

Madison Heights Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
149 Main Street  
Madison Heights, VA 24572



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## MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 5

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### Everything Changes

On Sunday morning March 29, I was sweating bullets. The pandemic had gripped us, the church was forced to cancel all public gatherings, and a week earlier we had missed our first ever Sunday morning worship service for a reason other than bad weather. I was bound and determined to embrace new technology and have a sermon available via Facebook live. As it got closer to 11:00 and looked like everything was going to work I began to get the word out. However, when I went into the sanctuary my phone would not log in. I tested it earlier but not in the sanctuary. That's OK; I had my tablet with me just in case I needed a plan B. Well, I cut the tablet on and it would not pick up the Wi-Fi signal. So plan C is whatever you can think of to do when both plan A and plan B fail. It turns out I was able to do a message from my office on the tablet. The next Sunday I was better prepared. I had my laptop computer in the sanctuary and I tested it and was ready to go. However, it was plugged into a socket that I did not realize was not cut on at the circuit breaker. Less than 2 minutes into the broadcast my laptop ran out of battery power and shut down. Plan B was Brenda pulling out her cell phone and recording the sermon. Thankfully you were not able to see my non-human like facial expressions that I made when I was panicking.

God is helping us through this. During difficult times we can find comfort in the word of God. There are multiple lessons of hope in the Bible. The Bible is a thematic book about God's relationship with humanity, God actively loving and caring for humans, and God keeping God's promise, and God providing hope for the people. Just pick up the Bible and read for yourself and you will discover multiple lessons of hope for the people during difficult times. We cut on the TV and all the news is bad. We have troubling times now and troubling times ahead. But there is a common lesson in the Bible - several repetitive lessons - where upon times of trouble end up bringing people to appreciate God all the more. We learn in the Bible that the troubles that people face are refining elements that bring people back to God. We are by nature a social people. We find comfort in community where we can hug, laugh, and share fellowship with one another. We love each other and we love to see the faces and the smiles, and we love the human interaction.

We would love to see a sanctuary full of people but we have to settle for something else when everything changes. If we look we can see how God is helping us through this. When we get on Facebook live we can see the other people that are on there. We can chat, say hi to each other, and wave. It is really nice to see those that are distant on line with us. Our loved ones that are out of state can connect together with us. Our family and friends can join with us. If anyone misses the live broadcast they can see the re-broadcast and set up watch parties. After the live service is broadcast the video is posted on the web site <http://www.madisonheightschristian.com/> click on the "sermons" tab then click video.

We are humans, and we all experience the same emotions in difficult times. We have all had our daily lives disrupted. We can place our fears into the hands of one who comforts us in despair. Jesus understands the human condition and came to the earth to willingly endure the injustice of the cross. When we appeal to Jesus, we appeal to the suffering Savior who is no stranger to our fears, pain, and uncertainties.

*George*