

Kids, Comforters, and Covid-19

(Gentle Road Church of Christ Newsletter)

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Covid-19 has caused a lot of changes in everyone's lives. Most churches have had to figure out how to adapt to worshipping online and connecting with members over the phone. At Gentle Road, we too have had to make these changes to our outreach and figure out how to engage people. One challenge that has come along with this is with the technology. For some of our members, technology is not accessible or easy to navigate. Thankfully, we have stayed in touch with these individuals through phone calls. Other than this, we have been able to rework our regular outreach programs to fit our current situation!



On Mondays, when we used to have kids club, we pack and deliver snacks, crafts and a Bible story to each child's front door. This ministry has really become possible through our amazing volunteers who help deliver, and some who connected us to a donated bread program through COBS bread. These loaves of bread are also delivered to the families for free on Monday afternoons. The families truly seem to love this and the kids await our arrival every week, recognizing us by the brown bags left on their door steps. Some parents have even volunteered to help, as well! (See pictures above, and below, for some of the special families in this outreach.)



On Wednesday nights, we continue our youth group meetings through Zoom. We split up into groups in order to have discussion and go through Discovery Bible Studies. Though we have endured an unfortunate drop in attendance to online youth group, this seems to be a blessing in some ways, as well. With less kids, we are able to have longer, deeper conversations and create better connections with our youth. We believe before this pandemic, we were reaching wider by having more youth attend the group. Now, we are reaching deeper and more intentionally making disciples of Jesus and mentoring the kids in their personal walks of faith. We have also been able to have Zoom movie nights and game nights with our youth and deliver snacks to their homes! In a sense, this circumstance has allowed God to lead Gentle Road down new paths!

Thursday night Bible study and Sunday worship have also transitioned to online. Though we have had smaller groups sometimes on these days, too, we have been able to include friends from all over the world! We have had an old friend who moved to Morocco, family and past interns from the U.S., and two friends from different places in Northern Saskatchewan join our Zoom church meetings! This has been a huge blessing to us and all of the members.

We are still trying as much as possible to meet the needs of our community. This has been difficult to plan at times with social distancing as an important precaution, but we recognize that many people still need help at this time. We have fortunately still been able to take a few people to buy groceries and were able to help a woman and her grandson move last week. We pray that

all of you are keeping well and are thankful for all of your support. We pray that God keeps you safe and healthy during this time, and look forward to when we can meet again in the love of Christ.

Finally, we end with a very “comforting” story. A friend of Gentle Road from Kenosee Lake has donated 25 quilts so far this year. Many of them are smaller, lap size quilts. (See picture below, with five quilts in the photo.) They are beautiful, and so far we have given many of them to children or adults who have lost loved ones. Some of these deaths have been quite tragic, and we have given the quilts as reminders of God’s love - so that when they are sad they can find comfort in the warmth of these quilts and God’s protection. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones.



“3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.” 2 Cor. 1:3-4.

Written by Carissa Vance