

KOG Connection—August 2020

Pastor's Corner

Dear King of Glory friends and family,

First, I have to say thank you to all of you who have been praying for me, Josh, Jules and the baby. With the closures, the isolation, and my Covid-19 diagnosis, this has not exactly been the pregnancy we were anticipating. And it has been sad to not be able to share it with you all in the way we were able to share the anticipation of our first baby with you. But with all that said, it was so incredibly lovely to see so many of you on Saturday at the Drive-Through Baby Shower, and we were so touched by all the gifts and the donations. Thank you for being excited with us despite all these strange circumstances that we've all been enduring. I have been reflecting recently on how truly strange these past 5 months have been, and I have come up with a few lessons that I have learned or been reminded of during this time, which I thought I might share with you as this month's article.

1. It is important to face reality, but do not let fear and anxiety rule you.

Being pregnant during a pandemic has been challenging. Catching a little-known disease during pregnancy has been even more so. The sickness itself was no walk in the park, but I would say the anxiety that followed was far worse. There have been days when I was tempted to spend hours googling any possible story or study that had to do with potential Covid implications for a developing fetus, and it has taken every ounce of self-discipline to not do so. As if pregnancy itself was not stressful enough! But I believe in being realistically optimistic, which is to say, I recognize that our baby may have health complications right away or 20 years down the line, due to my infection, but I still choose to hope and pray for the best. And I know that there is no point in spending time anxiously searching online and worrying about what we have no control over; we can just do our best to be smart and safe with the information we have and leave the rest to God. I think this is a lesson many of us struggle with, and I hope that my words, as well as these bible verses, can help you too through whatever uncertainty you may be facing.

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

2 Timothy 1:7 - "... for God did not give us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."

Psalms 27:1 - "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

2. Nothing matters as much as who you choose to have by your side.

I am so fortunate to have had Josh be my Covid-19 quarantine partner. Not a day has gone by amidst our months of home isolation where I wasn't grateful that he was the one I was seeing day in and day out. His humor, generosity of spirit, calm nature and intelligence have been great companions. But I am also grateful to the wonderful staff we have at KOG and all of you. It is such a blessing to have strong team members to work with and trust in and a church who is understanding, patient and willing to put the well-being of the entire community ahead of their own personal needs. Too many pastors have felt pressured to open their churches

before they thought it was prudent or faithful to do so. I feel very fortunate to be journeying through this time of pandemic and pregnancy "beside" all of you. And what a blessing it is to know that God is by our side through it all. I hope you know that you have not been alone in this time, but myself, the staff at KOG and all our members have been with you, as well as our faithful God!

Psalm 116:8a - "With the Lord on my side I do not fear."

Psalm 139:9-10 - "If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast."

3. You can make it through just about anything with slow, deep breaths and by taking things one day (or hour or minute) at a time.

This is a lesson I learned in my last pregnancy or rather once the labor kicked in. As some of you may know, Josh and I wanted to have a non-medicated, natural birth with Jules in a non-hospital setting, God and nature permitting. We took classes and read books to prepare ourselves for what that would mean and had all our pre-natal care done at a local birth center in Long Beach. I have nothing against hospitals, or the choices others make to take advantage of what modern-day medicine provides. (And I am so grateful both are there for those cases where life-saving help is needed!) It's just that having worked as a hospital Labor and Delivery Chaplain previously and having witnessed so many tragedies around pregnancy and birth, I knew I needed a different setting and approach. When the time came for Jules to be born, we were blessed to be able to follow the plans we had made and give birth at the midwifery center. But I will be honest, there was a point during my labor, when the contractions were far stronger than anything I had imagined, and I wondered what I had gotten myself into. (No epidurals or pain meds in sight!) Luckily, I remembered some tips from a hypnobirthing book I had read and tapped into some deep breathing methods and visualization techniques, and with Josh's help, I made it through. This second time around, I have been taking an actual hypnobirthing class and have found it amazing to be reminded of the connection between the mind and the body and the simple power that resides in our breathing. And this goes all the way back to the Bible (although you won't find that in a hypnobirthing book)! We as Christians should know that there is great power in the breath. It is with God's breath/wind/spirit (all the same word in Hebrew: ruach) that humanity first came to life. And some say that the very name of God uttered to Moses, Yah-weh or "I am," is meant to sound like a breath being taken, inhaling "yah" and exhaling "weh." If you are ever feeling overwhelmed, remember to connect to your breath, connect to your Spirit and connect to the God who gives you life.

