



**Summit
Presbyterian
Church**
181 Caldwell Drive
Butler, PA 16002

The Summit Herald
May 2020

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Important May Dates to Remember!!



Sunday, May 10



Monday, May 25



Many times I have said that we need to focus on what we have and not on what we do not have. We need to count our blessings every single day because when we do that, we usually discover that they far outweigh the struggles. Instead of pouring our energy into the negative, it is so much more productive to pour our energy into that which is positive. Philippians 4, verses 4 through 9 says it so well:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Today I saw an article in which Drew Barrymore said that she has cried every day all day long since having to homeschool her kids. She goes on in her comments to say how hard "it is to be the teacher, the parent, the disciplinarian, the caretaker." She also makes a point to say that she has a newfound appreciation for teachers, who do this every single day.

The struggles we are all facing are real. The blessings are also real. We are blessed to be able to shelter in place and protect our children. We are blessed to have so many resources to maintain contact outside of our homes. We are blessed to know we have dedicated medical personnel who are risking their own health to provide for those who are ill. We are blessed to have grocery store workers who make sure we have food on the shelves when we go to the store. And yes, we are blessed to know that we have teachers who are anxious to get back in the classroom to teach our children.

We have so many blessings! As the old wonderful hymns states it so well: "Count your blessings! Name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God hath done. Count your blessings! Name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done!"

Love and Blessings, Pastor Tom



Presbyterian Church
Changing Lives for Jesus Christ!

The Summit Herald

is a monthly publication of:

Summit Presbyterian Church

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Summit Church is a member of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Tom Jones, *Pastor*

Carol Novy, *Minister of Education*

Terri Faust, *Minister of Music*

Dianna Carr-DiZinno, *Admin. Assistant*

Sunday Schedule:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 Sunday School (Sept.-May)

Youth Group as scheduled

Other ministries of Summit Church:

• **Summit Church's Christian Community Outreach Building**

• **Loaves & Fishes Food Bank**

Directors: Dorothy Steighner
and Kay Foertsch

• **HIS Kids Christian School**

(PreK--6th grade)

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Herald Assembly Team for the June issue:

Dave Faust

Dorothy Steighner

Kathi Fischer

Paul Steighner

Peggy Peters

Jim Burtner

Cheryl Rumbaugh

Saturday - May 30
Time: TBD



Articles for the
June *Herald* are due to the
church office by Mon-
day, May 18. Thanks!





*...a quick study of God's edifying Word by R.J. Baker.
Discover the truth and promises intended for every believer.*

Daniel...Devoted Man Of God
(revised and expanded previous lesson)

Study Verses: Pslm 2:7-8; Gen 3:15, 12:1-3, 49:10; Is 11:1-10; Dan 1:3, 7:13, 12:9; John 5:39; Jer 31

Scripture supports scripture! All sixty-six books of the Holy Bible shine truth and promise on the person of Christ,... the Messiah. The Old Testament reveals need and evolving salvation while clearly expressing Jewish roots and exact lineage. Prophecy plays a grand role, inclusive of the foretold divinity of the promised one. Daniel's message addresses the essential title of sacrifice...Son of Man. Jesus likewise offers a single statement of truth upon confronting the Scribes and Pharisees. He referenced the only recorded Testament, Law from the Mosaic Covenant they knew so well: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me". The New Testament is an existential study of the Lord's earthly ministry; recorded by those who either collected, followed or had personal experiences with Jesus. From Genesis through Revelation, the eternal Word was documented by holy men, inspired by the Holy Ghost. These select persons were men **of God**, beyond...**for God**.

