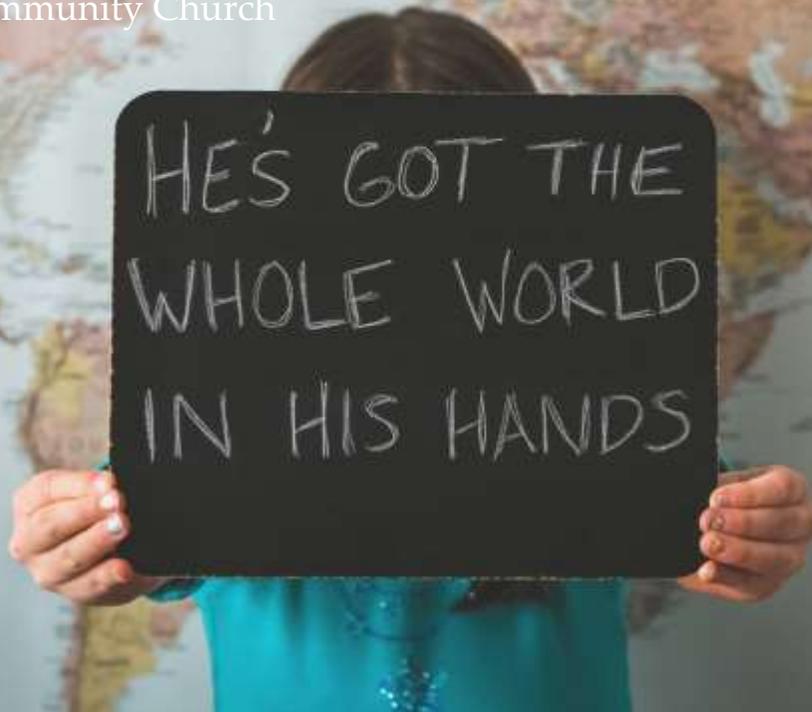


MAY 2020

the

# Pulse

of Centerpoint Community Church



## A message from Pastor Jim:

I hope and pray you are well! There are so many passages of scripture that have spoken to me and that have encouraged me in this unique time we are in. But one that really captures my feelings for you all as a pastor is Paul's opening words to the Philippians. I reread them again just before I began writing this note for the Pulse, and I echo Paul's sentiments. I really feel what he felt when he wrote these words: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...It is right for me to feel this way about you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains *or sheltering in place*...". I miss you all and am anxious to be with you again in worship and in ministry!

But I know that God is at work in you and through you in these difficult and trying times. And I equally know and affirm that much of His work is redeeming this time for good. This Pulse is dedicated to sharing some of your stories of how God has done just that. These are the first of what I hope will be a growing number of testimonies of how God has worked in these past months in your life and the lives of your loved ones. I know these testimonies will encourage you, and I would urge you to share them with others who may be struggling to know that God is good – all the time!

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
Pastor Jim

# MISSIONS



**A message from Pastor Bryan:** Centerpoint has various mission partnerships, both local and global, who we regularly partner with by going to and serving alongside, in prayer, and monthly giving. While we can't partner during this time by going and serving, Centerpoint is still regularly giving to these ministries and we can still pray! Below is an update of each of our local and global mission partners, to help direct your prayer time.

**Hope Alive!** Uganda is under a daily curfew (7:00pm-6:30am), gatherings of no more than five are permitted, and all transportation except one-person motorcycles is shut down. Hope Alive! is still able to provide essential supplies to Hope Alive! families, mentors are still checking in with their students, and Hope Alive! staff and mentors are still being fully paid.

**YUGO:** All mission teams scheduled to stay at YUGO facilities in Ensenada, Mexico have ceased, until further notice. Pray for YUGO as they evaluate where their funding will come from next year. They are dependent on visiting teams to pay for the national labor and subsidize the house-build cost.

**Barry and Ronah Francolino:** Missionaries to the Crimean Tatars of Romania, they are sheltering in place along with their neighbors.

**Paul Schmidt:** A Bible translation consultant with Wycliffe Bible Translators, Paul and his family are sheltering in place in Texas. His consultation visits to India, to help them finish their Bible translation work, have been canceled until further notice.

**Al and Rosa Castro:** Al and Rosa are sheltering in place with family in California. Their network of pastor training cohorts in Ensenada has paused during the coronavirus pandemic.

**Samaritan's Purse:** They have deployed two field hospitals: one to New York City and another to Milan, Italy.

**Gathering Inn:** They have established two permanent residences for the homeless in Roseville during the coronavirus pandemic. Churches still partner by providing meals for the homeless. Centerpoint is providing meals May 10 and May 31.

