019_01_0003_SOGIOne-Pager_DIGITAL-cover.pdf)

The Heritage Foundation is a politically conservative organization, and, of course, Franklin Graham is a well-known leader in the evangelical community.



I encourage you to do your own due diligence. Ultimately, the test of this, and any piece of legislation, is its alignment with the Word of God.

If Led by the Lord, Act

If you feel led to respond after educating yourself about this pending piece of legislation, you can contact your Senators by phone, email, or mail to express to them how you would like them to represent you on the matter of the Equality Act (full title: to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes).

At the moment, it is unclear when the Senate will take up this legislation, but it will likely be soon. Thus, if you feel led to act, time is of the essence.

HEBREWS 3 AVAILABLE

The third book in the Hebrews series is now available on the visitor's table in the church foyer or in the racks in the fellowship hall. The book, entitled *Entering the Rest of Faith*, explains the blessing of God's provision of His rest and how to enter into that rest daily as we live the Christian Life.

Take an extra copy of the book to give to a family member or friend who needs this truth.



Elsie Calvin, coordinator of the recent clothing drive, and three Tucson rehab facilities extend a big thank you to everyone who donated. Each facility received a large collection of much-needed clothing and a shopping bag full of personal items.

Elsie noted that she would like to repeat the collection in the fall.

nextweek

Next week we will continue our four-day Bible study streaming schedule at 10:00 (March 9-12):

- **Tuesday**, Revelation 1-3
- **Wednesday and Thursday**, Midweek Bible Hour
- **Friday**, The Christian Life—Advancing to Maturity

Vistoso Community Church

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From the Pastor's Desk

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:24

RETURNING TO A FULLER SCHEDULE IN MARCH

Our church schedule is a constantly evolving thing! It's okay with me, as I am so thankful for the Lord's continued preservation of our fellowship, and for our ongoing ability to worship in spirit and in truth—both in person and via streaming. Nonetheless, as we move into the month of March I thought you might appreciate a preview of how I hope things evolve in the coming month.

Two Services

As you have already heard, we will be returning to two services starting this Sunday, March 7th—one at 9:00 and the second at 11:00 am. We are doing this because the attendance on Sunday mornings has continued to climb, and we want to do what we can to ensure that we maintain social distancing and avoid any feeling of being overcrowded. With the improvement of the COVID statistics in Arizona, as well as the fact that many have received at least one vaccination, I think we can reasonably take this approach while continuing to take safety precautions such as wearing a mask while arriving and departing and no fellowship between services. Two services also allows more people to worship in the sanctuary.

Bible Studies.

We will continue our Tuesday through Friday streaming schedule for the first two weeks, through Friday, March 12. The schedule for these Bible Studies, all of which are at 10:00 am, is on Page 1 of this newsletter.

Beginning the week of Monday, March 15th, there will be changes to our weekly schedule:

- **Revelation.** The Tuesday morning study in Revelation Chapters 1-3 will continue until its completion in early April.
- **Midweek Bible Hour.** We will continue our Midweek Bible Hour each Wednesday at 10:00 am, but will cease the Thursday session.



Bruce Scott

- **Friday Studies.** Friday will remain a day for special Bible series. The first special study will stream on Friday, March 19 and March 26 when we will be blessed to hear from Bruce Scott, Director of Program Ministries for the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministries. Many will remember Patrick Neff and his wife Ruth as they represented Friends of Israel Ministries to us many times. Patrick has retired, and Bruce has taken on his role. I trust we will be able to establish a new and long-term relationship with Bruce.

- **Focus on Israel.** Bruce Scott will be speaking on Israel's past, present, and future during his two Friday Studies and he will also speak to our congregation on Sunday, March 21, as well. I very much look forward to introducing Bruce to our fellowship.
- **HeartCall** will be back on the schedule starting March 25, and then continuing from there with their usual meeting times on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.
- **Men's Friday Bible Study.** Beginning Friday, March 19, we will resume our Men's Friday morning Bible study which will continue every Friday at 7:30 am thereafter.

That covers the schedule changes for March, but look for a Good Friday service at 10:00 am on April 2, as we look forward to the celebration of our Lord's resurrection on Easter morning, Sunday April 4th at 9:00 and 11:00 am.

As we anticipate the month ahead, keep your eyes upon Jesus, the Captain of our faith, and look for opportunities to share the good-news of the Gospel with those in need—they are everywhere!

In His Grace,

Kevin