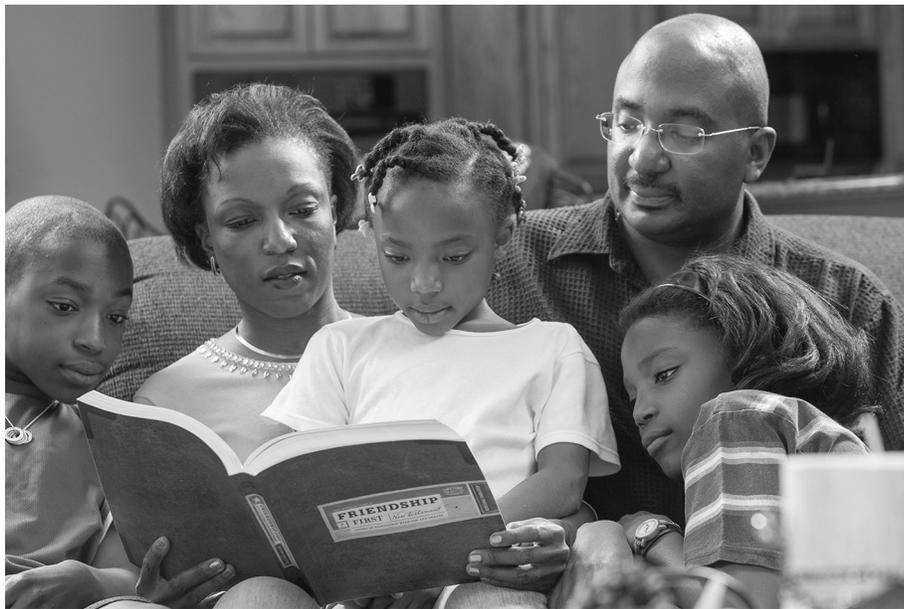
To find a prime example of a man totally given to serving the Most High God, one need only to study Daniel. If Isaiah is the "Prince of Prophets" Daniel is the "Beautiful Prophet"...in every sense of the word. From the time he and three of his Hebrew friends were taken hostage by forces of the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C., and all through seventy years of exile, Daniel grew more loyal and devoted. This was surprising considering the amount of physical and mental suffering he endured, anguish that included likely emasculation, forced culture change and assimilation into Chaldean lifestyle. He was forced to take a new name (Beltshazzar), honoring a Babylonian god. Nebuchadnezzar demanded complete dependence upon himself by every Hebrew slave. He envisioned them as supremely capable of further enhancing the kingdom. Betrayal by a few Jewish friends, jealous of his early progress and courtyard prominence, pierced Daniel's soul. Leading up to this time, he was carefully selected by Babylonian officials from a royal family of Judah. Young Daniel was physically handsome, endowed with superior intelligence, understanding and wisdom. He was properly schooled and well able to discern knowledge. All these attributes made him and a few peers worthy to serve in Nebuchadnezzar's court. Regardless of circumstances, everything led this courageous youth to trusting his God. As a result, the Lord would uphold His faithful servant and blessed him to become a brave and reliable prophet. Daniel was given precise information and spoke only that truth.

The Book of Daniel is much too rich in prophecy for this brief and humble offering to do more than encourage readers to carefully read and absorb an exciting and faith building scripture. For the sake of insight as to where and when the Kingdom Age will be manifested, please seek out a scholarly commentary. From a host of excellent texts, I heartily suggest David Jeremiah's **Agents of Babylon**. Assuredly readers will meet the Prophet in his strength and weakness, but always clinging to God at rest or in the lion's den. Come face to face with Jehovah's ranking angels, Gabriel and Michael, in their quest to ease Daniel's consuming passion for the exiled Jews return to Judah and Israel.

The author of this vibrant biblical account of what will happen as creation approaches the end time, has been consistently accurate. The almighty and omniscient Creator revealed events through Daniel in perfect sequence. God never allowed for the prophet's return to his beloved Jerusalem; even at an advanced age, his value remained greater in Babylon. Bitter tears were shed over the great number of exiled Jews who made the decision to permanently live among their Persian captors, once King Cyrus gave them permission to return. This fulfilled an earlier prophecy from the Prophet Jeremiah. Daniel remained a trusted governing official in the evolving empire. The quality of the man won over oppressors.

Through the ages, God has used the ungodly to achieve His purpose; most certainly in the disciplinary restoration of His people, Israel. In Daniel the Lord God had a humble and faithful servant, open and willing to carry out whatever was required of him. As a result, God gave this Prophet extremely difficult tasks to carry out...but equipped him ever so well. Daniel trusted God; God blessed Daniel exceedingly. The ability to receive visions and discern the dreams of his captors, positioned Daniel so as God was able to use him to help restore Israel, and visualize and record future events including the "end of days". The above activities were emotionally and physically taxing but obedience to God came with strength and protection.

"And He said, Go your way Daniel for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time".

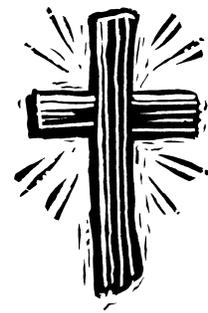


Summit Church

181 Caldwell Drive

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724-287-2378



Turn to God in Uncertain Times

POWERSOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To protect your family members physically, emotionally, and spiritually during uncertain times.
2. To help you see evidence of goodness and kindness—and to *be* that evidence for others.
3. For renewed faith and strength through life's trials.