**Crestmont Elementary School:** Centerpoint's various forms of partnership with Crestmont ended with the shelter in place. Pray for the students and teachers as they teach and learn in a completely new environment.

**San Francisco City Impact:** Many of their programs ceased with the coronavirus outbreak. They are still feeding an average of 400 people daily, and the city of San Francisco has recently allowed them back into Single Resident Occupancy apartment buildings to allow them to care for the shut-ins and disabled.

**Gleanings for the Hungry:** They stopped hosting teams through the soup-mixing season. They are currently evaluating what their summer will look like. They are dependent on teams to help sort and dry the stone fruit that is donated during the summer months.

**Sierra Pregnancy and Health:** As a medical facility, SPH is able to stay open to provide their pregnancy resources to the community. They are taking extra precautions before and during appointments.

**Campus Life at Eich Middle School:** Campus Life programs have moved to Zoom. Many of the opportunities for engagement with Eich students ceased when in-person classes stopped. Pray for these Campus Life students and especially those who have difficult home lives.

**Folsom Prison Ministry:** Our volunteers who teach weekly at Folsom Prison haven't been able to visit the prison since mid-March. There are zero infected inmates at Folsom State Prison and only four Covid-positive staff members. The Community Resources Manager said that many of the inmate participants from the classes Centerpoint volunteers teach are finding each other, talking, and encouraging one another, a testament to the impact of the ministry!

**Acres of Hope:** A ministry committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness for women and children, they have been a closed campus since the shelter in place order. They are still able to care for and house their residents, but have incurred a 40% loss of income with the closure of their thrift store.



# Journey and Revolution ZOOM Meetings Keep Students Connected!



**Michael Chase, Director of Middle School Ministries**

<b>JOURNEY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
	Journey DEEPER Guys 3-4 pm 546-475-389	Journey DEEPER Girls 7-8 pm 506-121-296		Journey Club Guys meeting 7-8:30 pm 927-633-453
	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	
	Journey Club Girls meeting 7-8:30 pm 499-506-955			

**Jonathan Shea, Director of High School Ministries**

<b>REVOLUTION</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
	romANS Guys Study meeting 6-7 pm 597-198-590		GALatians Girls Study meeting 7-8 pm 159-702-702	
	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	
	Revolution Online 7-8 pm 505-380-690			



**A message from John Sprague, Men’s Ministry Director:**

**Sierra Gardens Prayer Walk** Marlena and I experience and recognize God’s love and blessings in our lives wherever we are, including this time of Coronavirus. Beginning in February we became part of a team of people from Centerpoint and friends who walk through Centerpoint’s Sierra Gardens neighborhood. As we walk and pray for neighbors, businesses, workers, visitors, and the homeless, God’s abundant grace, mercy, and love become apparent through the people He brings us into contact with. Most of our neighbors know our church from our outreach ministries such as Food Baskets, Fall Festival, HIGH FIVE, and Campus Life. As we walk, pray, and talk with neighbors we see our Lord working on hearts with His compassion, grace, and forgiveness. Recently as we walked and prayed for one of the apartment communities in Centerpoint’s neighborhood the residents prayed for us and with us, offering us water as it was a warm day. On another day God gave us the opportunity to pray for and encourage a neighbor who is struggling with staying at home, recent deaths of family members, and feeling very alone. Through our interaction the person’s attitude brightened, recognizing and thanking God for His blessings. It is a wonder and a privilege that He wants us to be messengers of Jesus Christ, sharing with our family, friends and neighbors the love, forgiveness, and peace of Jesus. Our Prayer Walk is part of His plan and through it God’s work on His kingdom becomes clearer to us and that is a special blessing!

**John & Marlena Sprague**

**SEWING MASKS** I had not sewn since high school in 1972. I am involved in the Journey Sewing Ministry at Centerpoint but my role isn’t to sew, it is to talk with students, cut out patterns, make knitted accessories, etc. I was assisting Susan Chambliss in making masks for the medical community by ironing the ties for the masks. She called me up one day and said “I need you to sew masks.” I told her I do not sew but she gave me 15 minutes of instruction and now, along with my friend Bev Ratzlaff, I have sewn masks not only for the health care community but for the Veterans Affairs, friends, and neighbors. On our weekly prayer walk around the Centerpoint neighborhood we give out these masks to people who need them.

God showed me a need during the COVID-19 period and, with prayers and my friends, I now sew and, in fact, enjoy it! When Journey’s Sewing Ministry begins again, I will be able to instruct beginning sewers. If you need a mask, I am happy to give you as many as needed for you and your family.

