

Executive Committee continues to work hard to assess the situation and seek the spirit's guidance through prayer and study.

We will meet again on June 15 for the next formal conversation as we discuss the next faithful steps forward. We will continue worshipping online-only for the time being.

Join us for virtual worship at 10:30 every Sunday on Facebook Live and YouTube.

STAY SAFE!

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday
Closed

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Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 72272
Norman, OK 73070
North Haven
CHURCH



Letters to My Church



Jakob Topper
Senior Pastor

When I complained as a kid, one of my mom's favorite retorts was to say, "Patience is a virtue. That's in the Bible." Well, Mom, it is not in the Bible. Not anywhere.

But that doesn't make your advice any less true.

Church, we haven't met together in two and a half months now. It's not something any of us anticipated, but these are the circumstances of our times. We seek to accept them

faithfully, and to let love of our neighbor be our guiding principle during this time. I think we're doing just that.

I'm proud of you.

We recently took a survey in which one of the questions was, "Are you more concerned that we will reopen too early or too late?" Nearly 80% of respondents said they were more concerned about opening too early.

We hear you, Church.

We are all eager to see one another and to return to some semblance of normalcy, but we aren't going to rush it. We are heading your wisdom. The Executive Committee will meet again on June 15 to discuss what the next faithful steps forward will look like. I hope that by then some of the ambiguity in our circumstances will clear up, and we'll be able to make a clear, confident decision to meet together in-person for worship. But as we've learned, anything is possible between now and then.

Even if we are able to return to in-person worship, it's going to look very different from the way things used to be. We may be worshipping outside of the building on the lawn or under the portico. There's a lot of good research to suggest that being outside dramatically decreased the chances of the virus spreading.

No matter where we meet, social distancing is required. We won't be able to hug one another or even shake hands.

Singing may be something that increases the likelihood of transmission. We need more information to make an informed decision, but even if we are able to meet together in-person, there's a fair chance we will not be able to sing together.

My momma may have been wrong about her Bible verses, but she was not wrong about the importance of patience in faith. Patience allows us the space to wait on the Spirit to lead us. Impatience tempts us to take things into our own hands. Patience allows us to wrestle with what it means to take the next faithful step forward. Impatience just wants to get back to normal. Patience accepts that things will not go back to the way things were. They can only go forward, and they will be different no matter what.

God will be with us no matter what.

You have been heroically patient over the last 2.5 months. I'm proud of you, NorthHaven, and I am proud to be your pastor. I've learned a lot about being patient from you. May God give us the patience to keep going and to accept our circumstances with grace for awhile longer.

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Jakob Topper



NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.

Co-Directors of our Children's Ministry

After watching Pamela Duncan and Kaitlyn Knapp consistently go above and beyond as the Interim Directors of the Children's Ministry, our Personnel Committee met and unanimously voted to ask them to serve in a permanent capacity. They stepped in at a difficult time and immediately brought order by adopting accessible Sunday school curriculum, developing an online scheduling system for volunteers, and implementing Wednesday night curriculum and children's choir. During the pandemic they've continued to shine by adapting our children's offerings to continue online and via zoom. Any church would be lucky to have them, and we give thanks that they are NorthHaveners. Congratulations Pamela and Kaitlyn, and congratulations NorthHaven!



Pamela Duncan and Kaitlyn Knapp
NHC Children's Ministry Co-Directors



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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| June 1: Debbie Skeel | June 16: Rachel Youngquist |
| June 2: Don Krause | June 17: Emma Jensen |
| June 2: Jill Tran | June 18: Justin Youngquist |
| June 4: Chad Morris | June 19: Norma Brown |
| June 5: Keith Abbott | June 20: Ryan Bowles |
| June 6: Gertrude Pearson | June 22: Rachael Lester |
| June 7: Kathy Paganoni | June 23: Susan Chambers |
| June 10: Susan Benenati | June 25: Brandi Moore |
| June 10: Lincoln Taylor | June 25: Sheri Ridenour |
| June 11: Greer Schooler | June 26: Susan Wilson |
| June 15: Hadley Topper | June 29: Helen McGrath |



"Is It Time For a Tune-up?"