Genesis 2:7 - "...then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being."

Job 33:4 - "The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

John 20:22 - "When {Jesus} had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Romans 8:26 - "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

May each of you be blessed this month of August, and may you know that God is with you no matter what uncertainty you may be facing.

Serving with you in Christ,
Pastor Kinndlee

From The Deacon

Happy Summer! I hope you are finding some creative ways to enjoy our beautiful southern California summer. I wanted to share some words of thanks and celebration this month.

Even though our inside campus is closed due to state mandate, ministry has not closed. Darren and Carrie were *finally* able to “tie the knot” on the church patio with a beautiful and joyful celebration. Congratulations to you two and thanks to all who helped make that day come together! I hope you were able to participate in the Drive-Thru Baby Shower for Pastor Kinndlee last Saturday. It was great to see those who could make it, even though it was hard to recognize you behind your masks! Many of our members generously gave of their time and talents to make that a special day, and the donations of formula and diapers to Lutheran Social Services filled Little Ed. Thanks to Lynn Marecek for her vision and leadership. On Sunday, we held our first outdoor worship service on the patio, and it was wonderful to be gathered in community and to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion together. Plans are under way for the next outside worship service. Thanks to the Return to Campus Task Force for their time and efforts developing worship protocols and to all those who helped make Sunday a reality. A few of our community groups are also meeting once again on the church patio.

Next week Amanda and her wonderful leaders will host VBS on our church patio with COVID-19 guidelines and lots of fun and love. They will be providing structures for the patio that will provide cooling shade for any outside activities this summer, thank you! On Thursday, King’s Kitchen will provide meals donated by Pizza D’z for those in need in our community. Our hard-working facility team is diligently at the hard task of running new sprinkler lines to the last patio planter so that watering can be automated. They also problem-solved power failures, non-functioning phones, parking lot lighting and too many behind-the-scenes tasks to list. I am so grateful for their time and care. Bible studies continue, quilts and masks are created, and phone tree team members continue to call our members every week to check in. God’s people are still accomplishing his purposes – the Church, the people of God, never closed.

Mark your calendars with a “Save the Date” for August 23 when we will hold outside worship on the patio followed by a “Picnic in the Parking Lot!” We are also planning for a new study series to begin late September as we return to fall routines, however altered they may be!



Finally, I recognize what a difficult time this is for so many. It is depressing and anxiety producing to be isolated at home month after month. We are living in a murky in-between time with no end date in sight. Our Care Ministry Team and I are here to support you, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to talk or pray with someone. We will make it through this together. As we heard proclaimed on Sunday, *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 8:38-39. We hold onto that hope and that promise. And we step forward in faith, together.

Deacon Leah Lind, deacon@kogchurch.org

Youth On The Go, Grow & Know

#kogkids August 2020

Vacation Bible School – August 3-7:

Don't forget registration is open for all participants and volunteers and will be **CLOSED on August 1st!**

Due to the strange circumstances we have a **LIMIT** of how many can register so please make sure you don't wait till the last minute! We are already almost full!

I am so excited to see what God has in store for you and your family this year even if it is different than years past!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns!

Click here to view the **[KOG COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR VBS!](#)**

FOCUS VBS will help kids dive deeper into their faith. Kids will have a blast as they discover how to trust in what they CAN'T see because of what they CAN see by putting the FOCUS on God and His amazing plan for us. We'll use this week to explore four different ways we can FOCUS on God: Hear, Pray, Talk, Live.