—Marlena Sprague



Joan Logue with grandson Jamie

This is a small way God is working.... As I live alone, it can be lonely and before this I hardly heard from my kids as they were so busy working and with school. So lately, my grandson, 11, asked me to sign up for an app called "House Party." He also asked his aunt, my daughter. So everyday now the three of us play a trivia game on our devices and since he has a computer for school work, it is really easy. Now I see and talk with my daughter and grandson nearly every day which has never happened before! God has His ways of bringing families together while we stay apart! —Joan Logue



The Keeler Family

We wanted to share with you our experience through this pandemic. My husband was laid off recently due to the virus. During this time it has been a huge blessing as he was at high risk for getting the virus with the kind of work he does. Now he has been able to spend a lot of time at home with our family. Our whole family has become much closer to God. We are reading about Him everyday and praying. I have learned how lucky we are to all be healthy and have love for one another. We all miss Centerpoint a lot and can't wait to go back for services. We will continue to pray for everyone that has become sick to recover and for people unemployed to find employment soon. We all look forward to what God has planned for us and really would like to get baptized as soon as things turn around for the better. Thank you and God bless! —The Keeler Family



Scott & Marty Holiman

**Lockdown in Folsom** We live in a circle where 100 new homes were built in Folsom. As each home was built, we learned the first name of each resident. When that became too difficult we learned all the names of their dogs. We wave and say "good evening, Rover" as we walk in the neighborhood. Just the other day, I saw a neighbor unloading a large package containing many rolls of toilet paper. I said "WOW, can you spare a square?" Not long after Jackie, who heard my comment, rang the doorbell and left quickly. She had left four rolls of toilet paper on the porch. Our neighbor, John, saw me walking Sky, our black English Labrador. His wife, Diana, was walking Studley, their big black poodle. John asked: "Is there anything I can pick up at the store for you? I am going over there now." One night, something got into our air conditioner around 2:00am and it was making a lot of noise. We heard our doorbell

ringing and the man next door asked if there was anything he could do to help. We turned off the air conditioner and had a plumber come over the next day to fix it. We have tuned in to the Centerpoint services each week and we sing along with the worship group, pray, and listen to the sermons. We are truly blessed by the services, but we miss meeting with you in person. —Marty Holiman



**The Word "Quarantine"** The Latin root of the word "quarantine" is "forty". So what does the Bible say about 40? The flood lasted 40 days. Moses led the Israelites in the desert for 40 years. Moses stayed on Mt. Sinai for 40 days to receive the 10 Commandments. Jesus fasted for 40 days. Lent is 40 days.

40 days for a woman to rest after giving birth. A group of theologians thinks the number 40 represents "change". It is the time of preparing a person, or people, to make a fundamental change. During this "quarantine" rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air is become cleaner because of less pollution, healing is happening. The Earth is at rest for the first time in many years and hearts are transforming.

Remember we are in the year 2020, and  $20 + 20 = 40$ . Also 2020 is the year of the United States Census. Jesus Christ was born during a census. Lastly, 2020 is perfect vision. May these days of "quarantine" bring spiritual liberation to our souls, our nation, and our world. The best is yet to come. —Steve Rutkowski



**Q: Is Centerpoint's mail being delivered?**

A. The mail is being picked up by a staff member and processed regularly.

**Q: Is it ok to mail my check to the church?**

A. Yes, since the mail is being picked up regularly, our Business Administrator, Kelly Harder, is able to process and deposit your check.

**Q: Is anyone checking on the church buildings?**

A. Yes, there is a regular schedule for the custodians and our Facilities Director, Jadz Miller, to inspect the buildings and perform/arrange for any maintenance needed.

**Q: When will we be able to return to regular meetings and worship at Centerpoint?**

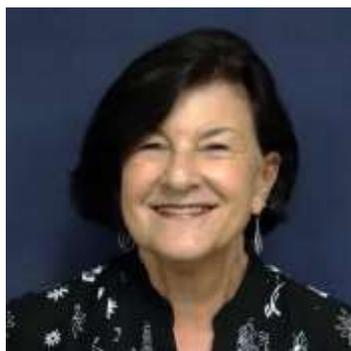
A. We are following the guidelines of our governor and state leadership. It is likely that the time to gather at church will be a gradual process. The staff is beginning to work on plans for when this happens.

**Q: Is the Preschool continuing to hold classes?**

A. The Centerpoint Preschool canceled classes as soon as Roseville City Schools canceled their classroom meetings.

**Q: Will upcoming major church events still take place?**

A. Upcoming events are being reviewed weekly by the staff (via Zoom) as to whether to have, postpone or cancel an event. Please watch for information on the web or church App regarding upcoming events, and remember that we will be following California guidelines.