My daily driver Toyota does a lot of thinking for me. It let's me know if something is behind me when I attempt to back up. It beeps at me if I cross over a line on the highway without signaling. There's a little gas pump light that comes on when I am dangerously close to the end of gasoline in my car. Then there's this maintenance light that comes on when its time for a maintenance tune-up. It warns you for awhile, then finally comes on to stay until I take it in for service. I am thankful for such reminders. Most of the time...

A friend recently shared the idea that at times our faith needs to have a maintenance checkup, you know, a tune-up. Which led me to think of one of my favorite hymns, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," written by Robert Robinson at age 23 in preparation for his sermon on Pentecost Sunday (apropos.) The first verse says,

"Come, Thou fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise:
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount – O fix me on it, Mount of God's unchanging love."

RG Huff, in his book, HYMN LINES, speaking to this hymn, says, "Sometimes, my heart gets out of tune. Like my Baldwin grand, I need a good tuning. Like my Toyota Rav 4, I need a tune-up... Like piano tuning, it may not be an easy process to endure, but it is something that must be done occasionally if those around me are to hear the gospel lived out through me."

How can I get a tune-up, you ask? We can't even go to church right now! (the building) Well, we know God's work is bigger than our getting together in a building. Yes, we miss gathering together, physically. Makes you realize how much we take for granted. I digress. May I offer a few suggestions as to getting a tune-up?

1. Be still at the feet of Jesus like Mary was. Jesus said she had chosen the better part. It is so easy to be distracted. Use this opportunity to carve out time with the Lord.
2. Ask God to search you. The perfect tune-up verse is Psalm 139:23. The Message has it this way, "Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; get a clear picture of what I'm about. See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong – then guide me on the road to eternal life."
3. Lean in to Christ; make it your default position. To do this we must be continually reminded to do so because our natural default is to lean on our own ways. Proverbs 3:5, TPT, reminds, "Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on Him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make."
4. Look and listen for God's truth. Trust who God made you to be. Inspirational leader and writer, Bob Goff, says, "Listen to who God says you are and what He believes is possible in your life...Be picky about listening to the stories you or others have been telling over your life that just aren't true. You'll know if it's God's telling the story because it will always be one filled with hope and possibility."

Remember, we are God's children. He loves us and wants us to be the best version He has created us to be. Like David, may we learn how to strengthen ourselves in the Lord. Psalm 119:65-66 CEB says, "You have treated your servant well, LORD, according to your promise. Teach me knowledge and good judgment because I've put my trust in your commandments." Tune us up, Lord; tune our hearts to sing Thy grace!

Cheryl

When people ask how I'm doing right now, I am increasingly having a harder and harder time responding. I was quarantined for a week in March after being exposed to a patient. After that week ended our hospital administration coincidentally made the decision to move pastoral care to remote work only. The hospital had become a very uncertain environment. Chaplaincy is a ministry defined by the word presence. Our work literally happens at the bedside. Now I am working by phone. Our presence has transformed from physical presence to a voice. It has been a challenge. I have heard ministers say that this is the hardest they have ever worked. It would seem that the distance would make the work easier. It does not. Distance makes the work harder because it is counterintuitive to presence. However, I'm discovering new avenues of presence on the phone. I am accustomed to "sizing up" patient's reactions to me through their body language, facial expressions and vocal tones. I am becoming more acutely aware of tone. I find myself listening more deeply without environmental distractions. In short I'm learning new skills. Although I am anxious to get back to my co-workers, I can do ministry this way. I am curious then how work is being reshaped for those reading this. I wonder what you have lost and gained in your new work normal.



I do not think it is the best practice. I'm not trying to stand on moral high ground. I just believe the virus is here for a long time and masking is a good practice. How is the distancing affecting you?

The church for me has become the zoom Sunday school class. I am grateful for the fellowship. Seeing faces makes the distance shorter. I come back to the ministry of presence. We are not alone even though we cannot sit beside each other. When you join zoom on Sunday or Wednesday you are present. When you pick up your phone to check on a friend you are present. I have had a couple of drive by waves and words of encouragement. You are present.