VBS is for children going into Pre-K through 6th grade in the fall of 2020.

If you are 7th grade through high school or even an adult there is a place for you at VBS too! Come and be a leader and FOCUS with us!

Leader's Registration is below.

Registration after July 8th for \$40.00. Fill out one form per child and click submit. Please make note that our registration is non-refundable.

DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING SPACE IS LIMITED! REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON AUGUST 1ST!

[REGISTER HERE!!!](#)

[Read more on our KOG Kids webpage!](#)

Blessing to you and your family,

Amanda Pulos, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, kogkids@gmail.com

Cell: 714.604.3373

Preschool News

Please visit our website calendar for future dates and more information about the preschool: <https://kogchurch.org/preschool/>

Patti Donovan, Preschool Director



Adult Education – Virtual Bible Studies

Mixed Group:

The Story, by Randy Frazee, 1:30 pm, Wednesdays, contact Debbie Bise.

Small Group Studies:

You'll Get Through This by Max Lucado, video and book study, Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, contact Karen Wallace.

Women of the ELCA Events

(Information regarding Women's Ministry)

WELCA Board Meeting:

Next Board Meeting is Monday, September 14 at 7 pm in Little Ed. We do not meet during July and August.



Events and Dates to Remember:

Joy Circle: Monday, August 24 at 9:30 am, on the church patio, regulations permitting.

Faith Circle: Saturday, August 22 at 10 am, on Zoom. Please contact Catherine Marcum for the Zoom meeting details.

****The WELCA study magazine is Gather****

The subscription office can be reached by calling 800.328.4648 or

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/gather-magazine-pages-49.php>

Cost: \$19.95 for 1 year/10 issues (free digital access)

General Ministry News

From the Prayer Warriors:

Living in this fallen world gives us lots to worry about but living in a relationship with Jesus can free us from this. We just need to choose to rely on Jesus to help manage it and find peace in the process.

1. Recognize how little worrying can help you.
2. Recognize how much worrying harms you.
3. Distinguish between worry and concern. Concern motivates you to solve problems, while worrying keeps you stuck.
4. Identify what triggers worrying in in your life.
5. You have a choice of how to respond. Invite God to help. Choose to pray instead of worry.
6. When struggling to trust God ask Him to reveal what unbelief or unhealed wounds may be preventing you from trusting Him.
7. Pray for God to renew your mind, replacing the old thoughts with new.

8. Develop healthier lifestyle habits.
9. Look beyond your circumstances. Keep your mind from wandering, focus on God.
10. Use prayer and meditation to reduce stress and anxiety.
11. Keep in mind that everything is possible when you believe. God is working for you.
12. Live in the moment, one day at a time.
13. Cultivate contentment, knowing God is always with you.

How has God blessed you today?

Blessings to you and your family and friends!

"The King's Kitchen" Community Meals Outreach:

"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

1 John 3:17

King's Kitchen is a ministry that means a lot to KOG and our community. Given the current ever-changing health and safety recommendations from those in authority, we are doing our best to find a way to continue our meal program while protecting the wellbeing of our guests and volunteers. Faith, love and hope have not been cancelled, and neither is King's Kitchen!

If you feel comfortable volunteering with us this week, we would love to have you! We have hand sanitizer and gloves, and we will do our best to maintain safe social distances. Everything is outdoors except for gathering our supplies and putting the meals together.

We will open our doors at 5:30 as usual and provide each guest with a "Take & Go" meal. We will also have our "Blessings Table" open for guests to choose needed items from. We will only have limited items available to minimize touching and possible contamination. We would love to be able to offer individual rolls of toilet paper and hand sanitizer or soap (if you are considering a donation).

We will not be having fellowship or time of dining together in Big Ed.

"WE NEED YOU!!! You are blessed to be a blessing, and we hope you will share that blessing with us and our community.

Cooking and Set Up begin at 4:45 🙌 p.m., and we are usually cleaned up by 8:00 p.m. Come for any portion of the event that you are able to share with us. We have tasks and responsibilities for anyone willing to help. Don't worry if you didn't sign up, just show up!