**Karen Fales**

I tend to get caught up in my "circumstances" whether they be trials with family/grandchildren, life, finances, etc. But what God has shown me is how quickly life changes. NOTHING stays the same. One day we are out and about and the next day, we have to stay in place. He has shown me each and every day we are in this crisis that He is the same Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. Praise God! I have had a chance and the time to look at the attributes of God more closely and, as Philippians 4:11 tells me, "to be content whatever the circumstances" and to trust in Him and He is in control.

God gave me an illustration back at the end of March in another way. We have a couple of pictures/plaques in our home that have Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God".

I pass this many times every day to where, sadly, it becomes commonplace, but God decided to give me an illustration. I was sitting quietly reading and I heard a thump at the

window that I recognized as the sound of a bird hitting the window. I got up to find a little sparrow lying on the ground, very stunned. He rolled over and tried to fly but could not, so he just stayed there in a very still position for a long time (I thought he was dying). I tried to encourage him through the window to get the strength to hang on and make it. Later, when I looked out, *he was gone*. The next day I reflected on this and thought, am I like the sparrow with God? The sparrow could not hear me or understand what I was saying. Am I like that sparrow and not understanding or even listening to what God is saying to me? How God encourages me, tells me things will be better. Do I even take the time to "be still" and know that God is speaking to me? I don't want to have to "hit a window" to "be still and know that He is God." Knowing Him is knowing His character in all my circumstances and just how much He loves us all. I can't wait until we are all together again.

—Karen Fales



Sandie Hart

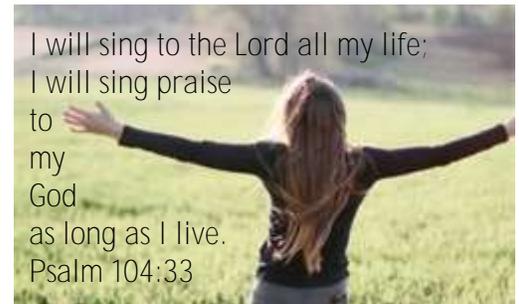
**As I sheltered-in-place this Easter Sunday**, it was a very special intimate Easter with the Lord. I watched Franklin Graham give his sermon in Central Park, the Cardinal at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Pope in Rome, visited Jerusalem and our soldiers in Japan through a special program called *Across America Keeping the Faith*. Of course, I enjoyed Centerpoint's online Good Friday and Easter services. As a quilter, I have lots of fabric and in the afternoon I listened to Christian music as I continued to make face masks for those God leads me to give them to. The world may be shut down, but God is not! Jesus is alive and we are all going to get through this difficult time as we share his love with others... from a distance. —Sandie Hart

**A message from Julie Battenfield, Worship Arts Director:**



As we continue to stay at home for the foreseeable future, worship can be a challenge. I admit that I'm enjoying "going to church" any time I choose during the day, in my comfy clothes, and in my own home; but, I miss singing together, laughing at the pastor's jokes together, and seeing everyone on the courtyard. (For a recent family birthday, we were all on Zoom together and tried to sing "Happy Birthday" but there is enough of a delay on video conference, that it was a complete mess!) So until we can safely be together on campus again, here are a few ideas to help you worship everyday at home:

- If you're able, go for a walk and enjoy being outside. If I'm by myself, I like to listen to praise music while appreciating nature. Some of my favorites are the "This is Bethel" playlist on Spotify, and the "No Other Name" album from Hillsong.
- Watch the daily devotionals from our pastors each morning to start your day.
- Pray for the friends and family you are missing during this time apart. Check in on your people and make sure they're okay, or send them a link to a song that inspires you. Send an encouraging text letting someone know you're thinking about them and praying for them.
- I have a hard time remembering to do this, but when I do, it's amazing: have a *constant* conversation with God all day long. Include Him in whatever you're doing so that everything becomes an act of worship. For me, that might be while I'm working in the yard, cooking a meal, or reading a book.
- Find a quiet spot in your home or backyard, calm your heart, and be still. "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10
- Look around you and think about how you can make the day better for those you live with or near. How can you bless someone?
- Keep singing. I know it doesn't feel the same to sing our favorite praise songs and hymns with just a couple of us in our living room, but keep singing. Sing about what God has done, about who He is, and sing for joy. Psalm 104:33 says "I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."