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parenting
CHRISTIAN
kids

Group
Real. Bold. Love.

On earth, everyone faces seasons of trial, suffering, and unwelcome change. This spring, however, *all* of us are facing unprecedented levels of disruption, uncertainty, and fear—all at the same time.

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic—and the shutdowns and isolation it's causing—have forced families, schools, churches, and entire communities to make and adapt to changes in all aspects of daily life. The good news is that God remains steady and steadfast, ready to walk with us through what's being called “uncharted waters.”

Children have specific needs during uncertain times, whether that's an emergency, illness, or family crisis such as divorce or job loss. Even positive

changes such as a planned move or a new sibling can disrupt schedules and affect relationships.

Though you can't control everything that happens to your family, you can minimize the impact of uncertainties. Make sure children have consistent relationships, which offer reassurance and familiarity. Model God's positive qualities of unconditional love and acceptance. Keep the same schedules and rules, as much as possible, to help kids feel safe. When new situations arise, tell children beforehand what to expect. Finally, encourage family members to share their thoughts and feelings about what's happening.

Read on for activities that convey important messages for uncertain times.

Remember: God's in Control!

During uncertain times, adults need to take care of their own bodies, minds, and souls, too. When parents are struggling, children notice—and often feel more anxious as a result. Remember these tips to give everyone a BREAK:

Be an example. Try to handle stress in a God-pleasing manner.

Relate. Spend time with kids, share a hobby, listen, and cheer them on.

Educate yourself. Find out what stressors your children are facing.

Ask questions. These help you understand needs and express care.

Keep praying! Ask Jesus to work in kids' lives, especially amid trials.



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Our Powerful Protector

Say: **The Israelites, God's special people, were slaves in Egypt. The king, or Pharaoh, had worked the people so hard, they were tired. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" Moses went 10 times, but Pharaoh refused. Each time, God sent a plague—something horrible—to Egypt. But God kept the Israelites safe from these plagues!**

Re-enact the first nine plagues:

1. Blood—Put food coloring in water.
2. Frogs—Hop around the room.
3. Gnats—Make buzzing sounds.
4. Flies—Zoom around the room.
5. Sick livestock—Moo and moan on the floor, with limbs sticking up
6. Boils—Put red dots on your skin with washable marker.
7. Hail—Throw paper wads around.
8. Locusts—Nibble green snacks.
9. Darkness—Turn off all the lights.

After each plague, shout: **Let my people go!** Close by praying: **Thank you, God, for protecting us during tough and scary times. Amen.**

Overflowing Oil Toss paper wads around a room. Give each person a bag and say: "You have a minute to collect as much 'oil' as you can. Go!" Toss out more wads, as needed, before calling time. Read aloud 2 Kings 4:1-7. Ask: "What was it like trying to fill up your 'oil jar'? How did it feel to get lots of oil? In what ways would you like God to bless you—and us?" Say: "When we're worried and tell God what we need, we can trust him to provide. At times, God gives us even *more than we expect!*"

Create a Smile File Stress is exhausting and removes our focus from life's many joys. Make a file, box, or journal where people can put pictures or notes about God's blessings. Then review it together when your family feels discouraged or overwhelmed.

God Seeks and Saves With younger children, unwind by playing a fun game of Hide and Seek as a family. Then talk about how God always comes looking for us and always watches over us.

Jesus Calms Our Fears Tape an outline of a boat on the floor and fill it with blue streamers or yarn pieces. Have family members sit in the "boat." Read aloud Mark 4:35-41. Then say: "These streamers are water, and you

need to toss them out so you don't sink!" As you stand nearby, make wind sounds and throw streamers back in. Afterward, ask: "How did you try to keep your 'boat' from sinking? Why can storms be scary? What other troubles might we need Jesus' help with?" Say: "Jesus' disciples were afraid of sinking. They needed help, so Jesus spoke to the sea and made it calm. We can call on Jesus when we're afraid, and he'll calm our fears."

Lick Life's Problems When life gets messy, spend one-on-one time with each child. If possible, go on a simple outing, such as to get ice cream, and let the child share what's on his or her mind. Then come up with ways you can stick together and face problems.

God Protects Daniel Adapt the swimming-pool game Mr. Shark for Daniel 6. Read that chapter aloud and choose a Daniel. He or she faces a wall, and others, the Lions, creep up and try to touch Daniel. If Daniel hears a noise, he turns and points at the Lion, who returns to the starting point while everyone shouts, "God protects Daniel!" If a Lion touches Daniel, have them hug and say, "God protects me!" Afterward, discuss the ways God keeps us safe.