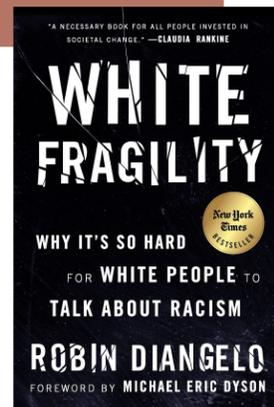
How am I doing? I'm doing okay. The body of Christ is still strong. No matter how we reinvent the church it will stay strong. The virus has exposed my weakness and fear. I am surprised. You may be experiencing your own vulnerabilities. Maybe I am growing spiritually. The Apostle Paul taught that weakness is God's strength. I am grateful for this opportunity to open up. I would welcome your thoughts.

Mike Bumgarner

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism

by Robin DiAngelo

Wednesday nights, starting June 10
Copies available in the church office soon for \$15, or available today on Amazon as a Kindle download (recommended)



Social distancing, however, is something else. Distancing, masks, and disinfecting are all essential to mitigate the spread of the virus. I am in the camp that believes these changes are the new norm. But my heart yearns for close encounters. I took simple hugs and handshakes for granted. We are not programmed to walk up to a person and just stop. Yet, right now it is necessary. I worry about the long-term impact on mental and emotional health. I am sad. But my fear of the virus is strong. I think I'm more concerned I could be an asymptomatic carrier and give you the virus. I will continue to keep my distance from you. I have come to terms with those who are not masking.



We've got plans!

WE KNOW IT'S BEEN TOUGH AT TIMES.....

BUT WE ARE HERE FOR YOU AND ALL YOUR KIDDOS. SUNDAY MORNINGS, MIDDLE OF THE DAY DRAGS, AND WEDNESDAY NIGHTS...THESE ARE ALL TIMES YOU CAN LOOK TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR HELP AND SUPPORT!

NOT CONNECTED TO FACEBOOK?

EMAIL US:

PAMELA@NORTHHAVENCHURCH.NET

OR

KAITLYN@NORTHHAVENCHURCH.NET

JONAH: A WHALE OF A TALE

TELLING THE TALE	FELLING LIKE JONAH	CALM IN THE STORM	TALKING TO GOD
Students will become familiar with the story.	Students will explore emotions and work on emotional awareness.	Students will create a tool to help them meditate on facing their fears.	Students explore prayers as a way to connect with God.

Day School Is Reopening!!!

We are so excited to be reopening and getting back into the swing of things with our children, families, and NorthHaven Day School Staff!

Here are the procedures that were approved by our Exec. Committee, which allowed us to reopen.

Eliminating Cross Contamination Procedures to combat Covid-19

- Sanitizing classrooms, toys, and surface areas multiple times throughout the day.
- Temperature checks prior to entry, and periodic checks throughout the day.
- We are eliminating large groups.
- We will be canceling chapel until further notice.
- High-Heat sanitization procedures for all toys in the classrooms.
- Eliminating any outside visitors into the classrooms.
- Canceling all tours, etc. until further notice.
- We will provide PPE to all staff members: gloves, reusable masks, and reusable smocks to limit the cross-contamination exposure.
- We will provide bleach, lysol, Clorox wipes, and make daily sanitation bleach water per CDC/DHS standards and recommendations.
- Drop off & Pick up will be different. Parents will not be entering/exiting the bldg physically. Parents will utilize the back loop on the Northside of the bldg. A staff member will get the child in the a.m. and take the child out in the p.m. (please see below for further details).
- Teachers will start doing a daily check-in/check-out in the classroom.
- No use of playground equipment due to the risk of cross-contamination but outside time can be held in different ways.
- No water play days.
- No special visitor days.
- No special lunch takeout days.
- Classroom sizes will be limited.
- Teachers must stay in their own classrooms during the day, to limit cross-contamination.
- If a teacher is sick or running a fever, a Dr's note will be required to return to work.

