

# 3timbers CHURCH

ISSUE 4

MAY 2020

*Connecting  
people to the  
transforming  
and redeeming  
love of Jesus  
Christ through*

***PASSION,  
POWER, and  
PRESENCE***

## *Quarantine Edition!*

Tomorrow, next week, next time, these are things all of us said before the world literally shut down due to the coronavirus. All of us had plans to do something tomorrow or next week or the next time we never got the chance. Our once velocity-filled, non-stop world suddenly came to a crashing halt, and we have been trying to adjust ever since. I have been so proud to see how 3tc has adjusted and continued its mission to connect people to the transforming and redeeming love of Jesus.

Our staff and leadership team has been amazing with all of our online offerings each week, six now in total! From prayer, to kids, men's and women's, life group live and, of course, worship. We have seen how God is blessing and using this to expand our reach and connection with people through these ministries. It has been amazing that, even in quarantine, the gospel can't be stopped as God uses 3tc. From "Goods Friday" to porch prayers, the Bennington Community Pantry, to ABIDE network drive-through block party, God is still allowing us to extend the love and hope of Jesus to our community.

As much as all of us miss the freedom of movement and being able to see, hug and be with others, perhaps we should remember the words of Psalm 46:10 *"Be still and know that I am God."* This verse reminds us to stop and know God, to listen and learn from God, to bow down in awe to God. This can sometimes be hard with how busy our lives can become, but that has all changed now. I hope and pray that this time of "being still," though challenging, has led to knowing God in a deeper way. We have a loving and faithful God who desires for us to know Him better so we can discover his mercy and grace.

Our leadership team continues to be prayerful and mindful about all that will need to go into meeting together again. We are constantly discussing and researching best practices so when the opportunity comes to gather again, we will have sufficient information to make the best choice. Until then, trust and adjust and stay connected with our online offerings.

- Pastor Jeff

Did you know you can...

- ♦ access current and past sermon series at: [threetimbers.org/sermons/](https://threetimbers.org/sermons/)
- ♦ replay the recent Sunday services, Tuesday prayer times, Wednesday Treehouse Kids, & Friday Life Interrupted classes on the Three Timbers Church Facebook page... just click on "videos"
- ♦ also watch videos from Easter Sunday, welcome to Grant & Emma, appreciation video for Sarah and more - also on the 3tc Facebook page under "videos."



## Getting in the Game...

"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."  
1 Corinthians 9:25

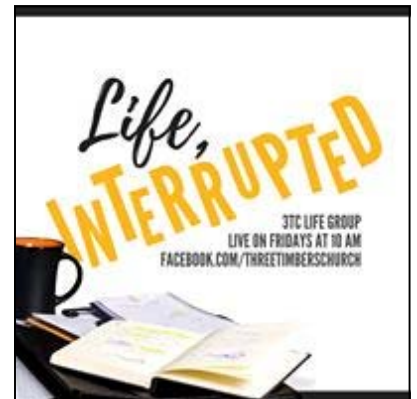
Sunday



Monday



Friday



Tuesday



Thursday



Wednesday

## Treehouse Kids ... get in the Game with this FUN ACTIVITY!!

Now that school is winding down, take a minute or two for this!

Who here loves to worship God??

- Would you like the chance to announce that it is time to worship on Sunday mornings?
- We are looking for some kids to announce that it is time for worship so here is what you do...

**Get your mom or dad to take a video of you saying:**

- "Good morning Three Timbers Church! It's time to worship!"

or  
- "Hi Everyone at 3TC. Get up and lets worship Jesus!!!"

or  
make up your own welcome to worship

-Send the video - ASAP! - to Mr. Garrett or to Mr. Grant  
[Grant@threetimbers.org](mailto:Grant@threetimbers.org)  
[Garrett@threetimbers.org](mailto:Garrett@threetimbers.org)

How will you get in the game?



## Ask the Staff...

*\* How have you navigated the changes to your position brought about by the quarantine?*

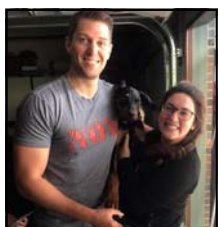
### **Sarah Snow, Worship & Music Leader**

*I think it's more important than ever to remember that worship is daily. Worship is more than just music, it's a way of life. You can worship and praise in the everyday, thanking God for His goodness and praising His name for the good. When the day seems long or has been tough, think of three ways you've seen God's goodness in that day. The reflection part is important.*

*We miss each other, that's for sure. The weekly connection of working together to create worshipful moments and work through music together was something we all looked forward to. We have been able to have some Zoom meetings where we can just check in with each other and make sure everyone is okay. It is so good to see each other's faces and hear each other's voices. I can't wait until we can all hug each other again!*

*Music is such a powerful thing and is an incredible way of connecting everyone. I hope that part has stayed the same. That people are able to continue to see the connection between the music and the message. That people are still able to and hopefully are even less inhibited to WORSHIP OUT LOUD! There's nothing holding us back now! No worries about what others think about how we sound or look because it's just us, praising Jesus!*

*Even though the team isn't all able to play together, hopefully the stripped down sound is lending it's way to an intimate worship experience. Less fullness of sound, but still fullness of spirit. Sometimes God's voice is loudest when it's quiet. The world is quiet now. Hopefully more and more people are hearing His voice. I'm hopeful that music is a part of that.*



### **Joe Slabaugh, Youth Director**

*Our youth ministry, Pursuit, has adapted to the pandemic by switching all meetings into an online format. Using a video platform called Google Hangouts Meet, we hold weekly meetings on Sunday nights as well as small-group Bible studies, which are hosted at various times throughout the week. These virtual meetings involve some games, general conversations to find out how everyone is doing, and a short lesson. We're also relying on an exciting new mobile app called Voke.*