"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

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MEDIA MADNESS



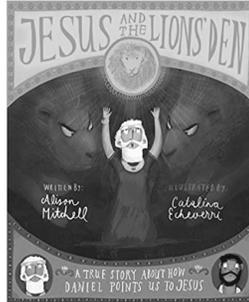
TV

Title: *Jessy and Nussy*

Service: Amazon Prime Video

Synopsis: Curious young Jessy has an unusual BFF: an ancient sea monster named Nussy. In this new G-rated series, the pair explore a range of questions common to preschoolers—from why the wind blows to how echoes work. Along the way, they meet new friends, learn to work in teams, and discover important life skills, including how to make people smile.

Our Take: This simple, upbeat TV show uses colorful mixed-media and fun music to keep young viewers engaged. It does have a touch of magic, as Jessy uses “inspectacles” glasses to conduct investigations—and to see her friend Nussy. The show should be a hit with curious young kids.



BOOK

Title: *Jesus and the Lions' Den*

Author: Alison Mitchell

Synopsis: As most Sunday school kids know, Daniel, not Jesus, was thrown into the lions' den. But this book reveals—in a child-friendly way—how the Old Testament lesson points to Jesus. Readers can search for hidden lion symbols as they discover the parallels between Daniel and Jesus.

Our Take: By making connections between the Old and New Testaments, this title helps readers understand that the gospel message is woven through the entire Bible. Kids learn about prayer, faithfulness, and God's sovereignty over everything. This book—and others in the “Tales That Tell the Truth” series—are geared toward ages 4 to 8.

Games, Sites & Apps

Kanoodle Head-to-Head

In this puzzle-based game, two players race to arrange pieces to match a design on a card. If you're too slow, your pieces go flying! The portable game has 80 challenges that build spatial-reasoning and problem-solving skills. Best for ages 7+, and a hit with parents, too.

Kids Ask Authors

Launched just before the pandemic hit, this short-session podcast from author and illustrator Grace Lin celebrates reading and writing. Lin asks fellow authors questions from young readers. Kids can submit their questions, book reviews, short stories, poems, and jokes, which are featured at the end.

Blinx

With this free app, families can share photos with their “in-crowd” members without leaving a digital footprint. You also can assemble individual “blinx” into “blinxbooks,” adding captions and audio comments, if desired. This alternative to social media is rated E for Everyone.

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our goal is to help you make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Decreasing the Distance During this era of social distancing, personal connections are more vital than ever. Technology such as Zoom is soaring in use, with many people home—and homeschooling. Virtual celebrations of birthdays and milestones have become quite creative. And old-fashioned phone calls and snail-mail are ideal for building bonds with grandparents and other relatives.

Community Kindness Tough times are bringing out lots of goodness and camaraderie, as neighbors reach out to offer assistance and cheer. Neighborhood teddy bear hunts, sidewalk-chalk messages, concerts, and vehicle parades show how “minor” acts spread major joy.

FREE HELPS

Devotions & Bible Activities

<https://tinyurl.com/safxgts>
<https://tinyurl.com/ukywxnk>

Helping Children Cope

<https://tinyurl.com/v4lynwe>

Explaining the News to Kids

<https://tinyurl.com/jv8l46a>

At-Home “P.E. With Joe”

<https://tinyurl.com/ragqo5z>

Mo Willems’ “Lunch Doodles”

<https://tinyurl.com/vzwy7en>

Loads of Virtual Tours

<https://tinyurl.com/gqxkmww>



- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Jennifer Suttor | 18 Kevin Corace |
| 4 Ruth Barton | 19 Joanne Huff |
| Kay Foertsch | 20 Kirsten Dean |
| 7 Christy Thompson | 24 Brady Cichra |
| 8 Chris Corace | 28 Linda Toy |
| Britny Fischer | 29 Steven Fleeger |
| 12 Brecken Farrell | 31 Lori McCabe |
| 13 Tony Sanks | Steven Yamnitsky |
| 14 Bill Kingan | |

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Carl & Tammy Mowry | 5/1 |
| Luc & Dianna Carr-DiZinno | 5/2 |
| Jim & Denise Foertsch | 5/4 |
| Doug & Trish Harrison | 5/12 |
| Chuck & Cheryl Nagel | 5/22 |
| Jim & JoAnn Lawson | 5/25 |

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in the Herald, please contact Dianna in the office. Thanks!

BE KIND...

Some people don't agree with the state opening.... that's okay. Be kind anyway.