Parents will be asked to:

- Please communicate all absences of sickness/illness through the day school. Please contact us by phone or through email so that we may track illnesses accordingly.
- Please avoid congregating in the hallways, foyers, etc. during drop off and pick up times to help avoid the spread of germs.
- If your child has any signs of illness, please do not bring them to school.
- If your child is sent home from school with a fever, you will be asked to obtain a doctor's note to return.
- If your child is experiencing flu-like symptoms such as a runny nose, cough, sore throat, fever over 99.9, chills, body aches, or lethargy, you will be asked to keep your child home or come and get them from school. A doctor's note will also be required to return.
- If a family member has exposed a child to the flu or flu-like symptoms, we please ask that your child stay home, to reduce the risk of exposure to other.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Love,
Rachel and J'Nell
NorthHaven Day School Co-Directors



Reimagining Art

ARTICLE by Don Schooler

It's 3:30 on a Wednesday afternoon as I'm typing this sentence. I'm at the office working behind a closed door with a handful of other employees. Tomorrow at this time I'll be working at home at the kitchen table, while Kim and our boys are on their computers doing the same. Well, maybe the boys will be playing a video game or watching Netflix, it is Summer Break after all.

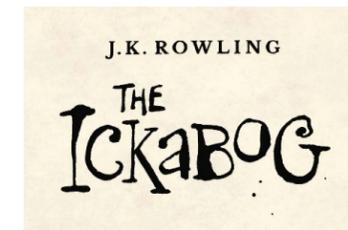
Around 5:00 I'll head out the door, jump in my car, and tune in the Depot TV's "Happy Hour" online performance by local musician Caleb McGee on Facebook Live as I head home. Then Thursday afternoon I'll tune back in to the Depot TV's "Happy Hour" to watch Norman artist Brad Price paint. I'll probably be back on Friday to listen to another local musician, Brad Fielder; and on June 4 I'll watch the live premier of the Namron Players Theatre's newest play "Lunch Box;" and in a couple of weeks I'll check out the second installment of the 20th season of Summer Breeze on KGOU, radio dial 106.3 FM Norman.



That's a whole lot of art – visual, musical, and performance – that wasn't being considered to be shared in this way less than a month ago. The pandemic has changed a lot of things, including the arts.

Kim and I have season tickets for the OKC Broadway Series, but this past season's final show, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" was postponed indefinitely. However, we can now go to www.broadwayhd.com and enjoy a 7 day free trial watching as many Broadway musicals as we can stand. And on July 3, on Disney+, we can watch the Tony Award winning "Hamilton."

Norman's Second Friday Art Walk is canceled, but the Norman Arts Council will live stream it on Facebook.



Just this morning J.K. Rowling, the Harry Potter author for those who may be unaware (is that even a thing?), announced she will be releasing a new children's book chapter-by-chapter over the next 7 weeks for free. "The Ickabog" may be found at the appropriately enough named, www.theickabog.com. She's encouraged children ages 7-12 to submit drawings inspired by the story that may be chosen to illustrate later hardbound printings of the book in November. The children with chosen pictures will receive a cash prize from Scholastic Books, while Rowling plans on donating all of her royalties to "groups who've been particularly impacted by the pandemic."

Thanks to Google Arts & Culture there are all manner of art galleries online, from the masterworks of Rembrandt and Vermeer at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, to the beautiful impressionistic and post-impressionistic works of Monet, Cezanne, and Gauguin, at the Musee d'Orsay in Paris, to the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., and back to Amsterdam for the tactile beauty of Van Gogh's glorious paintings. With hundreds more museums, including OKC's National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and Tulsa's Philbrook. Links to the galleries are found here - <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>.

You ever wanted to draw Disney characters like a pro? All you have to do is follow Disney Animation Supervisor, Michael Woodside on Instagram as he shows you how to draw the right amount of bounce in Tigger's tail, the crooked smile on Thumper, the cocky attitude of Kuzco, or the goofiness of Hei Hei. You can find his tutorials on Instagram at #animwoodsy.



The pandemic might have changed the way we get to enjoy the arts, for a bit anyway, but they're still out there. So, the next time you find yourself watching the umpteenth cat video on YouTube (I'm not hating), maybe change it up a little and check out some of this art. Who knows, Mikey might not be the only one to "try it, and like it."