

# Keokuk Nazarene News

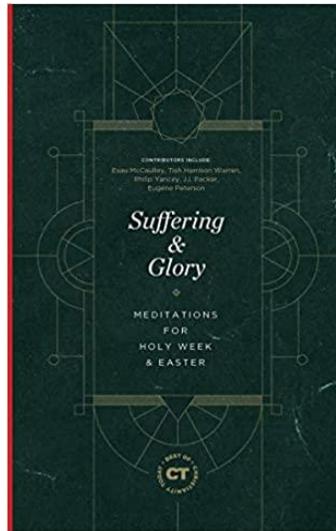
Sunday Service times; Sunday School 9:15 Morning worship 10:00



**“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”**

John 12:13

KNC nursery is open for use once again. Please feel free to access as needed.



Pick up your copy today.  
Reading begins on Palm Sunday

## Holy Week

Good Friday service 6:00 pm

Easter breakfast next Sunday 9:15-10:00 (No SS)

Worship Service at 10:00

## **Spring Cleaning FEVER is here!**

Please consider donating the possessions you would like to clean out to KNC's Annual Giveaway on **Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>** 8-11am

*We are hard pressed on every side, **but not crushed**; perplexed, **but not in despair**; persecuted, **but not abandoned**; struck down, **but not destroyed**. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, **so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.** 2 Corinthians 4:8-10*

*\*Fish Fry* - Following morning worship in May! More info soon

LEE County IA Latest COVID Data  
Infection rate **0.60 %**  
% of Positive Tests --Past 14 days **0.4 %** --Past 7 day avg.**0.9 %**



## **COVID-19 has changed everything — including church.**

But one thing it has not and cannot change is the truth of God's Word. The Bible gives us a clear directive about meeting together in person. Hebrews 10 encourages Christians **“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”** V. 25 Notice the words **“give up”** in that verse. It's from one Greek word **“egkataleipó”**, which means **“to leave behind”** or **“desert.”** The bottom line is that we are not to abandon personal interaction or contact with our cherished brothers and sisters in Christ.

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We were mandated by authorities and we chose to discontinue meeting together for a season of time. As a church, we wanted to do our part in keeping everyone healthy and not spread the disease. However the virus doesn't get to continually undermine this divine directive for Christians.

The biblical reasons for gathering together for worship are numerous, but for the sake of time, I'll only mention a few.

Meeting together builds up the body of Christ. We gather for the spiritual health of ourselves and other believers. Meeting in person, allows us to gain a perspective beyond ourselves. We are united with like-minded people declaring, singing and listening to the truth of God's Word together. Hebrews 10:25 makes it clear that one of the reasons we gather together is to "*encourage*" one another. The Greek word for encourage, "*parakaleó*," can also mean "to comfort." There is a level of comfort and encouragement that you simply can't get from a livestream experience.

I will readily confess my need to be comforted encouraged, and am guessing you could use a little of each yourselves!

One last thing...

Meeting in person bonds believers together. Study after study shows that humanity is hardwired for social interaction. Our bonding is biological, and our very existence depends on it. People need other people with whom to empathize, sympathize, dream and express their feelings. Just look at the decline in mental health and the increased trend in suicides, spousal abuse, child abuse and substance abuse that's been noted during lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Without social interaction, we sabotage the very essence of how God created us.

For those who feel the need to remain vigilant in mask wearing and social distancing then **by all means** please continue to wear a mask and keep a few added feet of separation.

For some, it will be a matter of overcoming apprehension of being in a small crowd. For others it will be a matter of breaking the habit of staying home on Sunday morning. I don't know what all is holding you back from returning to church, but I am praying and hoping it will be soon!

-Pastor Dana