Some people are still planning to stay home.... that's okay. Be kind anyway.

Some are still scared of getting the virus and a second wave happening....that's okay. Be kind anyway.

Some are sighing with relief to go back to work knowing they may not lose their business or their homes....that's okay. Be kind anyway.

Some are thankful they can finally have a surgery they have put off....that's okay. Be kind anyway.

Some will be able to attend interviews after weeks without a job....that's okay. Be kind anyway.

Some will wear masks for weeks....that's okay. Be kind anyway.

Some people will rush out to get their hair or nails done.... that's okay. Be kind anyway.

The point is, everyone has different viewpoints/feelings and that's okay. Be kind anyway.

We each have a different story. If you want to stay home, stay home. But be kind anyway. If you want to go out, go. Just respect others when in public and be kind!

Don't judge fellow humans because you're not in their story. We all are in different mental states than we were months ago, be kind anyway. *Author Unknown*



Summit VBS

2020

????

My heart is breaking as I think that there may not be VBS this summer. Notice that I wrote "may not" and not "won't," because I haven't given up hope that God will show us a way to do something!

Realistically, with the numbers of children that attend—not to mention the youth and adult helpers—I don't see it happening during our scheduled week in June and I'm not sure we could even have a full VBS sometime in July.

But as I read through the material, I can't help but think how timely this theme is for the times in which we find ourselves. Rocky Railway—Jesus' Power Pulls us Through!

- Jesus' power helps us do hard things! Phil 4:13
- Jesus' power gives us hope! Ps 31:24
- Jesus' power helps us be bold! Is 40:29

The response to each of these Bible points is:
TRUST JESUS!

So will you pray with me and dream with me? Let's ask God to show us a way to minister to kids and their families in a safe but powerful way! Let me know what ideas you come up with! Thanks!

NOTES FROM OUR HIS KIDS TEACHERS!

Hello, I am praying for everyone in the school and church community to stay safe and healthy during this time. Throughout all of this, I have seen God at work in my life and the lives of others around me. I am so grateful to have such an encouraging and supporting work family. I am constantly keeping in touch with my students via email and Zoom Meeting. During our last Zoom meeting, we all shared something from home with our classmates. It was a fun way to see a part of the students' lives that we would not have been able to experience in the regular classroom. During the week, my students are given daily assignments that align with instructional videos I create and send to them. We are all learning in this process to take things one step at a time. I will leave you with my favorite verse "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov 3:5). Love and blessings.

Mrs. Moeller - Kindergarten Teacher

Hello. I'm coming to you from my living room with my two kids sitting on either side of me. What a difference this has been! We have all had to adapt to the changes of today's world. As we have moved into online learning, we have all been stepping out of our comfort zone. But third grade has handled the change with an impressive attitude. Although, we all agree that we are missing each other and would rather be in class together! We have continued to work through our curriculum to insure readiness for next year. Students are even learning long division throughout all of this. Instructional videos are posted daily for them to watch. I even include their favorite part of the day, "Morning Meeting", where we are still enjoying our responses to the "Would you rather..." questions. The class does get some social time together, too. We have been having Zoom meetings once a week. We get to see each other and share how this online learning has been going. We have even managed to play a few games from our "Morning Meetings". As hard as this has been, I am super proud of my third grade class!! They are working hard at home. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the parents!! With two kids of my own to do online learning, I understand their frustration. I hope they know that I have their child's best interest at heart (educationally and emotionally). I pray for everyone's health and safety. We will be together again soon!!

Mrs. Maxwell - Third Grade Teacher

As I sit down to write a note for the Herald, I can only think of how blessed I feel that I and my family are safe and healthy! I pray that all of you are as well! I have found such comfort to be able to tune in to watch Summit's Worship services and hear Pastor Tom's "Amen and Amen." School for His Kids Christian School has taken on a totally new look, but we are doing our best. I cannot tell you how much Mrs. Hankey and I miss our students and parents! Preschool has relied on "packets" for the students to work on at home. I really appreciate the parents and students that have worked hard on completing the schoolwork! I also appreciate the prayers and support you have given to the school and teachers during this difficult time. Please stay safe and God Bless you all!

