# Rolling Hills Christian Church

Volume 43, Number 5

May 2020

# THE PATHWAY

#### **Our Mission**

We exist to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

#### **Our Vision**

We will make Jesus known so that lives are transformed.

#### **Our Values**

Because of Love, we will. . .

- ♦ LIVE IN COMMUNITY
  Being the Church
  means we intentionally
  live in community with
  others because
  community matters to
  God.
- PRAY BOLDLY
   We believe that a
   church that prays
   together stays
   together.
- ♦ BE IRRATIONALLY
  GENEROUS
  We will reflect the light
  of Christ in irrational
  and incomprehensible
  ways through our time,
  treasures, and talents.
- ♦ SERVE LIKE JESUS
  We are the church and
  we bring hope to the
  world. We will always
  bring our best because
  excellence honors God
  and inspires people.
- Do whatever it takes
   We will do anything
   short of sin to reach
   people who don't know
   Christ.
- ◆ LIVE WITH RADICAL FAITH We will be faith filled, big thinking, bet-it-all risk takers. We will do everything in our power to see people restored to God...

# GOD IS ON THE MOVE

Dear Rolling Hills Family,

God is on the move! The grave could not hold Jesus down and a pandemic is not stopping the gospel from transforming lives! In just 5 weeks of worshiping together online, we have seen 12 individuals come to a faith in Jesus Christ! Can you just stop and praise God where you are?! We serve a good God!

At Rolling Hills, <u>we exist to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus</u>. This is our mission! With that, our vision is to <u>make Jesus known so that lives are</u> transformed.

In our current message series in 1 Thessalonians, called "Faith in Uncertain Times", we are discovering how faith and trust in God is possible when it seems life as we know it has changed so drastically. The young church in Thessalonica had been experiencing persecution and Paul and Silas had to run for their lives because of the controversy of the gospel message they brought.

Yet Paul is writing because Timothy had reported and word got out in the region about the young church's faith, hope and love in the midst of such hardship. Paul indicates in chapter 1 and 2 that their *famous* faith, hope and love was because they accepted the message of the gospel and imitated the apostles and the Lord. In the first week, we discovered that *imitating Jesus enables us to respond like Jesus in uncertain times*.

How did Jesus respond in uncertain times? I referenced him kneeling in the garden before his arrest praying and asking if there was another way for the payment of the sins of all of humanity could be taken from him, but yet He surrenders saying, "not my will but yours".

Our lives and the lives around us are affected when we imitate Jesus. We experience a transformation that the world is not used to. We respond differently in our marriages, we parent differently, we live with a hope that surpasses all understanding and we definitely do not freak out and fear like the world does in a pandemic, but rather we have a faith, hope and love that is worth talking about. Why? Because of the message of Jesus Christ brings transformation to our lives.

And this is what I am beginning to see. In the first couple of weeks of the pandemic and during our transition to Church Online, our attendance dropped, our giving plummeted, and our sense of community through fellowship was threatened. But, because we are fully devoted followers of Jesus, because we have been transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ, we have a greater attendance online (over 1,800).

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views on Easter weekend) than in person, our giving has normalized while some are giving even more to meet the needs of the congregation and community, and I keep hearing stories from you of individuals sending cards, writing notes, sending texts or making calls to stay in touch. We have launched a weekly prayer gathering online, a mid-day Tuesday coffee hangout, and starting this week, a small group all meeting online to keep our community together.

Our God is on the move and He is choosing to move through you. So in the words of Jesus, "take heart, because I have overcome the world."

Even in our social distancing, here are ways you can connect on a regular basis at Rolling Hills, even if you live somewhere else than Topeka:

- Join in on our Online Small Group Thursdays at 7pm. Small Groups are designed to connect people to Christ and to others at Rolling Hills Christian Church. This group will be diving deeper into Sunday messages to apply the weekend message to our daily lives.
- Participate in our Online Prayer Meetings via Zoom on Wednesday nights at 7pm. We believe that a Church that prays together, stays together.
- Invite someone to join you for Church Online. One of the greatest things we can do is to invite others to join us in a worship service. Now with our services online, the Church is coming into more homes than ever. God might be using you to be a part someone's salvation story during this pandemic.
- Call, text, email or write someone and encourage them during this time. Be a light in someone's life
  this week and let them know you care, pray for them or simply share a verse from scripture with
  them.