Carla Butler

I enjoy and am encouraged by the daily devotions. They often are exactly what I need to hear. My family has drawn closer in this time and it is blessing much needed. I love the Sunday morning worship and look forward to coming home to the Lord's house. —Carla Butler

Access CHURCH ONLINE through Centerpoint's website and app! You'll find our weekly church service with worship music and sermon, Daily Devotions by our pastors (Monday-Saturday), Video Lessons for your kids (2 years — 6th grade), Spiritual Conversations for our Middle School/High School Students, as well as opportunities to submit prayer requests and give financially.



**It has been many weeks since life came to an abrupt halt..."Stay Home...Save Lives"** began. This season has been overwhelming and life-changing. I didn't know if I would ever be able to get back out into the fields of green with all the wildflowers coming up in nature and seeing God's timing in all this. God knew I needed a time of isolation, a time to get through a wilderness, but He also knew when it was time to bring me back into His glorious creation we call "nature." As I walked (with a mask on) among all the new spring growth I began to hear Him speak about something much deeper. I have never studied botany, but God put it on my heart to learn about His miracle of re-birth we call spring. No matter what we see in nature, be it a blade of grass, a bloom of a spring daffodil, the new fresh green color of a tree leafing out...each new sign of life is totally dependent on a common botanical structure we call a ROOT.



**Pam and Vern Bowen**

I think what it means to us is that our re-birth, our new lives, our growth in the Lord is totally dependent on the health of our **root** of faith. How deep does it go? How healthy is it? How are we feeding it? How well are we anchored? It is God's timing that signals when a seed will put out its root. Whether through rain, the right temperature, or a certain amount of sunshine, God orchestrates the entire miracle of Spring growth. Paul was so wise when he wrote in Colossians 2:6-7: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

It is our spring now...God has nudged us into our new life...a life aware of COVID-19, but...

...we have rooted our faith.

...we study God's word and nurture our roots.

...we stay in fellowship with believers through new ways, and strengthen our roots.

...storms may come but we stay rooted deeply and weather the storms.

...it is time for our roots to signal the next step...to blossom, to fruit, to show the beauty of the Lord in everything we do, and trust God's wisdom in it all.

**Life is hard.** We may have that little mustard seed of faith, we sense our faith putting down its root into our lives, but when God nudges us to sprout new growth, we sometimes get stuck in our situation. I have to share I lost hope through some of these tough days. But, like a new shoot trying to break free of the earth searching out the sunshine I persevered. If the earth is too hard, too tough, too stomped on, the little tender shoot can't seem to break free. Am I like that sometimes? Or has our root of faith made us strong, resilient, and tough enough to break through the situation?

Let's see... some botanical thoughts. **Fertilizer**...yep, we need it to grow. God's word is our growth hormone so to speak. **Water**...we need it to soften the garden soil of our lives and nurture us. God is our living water. **Sunshine**...we need the warmth. God is our Sonshine... are we going to let Him shine?

Our root of faith is what holds us tight to the Lord no matter what life situations we go through—like a virus that we have never faced before. This Spring, let's focus on our re-birth and show the world the beauty of God's creation in us. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" I can't wait to see what God will bring about when these troubled times come to an end. — Pam Bowen





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For up to date Centerpoint happenings, as well as sermon video/audio, visit our Facebook page

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### **An Update on Small Groups from Pastor Nancy:**

Even though our small groups have not been able to gather together during this time of sheltering in place, our groups are caring for each other in amazing ways. Some groups are checking in with each other through email, phone calls and ongoing text threads. One small group has a designated person who keeps everyone updated with their group's prayer requests. Another group's leader has challenged her members to keep a daily journal of what God is teaching them, and they look forward to sharing these once

they can gather together. Some of our groups are doing errands for members who have compromised health. One member is driving another member to daily chemo treatments.

Many of our small groups are meeting – at least occasionally – over Zoom, and have discovered that even those members who do not have computers can join with a phone call. Many groups are skipping their usual studies to focus on catching up with each other and praying together. Some groups are continuing their usual studies virtually, discussing the sermons or their chosen curriculum. One group actually decided to increase their meetings from twice a month to weekly since their schedules now permit that! Our small groups are also continuing to serve together (while maintaining social distance)! One group has shared mask patterns and fabric with each other to sew masks for those who need them. Early during this time of sheltering in place, one small group dropped off a meal in the Centerpoint parking lot for The Gathering Inn when they stayed on our campus. This Sunday, now that The Gathering Inn has two semi-permanent sleeping locations in Roseville, three other small groups and a Mariner's ship are banding together to drop off food from a local restaurant for them. Our small groups are demonstrating what it means to be the body of Christ together. When one rejoices, all rejoice. When one suffers, all suffer. Our small groups are continuing to do life together even when they cannot gather together.