Dinner is served from 5:30 to 7:00.

BLESSINGS TABLE DONATIONS NEEDED: Toothpaste, Lip Balm, Bar Soap, Dish and Laundry Detergent, Large Back Packs or Large Reusable Shopping Totes, Cologne/Perfume, Sleeping Bags, Bandages, Feminine Hygiene, Shavers, Socks, etc. We have recently added a door prize drawing for larger items, and it's been a big success! We are adding our larger items to this "pick your prize" drawing, as well as \$10 gift cards (Walmart, fast food, gas).

We are also looking for Thrivent Action Team dollars to fund upcoming meals.

Thank you again for stepping out in faith with us, and sharing the love of Christ with our community! If you are not able to join us this time, please mark your calendar to join us at one of our upcoming events on the 3rd and 5th Thursday of each month.

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming King's Kitchen Meals:

August 20

September 17

October 15 & 29

November 19

December 17 & 31

John Borack: 714.716.7780 / popdude@aol.com

Karen Wallace: 714.501.2807 / wallacepark@sbcglobal.net

Karla Bjorklund: 714.757.3134 / uccolor2@gmail.com

Peace and Blessings!

Live Streaming Worship Crew:

Are you enjoying our live streamed worship?

We have been live streaming our worship services from the Sanctuary for 6 weeks now. All of this is new to our volunteer crew. With lots of research and watching YouTube videos, we have managed to pull it off using our existing sound system, computer, free software, and cell phone cameras. The only piece of equipment we had to purchase was an audio interface unit costing \$119.61.

As you know, there is quite a learning curve to getting a live stream event up on YouTube. We are still working to get the audio levels set properly. We are using a retired smart phone as one of the cameras, the other is a volunteer's current personal phone. We have learned that using cell phones cameras connected via Wi-Fi is subject to randomly occurring connection issues causing images to freeze or partially disappear.

Six different programs run on the computer to feed the live stream information up to YouTube. One volunteer runs the computer, another is on the soundboard, and another is monitoring YouTube to make sure the worship service is being broadcast. The process is complicated, challenging, but very fulfilling.

We continue working on ways to improve the online worship experience. We believe our next challenge is to acquire proper cameras. The two cell phones require tripods positioned in front of the baptismal font, and in the front row pew. We are looking forward to in-person worship services in the Sanctuary and think tripods will likely be distracting. One solution is to mount a camera on the front of the balcony that has remote control for pointing and zooming. Another option is to purchase one or more handheld cameras. However, they will require tripods.

We are working hard to come up with a cost-effective solution. Camera prices range from \$600 to \$2100 or more. We understand the impact of such a large investment. At the same time, we understand the current situation may keep many of our members from worshipping in-person for a long time. Live streaming worship services is also a way to reach out to those outside of the area.

Please contact the Office if you have any suggestions, recommendations, or would like to volunteer to help with worship.

Patio Update from The Facility Team

The Facility Team continues work to improve the Patio planters. Unfortunately, it involved removing some of the pavers so a water pipe could be installed between the center and north planters.

A few pavers were broken during the removal process, and we had a difficult time finding pavers that matched the color. We finally located some and the color is close. The pavers should be reinstalled by Saturday, August 1, just in time for VBS.

The planter improvements include automated watering using battery operated timers. Drip irrigation will be used to conserve water. Many thanks to Karla Bjorklund for her beautiful landscaping designs and her willingness to manually water the planters until the irrigation improvements are completed.

Text Giving Comes to KOG – 714.874.4777

Text giving is a feature of Breeze, KOG's church management system software. Text giving provides a convenient way to give besides cash or check. Text giving uses either a credit/debit card or an electronic transfer (ACH) from your checking account.

The registration process is easy and once you are setup, a transaction can be completed in seconds. To use this feature, you simply text the word "Give" to 714.874.4777 and follow the prompts. Also, there will be complete instructions available on our KOG website. The contribution can be given to the General Fund, Facility Fund, or other funds selected depending on current church activities.