We need each other more than ever, so let's not stop being a faith-filled church!

Blessings!

Matt Brown Lead Pastor

If you have not been receiving our emails during the pandemic, please check your spam or junk folders. We have found that they are going there for a lot of people. If you have not received any emails from us and would like to, please email office@rhcctopeka.org and we will gladly add you to our communications list

For technical assistance, please email <u>matt@rhcctopeka.org</u> or <u>office@rhcctopeka.org</u> or call 785.286.0601 and leave a message.



Sunday Online Worship Services: <u>live.rhcctopeka.org</u> 10:00am, 11:30am, 4:00pm; Kid Service: 9:15am, 1:00pm



Updates on Facebook: facebook.com/rhcctopeka



Follow and Give Online: www.rhcctopeka.org

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## CHURCH EVENTS AND MEETINGS

At this time the church building is closed through early May, but changes may occur on a week by week basis. At time of printing, the state of Kansas Stay-Home order ends on May 3, when Shawnee County plans to gradually increase openings. The church leadership will be sure to keep you updated on our plans for re-opening the building and getting back to in-person events/services. Follow our Facebook page and website for more information as it becomes available.





#### Zoom Prayer Meeting, Wednesdays @ 7pm

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20 NIV

Pray with us on Wednesday evenings! Everyone is welcome to log in for a time of prayer with our church family online.

Pray Boldly: We believe that a Church that prays together, stays together.

Join Zoom Meetings: <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7023275286">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7023275286</a>

Meeting ID: 702 327 5286

# The Church Has Never Been About a Building.

Call or Text For Assistance 785.251.0695

Compassion

If you are looking to serve hope in the pandemic, consider giving to our benevolence fund ("Relief & Restoration"), or join our <u>Compassion Team</u>. From serving at local organizations' food distributions, to helping immune-compromised families get their groceries, we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to someone in need.

If you know of someone who needs help, call or text 785.251.0695.

Grocery Go-Kits: There are many in need in our community, especially those facing job-insecurity. The Compassion Team will assemble Grocery Go-Kits to have on hand in the church office, ready to share with those who call for help. Watch for more information, coming soon, about how you can help build our Grocery Go-Kit pantry.

### SERVING AT ROLLING HILLS

If service is held at the church building, please do not feel obligated to attend if you do not feel comfortable doing so, and especially if you are feeling unwell.

Volunteers, thank you for serving! Watch your emails for information and reminders for the worship services, helping in children's ministries, and other volunteer roles.

Please let us know if you are not getting our emails. Be sure to check your spam filter and add our email address to your Contacts list.

CHURCH OFFERINGS March and April Weekly Budget Need: \$3,133			
Date	Offering	Date	Offering
3/22	\$0	4/5	\$1,335*
3/29	\$3,251	4/12	\$1,200*
March Avg	\$1,402	*Does not yet include all online giving.	



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# COMING UP AT ROLLING HILLS

The church building is closed to keep our families safe. Connect with us online — Watch our website and FB page for more information!

## Online Zoom Meetings:

Tuesdays: Coffee With the Pastor, 2pm

**Wednesdays:** Prayer Meeting, 7pm **Thursdays:** Small Groups, 7pm

### **Online Worship Services:**

live.rhcctopeka.org

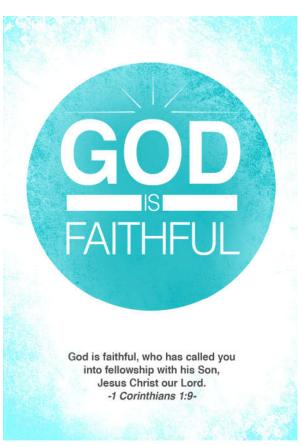
Saturdays, 7pm

Sundays, 10am, 11:30am, 4pm

Kid Worship: Sundays, 9:15am & 1pm







The Pathway is available on our website!

Simply e-mail us to let us know if you prefer not to receive a paper copy of the church newsletter.