Mrs. Yamnitsky - Preschool Teacher

"In times like these, it is helpful to remember that there have always been times like these." - Paul Harvey. I'm not sure where I first heard that quote, but it has really stuck in my head, and it applies to every situation. There really is nothing new under the sun anymore. The upside to this, is that we have a lot of history to look back on to help us see how (or not how) to get through situations in life. In music class we spent extra time learning about Holy Week and the events leading us up to Easter. It really made me focus on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and in turn, the coronavirus that has so drastically changed our day to day lives. I feel like we can learn so much by turning to the Bible to see how Jesus' followers dealt with fear, insecurity and death. The Bible says DO NOT FEAR over 300 times. You know what else the Bible talks about over 300 times? LOVE. I feel like between those two concepts that we can cope with anything that comes our way. In music class, we have been singing songs that remind us of God's love for us, and that we do not need to fear. We are making the best of a hard situation and creating homemade instruments, learning new songs, and answering daily questions via recorded videos and pictures. I laugh over the silly messages they send me, and I pray for my students and their families daily. But honestly, I miss them so much. The other teachers here at HIS Kids are amazing. I am so blessed to work with them and learn from them. They are strong, resourceful, and brave. We have all stepped way outside our comfort zones to continue to provide an education for the kids. However, more than continued learning, we want them to know they are safe and loved, and that we are trying so hard because they are the most important things. 1 Thesalonians tells us to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances." Some days this seems a little harder than others. Please remember us teachers in your prayers so that we can continue to fight the good fight and run the race that is set before us. Thank you for all your support!

Mrs. Adams - Music Teacher

NOTES FROM OUR HIS KIDS TEACHERS CONTINUED!

Hello there from second grade! I would just like to start off by saying how proud I am to be part of HIS Kids Christian School. Going through this change these past weeks has been a challenge, but it would have been even more challenging if I did not work with the right people. This is definitely an environment of support, love, and commitment. I also want to shout out to my second graders and parents! You have been awesome! From being on board with distance learning, contacting when you have questions, showing up online every day, and supporting me as the teacher. I could not have asked for better parents or kiddos! You guys rock! We have been able to keep up with our regularly scheduled curriculum (including Christian studies of course!), been able to express our creativity through the HKCS Boosters' Facebook page, and have been posting fun science videos on Classdojo, to keep that curiosity spark alive. :) The students are even writing in a gratitude journal daily to reflect upon the important things in life during this trying time. I have to say, even though this is not what anyone would have dreamed of happening, the families of HIS Kids Christian School have shown their commitment to their community and to their child's education. This is Mrs. Collins signing off for this month's Summit Herald feeling blessed to be surrounded by such a wonderful family. Until next time!

Mrs. Collins - First Grade Teacher

Greetings from 5th grade! What an "interesting" and challenging few weeks it has been for us. As a teacher, I will admit that I am struggling with anxiety. We love our students like they are our own and this separation has been awful. We are thinking of them and missing them daily. We are doing what we can to maintain some consistency and keep in touch with our kiddos, but it's just not the same. In our class, we have weekly Zoom meetings to chat and see our friends. The kids enjoy this so much and it often turns into a "show and tell" of sorts, catching up on all the journaling, artwork, lego building and art projects that have been created each week. During this separation, I was also able to "hop" over to visit my students on Good Friday to leave some eggs in their yards and a family Easter basket with DIY Resurrection Eggs. I was overwhelmed seeing my students and it brought tears to my eyes. Parents have been amazing as well, supporting us in helping their kids in learning and guiding them through a difficult time. We want our kids and families to take care of themselves and know that no matter how this year progresses we will be proud of them; of their resilience, of their ability to adapt and of their efforts to keep moving forward. We want our parents to know we are thankful for them and that we understand that there will be days kids won't want to do their work and that's ok. We want our parents to know that at the end of this trial, their kids' mental health is more important than their academic skills. How they feel during this time will stay with them longer than anything else, so please know that we are here to support and listen to parents, students and fellow staff. We truly are in this together! We will be here when everyone comes back to school and will pick up where we left off, meeting the students right where they are and changing instruction to meet our students' needs. I look forward to the day when we are all together again, but for now, I look forward to those smiling faces on my computer screen and sharing prayers with HIS Kids families. Blessings to all.

Mrs. Baker - Fifth Grade Teacher

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6). Since Friday, March 13th due to the Covid-19 pandemic, my first grade classroom has evolved into an educational distance-learning environment. During this unprecedented time in our country's history, I have assembled, corrected, and delivered learning packets, made educational videos, communicated through personal phone calls and emails, interacted virtually with students through Zoom meetings, and prayed consistently for my students and their families. Through this process, I have learned how to use new technology more effectively. Recognizing the financial and emotional struggles that families and students face, I have offered support and flexibility as necessary. Although academics and preparation for the next grade are vitally important, I want my students to know that I love and care about each of them, and that Jesus loves them unconditionally. As I approach the end of the school year, I am saddened by the reality that I am not able to properly tell my students good-bye; however, I continue to trust in the Lord and look forward to brighter days when I am able to teach in front of a class filled with students again.

