



Hilltop Baptist Church
 220 S. Pennsylvania Ave
 Casper, Wyoming 82609

Mission Statement

Our mission is to:

1. See people saved.
2. See people grow in their relationship with God.
3. See people grow in their love for one another.

Church Physical Address:

2555 E. 2nd St.
 Casper, WY 82604

Mailing Address:

220 S. Pennsylvania Ave
 Casper, WY 82609

Phone Number:

307-265-6540

Office Hours:

Pastor : Dr. Rob Peterson
 (Deployed)
 Interim Pastor: Josiah Kiracofe
 Monday - Friday (afternoons)
 Secretary: Amanda Platt
 Wednesday & Thursday

Website:

www.hilltopbaptistchurchcasper.com

Email Address:

Interim Pastor Josiah Kiracofe: pastorjosiah@hilltopbaptistchurchcasper.com
 Pastor Rob Peterson: pastorrob@hilltopbaptistchurchcasper.com (Deployed)
 Amanda Platt: secretary@hilltopbaptistchurchcasper.com

Sunday Schedule:

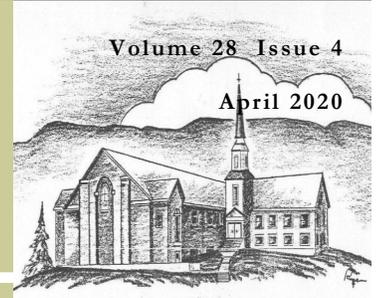
Sunday School	9:30 AM
Morning Service	11:00 AM
Evening Service	6:00 PM

Wednesday Schedule:

Youth Group.....5:30-7:00 PM

THE MESSENGER

PASTOR'S PEN



The Pastor's Pen

Isn't it amazing how quickly times can change? When I sent last month's newsletter the church was meeting as usual, my portfolio in the stock market was at record levels, and I was looking forward to returning home in about three months! The presence of the Coronavirus on American soil changed all of that seemingly overnight. Of course it's impossible for me to fully comprehend how life has changed for you over there, but know that I keep you in my prayers.

I have been able to keep up on the news cycle and realize that school has been suspended, sports have been put on hold, many people are working from home, and people are encouraged to isolate for a time. Of course the suggestion to refrain from gatherings of 10 or more got my attention. That is a serious step! During the same time that Pastor Josiah and the deacons were discussing what the church should do; I was also going through much inner turmoil trying to determine what I would do in that scenario. On the one hand I felt that meeting as a church and worshipping, praying, fellowshiping, and encouraging one another should continue no matter what. On the other hand I immediately thought about how our community would view us if we were the only ones not heeding the instruction to avoid gatherings. This was a tough decision and I imagined that people would hold strong opinions on both sides. In the end, I came to the same conclusion that Pastor Josiah and the deacons arrived at. The passage in 1 Corinthians 10, verses 23-24 echoed again and again in my mind,

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

In my mind I see a great parallel in the situation Paul describes and the one we currently find ourselves in. Paul said that although we are free to do many things, sometimes for the benefit of others we ought to be willing to lay those freedoms aside. In this case I would conclude that for the sake of our community certainly we can lay aside our freedom to gather for a period of time. As a result, I wholeheartedly support the decision to temporarily refrain from gatherings. Several days after the decision was made I read prepared statements from Dr. Albert Mohler (president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where I received my MDiv). He came to the same conclusions, but communicated those conclusions in a far more eloquent way. You can listen or read the transcript at <https://albertmohler.com/2020/03/24/briefing-3-24-20>

I know this isn't ideal, but I thank you for your patience and understanding as we endure together. I think the suggestion to gather in small groups in homes is a great alternative to larger gatherings and hopefully will result in some positive outcomes. Please don't be shy to call someone and ASK to be invited over. I imagine it will be difficult for hosts to decide who to call and who would rather stay at home.

Lest you assume the Coronavirus has not affected those of us deployed, let me share with you our complications on this side of the globe. Travel within theater has become much more complicated. Especially for me as I was in the midst of circulation visiting soldiers when the restrictions were rolled out. I am at another location right now and don't really know if I'll get back to my original camp before the end of the deployment. Mail has also ground to a halt, so although I would love letters or packages, the time for that has probably passed. The most disappointing news came to us just the other day. Long story short, the unit relieving us will most likely NOT arrive at the designated time; meaning that we've been extended. I'm not sure of the length of our extension, but I would be very surprised if we are home by the 4th of July. Spirits however are good! We know better than to carve any date into stone, so we'll roll with the punches and get home when we get home. In conclusion I would ask that you patiently bear with one another and pray for each other until we can meet again.