If you're currently enrolled in an electronic giving (transfer of funds) program with KOG such as Vanco or Simply Giving, there is no need to change over to text giving as there are additional fees associated with text giving.

King of Glory Recycles:

Used ink cartridges, pull tabs and eyeglasses! Please place them in the Welcome Place.

Other Upcoming Events

Single Sisters in Christ Covenant Group:

SSiC is not meeting at this time, they will resume again as soon as we are able to meet as a group in person. The study is "Every Day Deserves a Change" by Max Lucado. For updates and information call Marlys Buckey at 714.746.1224.

Property Workday—August 8:

Property Workday will be on Saturday, August 8, at 9 am. We meet in Little Ed for coffee, donuts, and work assignments. We will try to wrap things up around noon and are specifically looking for volunteers to sand and prime the trash enclosure gates. We meet in Little Ed for donuts. Please join us, even if you only have an hour or so. Contact Alan Marcum at wb6rqm@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to be added to property workday email group.

Saved by Grace Covenant—September 19:

Saved by Grace Covenant will be meeting on Saturday, September 19, at 5:30 pm, on Zoom. The link to the meeting will be shared by Alan Marcum. Our study this month will be from chapter 4 of "The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People" by Randy Frazee with Max Lucado.

"The King's Kitchen" Community Meals Outreach—August 20:

5:30 pm – 7 pm. Volunteers are needed, so please consider lending a hand, whether it's helping to prepare a meal, shopping, serving, greeting, cleaning up, or, when we return to serve at tables, being a table host chatting with our guests.

Facility Task Force Meeting—August 25:

The Facility Team will be meeting on Tuesday, August 25, at 7 pm and **will be held on Zoom**. If you wish to attend, please contact Alan Marcum for the Zoom link. We are looking at projects, both big and small, that we can accomplish in 2020. Contact Alan Marcum at wb6rqm@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to be added to property workday email group.

Newsletter Deadline—August 26:

The deadline to submit articles for the September newsletter is Wednesday, **August 26**. Please be sure to send your articles regarding ministry events to newsletter@kogchurch.org or drop them by the church office.

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Please visit this link <https://www.kogchurch.org/church-events/google-calendar-2/> on King of Glory's website to view a full listing of calendar events.

August Birthdays...

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Betty Jacobsen | 1 |
| Bea Rea | 7 |
| Teresa Blackburn | 9 |
| Nikki Busch | 12 |
| Chuck Balo | 12 |
| Victoria Bise | 14 |
| Alan Marcum | 15 |
| Edward Buerk | 15 |
| Alissa de Koning | 16 |
| Wayne Schleicher | 19 |

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Ryan Bise | 21 |
| Dan Hytrek | 21 |
| Tom Rasmussen | 23 |
| Steve Chakos | 25 |
| Paul Wallace | 26 |
| Angela Jaeger | 27 |
| Richard Martyn | 28 |
| Trevor Poteet | 29 |
| Dan Pulos | 31 |
| Jeanne Steinebrunner | 31 |

Happy Birthday!

...and Anniversaries

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| Michele and Jeff Elvander 22 years on August 01 |
| Christy and John Borack 24 years on August 04 |
| Vanda and Don Peterson 63 years on August 08 |
| Lisa Delany and Donald Beane 12 years on August 09 |
| Tish and Don Johnson 39 years on August 09 |
| Darlene and Edwin Gould 60 years on August 12 |

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| Lisa and Todd McCrory 18 years on August 17 |
| Vicki and Richard Bandurian 32 years on August 20 |
| Judy and Roger Doty 33 years on August 22 |
| Joy and Erik Myers 24 years on August 25 |
| Cynthia and Doug Thornburg 42 years on August 26 |
| Alene and Rod Patterson 60 years on August 27 |

Happy Anniversary!

If we have missed your birthday (25 years or more) or anniversary, please contact the church office.