Tamie Malencia—First Grade Teacher

NOTES FROM OUR HIS KIDS TEACHERS CONTINUED!

We miss our students, but we have continued to keep in contact with them. I have learned to be creative virtually and adapt to online teaching using Google Duo, Zoom, and Google Drive. Every two weeks, the parents pick up learning packets for each student in my class. These packets include planning papers for Bible, Reading, Math, and Science along with handwriting pages that they can practice and turn in if they are able. In addition to the packets, I have emailed a link to each of my students to my Google drive, which contains various videos of me teaching the math lessons, reading the Bible Truths from our Bible Lessons, and reading the stories from our reading curriculum. For some of the videos, I even added an extra special touch by including my own two children because I knew that my students would enjoy seeing them. At least once a week, I like to touch base with each of my students through individual video calls. During these calls, I like to ensure that they are doing well with the packet and I also ask them some questions to monitor their progress. We have enjoyed these calls and I hope that it lets them know that I am still here for them. I also keep in touch with the parents during these calls, and through email, to receive feedback regarding this virtual learning and to see how their child and their family is holding up during this pandemic. The students and I have also been very excited for our classroom video calls because these calls enable us to see each other. For Easter, since I couldn't give them an Easter gift, I let each student find an egg during one of my individual calls with them. Inside of the egg was a choice of two different games which they could choose from for us to play in one of our video calls as a class. The games included: Science Trivia, Guess What is in the bag?, Bible Trivia, Charades, Find Something that starts with a (Letter), Storytime, Grammar Trivia, and Pictionary. We have already had a classroom video call and the students really enjoyed it! As you can see, classroom learning is a lot different during this pandemic; but we are being creative virtually to ensure that our students continue learning and interacting with their classmates and teachers. We all look forward to the day we can all see each other again in person! God Bless! I pray that everyone stays healthy.

Mrs. Watson - Kindergarten Teacher

I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel like a basket case stuck at home with cabin fever. But then I remember as Christians we need to stick to our faith in the Lord. I know that it can be tough not being able to be with our fellow Christians at church. I know it can be tough being stuck at home trying to work from home as well as become teachers of our children – I have four of my own! We can become easily irritated with each other and pulled away from the Lord during these times. But I will tell you something that I learned from my principal when I was in elementary school; church follows you wherever you go, it continues even after the service ends physically at the church building. This is something that I take to the heart and I will constantly remind myself, "What would Jesus do?" This is something we all can follow. As a teacher, these times can be difficult as well. I feel badly for my students, not being able to get that one on one instruction can be tough on them. So, as a teacher I am going above and beyond the confines of the classroom to help the students reach and achieve their goals; I know my colleagues at HIS Kids are doing the same. I also feel for the parents, because many still are working from home and have become teachers; there are only so many computers at one's home and only so much bandwidth of internet speed to go around. This can put a lot of pressure on parents and I don't want to put additional pressure on our kids. So, a message to everyone, kids and parents, teachers and staff: We will get through this and will come out of it stronger. Hang in there; we are all here to help each other out. I wish we were all together at the school, but we are still together at heart. Stay safe and God bless.

Mr. McKruit - Fourth Grade Teacher

Enrollment for the 2020-21 School Year

Preschool—6th Grade is going on now!!

Go to www.hiskidscs.org for more information!



Proud Principal's Page – Debora Dawson, M.Ed.

Look for the Good

Yes, of course, this COVID-19 outbreak has been awful! We mourn with those who have suffered as a result of this virus. Our hearts break for those who have lost jobs or loved ones. Some have taken on fears and are unsettled from not knowing the future.

“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” **Philippians 4:8**

As Christians, we know that God is on our side. The words in this Bible passage tell us that we can find good in everything if we look hard enough for it. A few things really stand out to me as I speak with parents and teachers and watch what is going on with students. There really is lots of good to be found!