God Bless,
Pastor Rob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

True Care Heroes Walk for Life— Join True Care in their 15th annual Walk for Life on Saturday, June 6th, at North Casper Athletic Complex! Help True Care be there for women who view abortion as their best and only option. Regardless of how long the corona virus pandemic lasts, the walk will happen, even if it's in another place or way. Register online and create your own Heroes Walk for Life Fund-raising page at <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/heroeswalk/>, or visit <https://truecaregiving.net/page/19-Walk%20For%20Life/> and download, fill the registration form, and mail it to True Care. True Care thanks you for being a lifesaver!

Canada Mission Trip/Yard Sale— Important updates to come.

Tithings/Offerings— During this time the church is still accepting tithes/offerings and processing regular weekly deposits. If you would like to send a tithe/offering check to the church, please send it to the church office address at:

Hilltop Baptist Church, 220 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Casper, WY 82609

You may also use the drop box on the office door if you would rather drop it off.

VBS— Thanks to all of those who graciously offered to volunteer. Please stay tuned for updates.

Online Giving!— Coming soon!!! Please watch for updates.



They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

-Luke 24:2-3



Although we are physically separated, we are blessed with the opportunity to connect through technology. Please keep in touch with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and check on your neighbors. If you have a need, please reach out to your deacons or yokefellow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Michael Haworth	12
Lois Haworth	23
Mason Platt	28
Carolyn Griner	30

(If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office.)

Seeking Leaders!

We are encouraging our members to prayerfully consider leading bible studies in their home, via online technology, or in-person in a small group. If you feel called to lead a study, please contact Pastor Josiah. Thank you for all you do!

Watch Sunday Morning Services Online! @HBCCasper

As always, we stream our services online through our Facebook page every Sunday morning at 11:00 am. Pastor Josiah has also set us up with the ability to view our recorded services through YouTube. Although we would all like to be with one another in person, we are thankful God has allowed us the technology to still worship and feel His presence through this tough time of social distancing. God bless!

WSBC Preacher School will be rescheduled to a later date!

Lord's Supper

Unfortunately, we will not be gathered to observe the Lord's Supper on Sunday, April 5th. However, you are encouraged to bring God glory and observe this Palm Sunday in your own way. Blessings!

Rescue Mission

Help serve on Tuesday, April 28th, at 5:45 pm. *(We want to continue supporting our local Rescue Mission. It is recommended that only those age 60 or younger help at this time.)*

Youth Group

Will break during the recommended time of social distancing.

At this time we are following the CDC recommended guidelines and respecting instructions from our government officials. Please understand our scheduled activities could change at any time. Please watch for updates in your email or on the HBC Facebook page.

Men's Breakfast

There will not be a Men's Breakfast for the month of April.

Potluck

There will not be a potluck during the month of April.

Nursery Schedule

TBD

APRIL 2020

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1	2	3	4
<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: teal; margin: 0;">REJOICE ♥</p> <p style="color: gold; font-style: italic; margin: 0;">in the Lord</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>I am the resurrection and the life. -John 11:25</i></p> </div>							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Please join us for service online!</p> 					 <p style="color: purple; font-style: italic;">“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness;</p>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
<p style="font-weight: bold;">Please join us for service online!</p> <div style="background-color: #f0e68c; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: pink; margin: 0;">HE IS Risen</p> </div> <p style="color: purple; font-style: italic;">Happy Easter!</p>					<p>“by his wounds you have been healed.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>1 Peter 2:24</i></p>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
<p style="font-weight: bold;">Please join us for service online at 11am</p>							
26	27	28	29	30	1	2	
<p style="font-weight: bold;">Please join us for service online at 11am</p>		<p style="font-weight: bold;">Rescue Mission</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">5:45 PM</p> <p>(There is a great need for volunteers at this time, age 60 and under. Please let Darla know if you can help!)</p>					