

The Vistoso Voice

Weekly

Friday, October 2, 2020

TWO APPROACHES FOR SHOEBOXES THIS YEAR



For several years VCC has been part of the Samaritan's Purse *Operation Christmas Child*. We have filled hundreds of shoeboxes for needy children all around the world—providing school supplies and toys plus an avenue to draw them in to hear the Gospel. We are blessed by the children who are now Christians because of this outreach.

This year we will again participate in the shoebox ministry. But, in addition, to picking up boxes in the church foyer and filling them yourselves beginning November 1, this year there is an online option. For the cost of \$25, you can fill a box with items purchased in the country of destination. The link to fill a box is <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/> or contact Sharon Stark at: sharon.stark43@gmail.com.

REJOINING THE GROUP

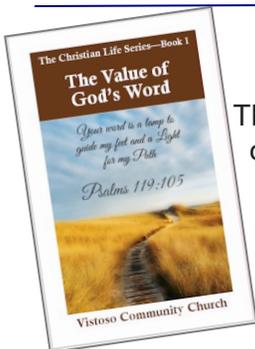
From the beginning of our re-opening, we have stressed that, if you travel or have exposure to large groups outside of your normal daily interactions, you should self-quarantine for a few weeks, just to ensure you do not inadvertently bring a COVID-19 infection into our gatherings. But how about if you actually come down with an infection—what then? Let's consider the following practice for our fellowship:

- If you (or anyone in your household) test positive, be sure to self-quarantine for two weeks.
- And, if infected test negative for the infection before returning to group gatherings at VCC.

If you have a reasonably mild case and are feeling fully recovered, you may wonder why the need for a negative test. Those studying this infection have learned that a somewhat weakened immune system—common as we age—may be enough to get you through the virus but leave you still infected. If you are feeling better, but still infected, you may very well be shedding the virus. In short, you will protect both those at VCC, and other groups with which you gather, if you ensure that you have a negative test before you gather.

The good news is that, while recovering and isolating, you can continue to join us via streaming multiple times a week in order to stay in the Word. I am thankful for the Lord's watchcare over our fellowship. Join me in praying regularly for the Lord's protection, while we seek to grow and share what we have in Christ.

FIRST CHRISTIAN LIFE BOOK OUT



The first in the series of what is planned to be ten books on the basics of the Christian Life is now available both in print and on our website. Entitled *The Value of God's Word*, the book explains exactly why we, as Christians, trust the Bible as God's Holy Word for all matters of faith and practice.

thisweek

Sunday, Oct. 4, 9:30 am:

Worship with communion in church and streaming. Also our first fellowship following the service.

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10:00 am:

Men's and Women's Bible Study in church and streaming.

Wednesday, 10:00 am:

Midweek Bible Hour. Pastor Peter teaches a streaming New Testament study.

Friday, 7:30 am: Men's Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

10:00 am: Pastor Kevin's streaming Bible study series: *The Christian Life—Starting with the Basics*.

nextweek

Sunday, Oct. 11, 9:30 am:

Worship in church and streaming. Limited fellowship following the service.

Tuesday, 10:00 am Men's and Women's Bible Study in church and streaming.

Wednesday, 10:00 am:

Midweek Bible Hour, Pastor Peter teaches New Testament streaming lessons.

Friday, 7:30 am: Men's Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

10:00 am: Pastor Kevin's streaming Bible study series: *The Christian Life—Starting with the Basics*.



VCC'S NEW FELLOWSHIP EXPERIMENT

We all miss our time of fellowship following Sunday services. Ideally, it is a time of give and take around the things of the Lord and a chance to get to know other believers and to welcome those visiting. And, of course, let's not forget the coffee and goodies. And I personally have found the chance to conclude our fellowship answering questions on the message to be a great blessing.

This Sunday, October 4, following the service we will make our first effort at a limited time of fellowship. It is not going to be anything like what we were used to, but we want to give it a try within the constraints of current circumstances.

Why Are We Doing It?

Perhaps you are wondering, "Why?" We are attempting this experiment for two reasons:

- First, there are those coming on Sunday who really miss the chance to interact with other Christians. They need the encouragement.

- Second, the Lord is continuing to send us visitors. If they would like to spend a few minutes following the service getting to know us a bit better, we would like to provide a setting in which they can do so.

What Will It Look Like?

Then there is the question of, "What's it going to look like?" First, it is going to be limited as we are committed to maintaining social distancing. You can expect to find tables and chairs at the west end of the fellowship hall and on the west patio able to handle 20-30 people. Coffee, hot water for tea, and cold water will be available at both locations. These items will already be dispensed, simply take a cup or bottle. Cream and sugar will be available at the tables. For this first attempt to add fellowship into our program, there will be no treats—only the beverages mentioned.

Coffee & Conversation



What Should We Do?

One thing to watch if you decide to join us for this first fellowship experiment: Please maintain distancing while picking up your beverages at the buffet table in the fellowship hall or from the coffee cart on the patio and when you are seated for conversation. I know it is a great temptation to gather close to Christian brothers and sisters, but whether we can gather safely is part of the challenge of this experiment. I trust we can start this in such a way that it will be a blessing and encouragement in the Lord, while at the same time respectful of the concerns of our day.



In His Grace, Kevin

DON'T FORGET

The Men's and Women's study of John 17 begins Tuesday, October 6, at 10:00. The men's discussion is in the our Fellowship Hall. The women's live and streaming discussion will be in the sanctuary.

COMMUNION AND VIRTUAL CHOIR THIS SUNDAY

Sunday's service will open with the VCC virtual choir singing *Amazing Grace* as the call to worship. After the sermon, the congregation streaming and in church will celebrate communion.



Vistoso Community Church

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 10 am-2 pm;
 Friday: 8 am-12 noon

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Emergency: 520-403-4088