- ◆ **Families spend more time together:** Whether it is in helping with assignments, completing projects, reading stories, sharing meals, rediscovering favorite games, taking walks as a family, or getting caught up on Disney movies, families are making wonderful memories.
- ◆ **Students develop new ways to express themselves:** For many, talking over the phone with their teacher or friends requires a different set of skills than speaking face-to-face at school. Many students have made audio and video recordings of themselves presenting morning announcements, demonstrating projects, or reporting on work done.
- ◆ **Learners grow in independence toward schoolwork:** Many have learned to attempt their own assignments before asking Mom or Dad for help.
- ◆ **Knowledge of technology is growing by leaps and bounds:** Kids are learning to use Email, Facetime, Facebook Messenger for Kids, Zoom Meetings, and other messaging services in the safety of their own homes under their parents' supervision.
- ◆ **Some kids get to observe their parents working from home:** What a great example is being set for them. They see that even when adults don't quite feel up to getting their work done, it's their job and some things just must be done.
- ◆ **Teachers are learning to adapt teaching methods:** Planning and preparing lessons in weekly chunks is very different when teaching remotely rather than in person. Most have been in closer contact with families because of the valuable information parents can provide.
- ◆ **Students realize the importance of friends:** Teachers and parents report that their children look forward to Zoom meetings so they can catch up on what their friends are doing. Most express the desire to be back in the classroom with friends.
- ◆ **We should all be learning to be empathetic toward others:** Watching or reading the news has shown us there are always people in a worse situation than we are. Encouraging children to continue to serve others is a way to help them look beyond themselves.
- ◆ **We are all continuing to learn that we are adaptable:** While many changes and adverse conditions have affected us all, we have learned to be flexible and open to change. As a community of believers, we know that with creativity, hard work, and God's help, **we will all get through this together.**



Proud Principal's Page (continued) – Debora Dawson, M.Ed.

All in the Fingers

During the fourth marking period 2019-2020 at HIS Kids, students have an opportunity to practice their skills online using *TypeTastic!*, an online keyboarding program that's appropriate for both beginning and advanced keyboarding learners.

TypeTastic! is appropriate for beginning learners (third grade) because the exercises are designed to offer practice with short, easier words and sentences. Ready, Set, Type, Jr. is the first unit that is presented; students can practice the entire alphabet and common punctuation at their own pace.

For fourth- and fifth-grade students, *TypeTastic!* not only reviews alphabet keys but also includes instruction and exercises for numbers (fourth row), the number pad, and common symbols.

This software was selected because it is comprehensive for both beginning and advanced learners. Each student has a unique ID and password. Student progress is tracked by the number of lessons completed and the amount of time spent with the software. The online method presents an opportunity for students to check in and check out of computer instruction depending on how much time each student wants to spend. Additionally, this method of instruction allows students to improve on lessons that they believe need extra focus. COVID-19 has changed many things about education but it hasn't changed keyboarding. Mr. Dawson believes that students have a unique opportunity to improve their computer skills even without being in class twice a week!

Perry Dawson

(Pre-K - 6th grade)
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Staff

Preschool—LeAnn Yamnitsky
Preschool Aide—Patty Hankey
Kindergarten—Rachel Moeller
Kindergarten—April Watson
1st Grade—Tamie Malencia
Elementary Aide—Sherry Smith
2nd Grade—Holly Collins
3rd Grade—Kim Maxwell
Intermediate—Josh McKruit
(4th Grade Homeroom)
Intermediate—Christan Baker
(5th Grade Homeroom)
Music—Suzanne Adams
Computer—Perry Dawson
Art (K-1st Grade)—LeAnn Yamnitsky and
Patty Hankey
Art (2nd-5th Grade)—Kelley Grabenstein
Bible (3rd-5th Grade)—Carol Novy
Physical Education (K-5th Grade)—Carol
Novy
Cafeteria—Chrissy Filges
Cleaning —Michele Wardle
Principal—Debora Dawson
Secretary—Rachel Trudgen
Financial Administrator—Katie Anderson



Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-0313

Butler County Children & Youth Services: 724-284-5156

Stay Tuned

Listed below are some helpful links and addresses to help you stay connected. Don't forget to check out our calendar on the school website to keep up-to-date on upcoming events.

School E-mail office@hiskidscs.org
School Website <http://www.hiskidscs.org>
School Facebook Page [HIS Kids Christian School](#)
Boosters E-mail boosters@hiskidscs.org
Boosters Facebook Page [Hkcs Boosters](#)



May 1 – June 3	School from the Safety of Home
May 2	BASH cancelled – Would have a good one!
May 11	Astronomy Day – Take your family out to study the stars
May 13	National Frog Jumping Day – (I don't know what you will do with that!)
May 19	Circus Day – (Your chance to clown around!)
May 27	Boosters' Fun Day – (I can't wait to see what they come up with!)
June 3	Last day of School from the Safety of Home

****To read the entire Summit Herald, please visit:**

<https://www.summitchurchpa.org/summit-herald-newsletters>