*After downloading the free app on any phone or other device, Voke takes group members through a video series over a period of 3 to 8 weeks. Each week, group members can expect a brief and entertaining video that discusses different aspects of the Bible. After each week's video wraps up, the app unlocks some questions about it. Group members get to text in their answers to Voke's chat room, which allows everyone to see what each other is writing. Right now, we're taking a closer look at the story around Easter. Both of these offerings are free and anyone between 7th and 12th grade is invited to join us!*



### **Garrett Worner, Children's Director**

*Kids' ministry has been a crazy learning curve. I have been using "Go" curriculum for a great online video lesson to send to the kids every week. We are going to expand on that in the next couple of weeks during Sunday service to allow me a couple more minutes to do shortened "children's church"...just a short lesson for the kids before Pastor Jeff speaks. We hope this gives the kids a little more than a video to watch. Make it a little more personal and little more to show them how to spread the love of Jesus during this time.*

*Wednesday nights are tooling along, but we by no means are resting on the usual. I have been writing the lessons for Wednesday's while continuing through the Old Testament. Mrs Lorrin and I are now halfway through the book of 2 Kings, and we are deep into the life of Elisha.*

*Mr. Grant and I have plans to start live music worship on Wednesday's too for the kids and are throwing around many ideas on how to get the kids more involved in music worship and ministry.*

*We have postponed our thoughts for a VBS with CEF. Right now we are tentatively looking at the end of July, but we are still praying this through to see if we should meet in person. I have also been researching VBS online ideas and that might also be a way to go. Still nothing set in stone on that.*

**Treehouse Kids**

CHECK OUT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 2 TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES!



~ WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!!  
~ GOD WINKS

### Welcome, Grant Riesen, our new Worship Pastor and Creative Arts Director

Hello 3TC! I wanted to take a second here to thank you all for such a warm welcome to the Three Timbers family and to introduce myself and my wife to all of you.

My name is Grant and my wife is Emma and we got married in December of last year. We are so beyond excited to be in fellowship with you all! I have been leading worship for around four years now and have a passion for what worship is, not just in music, but in everything. This is a passion that has only been supported by Emma and her heart for the same thing. We both love pouring into people and into our community and love seeing God move in his people and church. Some of my hobbies include all things music (playing, recording, writing, etc.), working out and playing sports, and spending time with friends and family. Emma enjoys running and yoga, being with friends and family, and cooking. We also both love being outside!



We have been so blessed by your church family in this process of interviewing/hiring/transitioning. While this is not the ideal time to be transitioning we know that God is using it in some incredible ways. Luckily, we had already come on board before any churches had begun to close, so during that process we had the opportunity to meet many of you. In the transition we've seen God slow us down in what is a crazy season. We've been so blessed to have the luxury of transitioning from a good church to a good church, and through covid, we've had some extra time to reflect on past experiences and eagerly anticipate the future. We cannot wait to see you all soon!



Three Timbers Church wants to recognize and congratulate our own Tim Hoins as he passed his ordination exams in April! This was the last step before our denomination approves Tim as a newly ordained pastor in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Tim, Kristy, and their boys have spent many years in pursuit of this milestone and they deserve to be celebrated for this achievement!

***Congratulations, Tim, and may God bless your ministry as a pastor in His church.***

*Please see Tim and Kristy's testimony on the following page...*



Thank you, Pam Mitchell, for sharing your recent God Wink...

Needing some thread to continue mask-making, I ordered it on line from JoAnn's for pick up. They have so many orders, it took a week, so I was very happy when they notified me it was ready for pick up.

When I got there, there was a long line and I thought ugh! It was not moving much, so I started talking - 6 feet away and masks! - to the woman behind me.

After a minute she decided not to wait, and she started to walk away. She turned back and gave me her name. She told me she had lots and lots of thread at home and that she would be more than happy to share. In fact, she said her husband would even drop it off at my house!

Well, I got my thread and decided to text the woman and thank her. I told her that as a person of strong faith. I said I knew that God is at work through all our current difficulties and she was a wonderful example of that with her kindness.

She texted me back and said she agreed God was at work and that right now she feels very blessed to have her health, her faith, and her hobbies. It was all a very sweet connection (God wink) with a total stranger!



So small and yet so big.





## ~ CONGRATULATIONS!!

***Hello 3TC family, this is Tim Hoins. I hope you are all doing well in these crazy times! I look forward to getting to worship with all of you very soon. When Ginger asked me to tell a little bit of my life's journey for the newsletter, she suggested I invite Kristy to add some of her own thoughts. I decided to do one better. You all know I love to talk and I am happy to share my story. But the truth is, this isn't my story, it's our story. I wouldn't be where I am without all the support Kristy has given me over the years. I thought maybe you would like to hear about our journey as seen through her eyes.***

July of 1997 was one of the toughest times in our married life. I was expecting our second child. At 27 weeks, we found out our daughter, Emily Kay, had died in the womb. We spent an agonizing week in the hospital waiting to deliver her. We cried a lot, prayed a lot, and sat in somber-awkward silence a lot.

One night, Tim decided he wanted to go to the hospital chapel to pray in solitude. While pouring his heart out to God, he had a life altering experience that changed our family's path immeasurably. Tim heard God speak his name. It was then he knew, God was calling him into service.

Our first attempt into seminary did not play out well. In 2004, Tim began the process of getting into Dubuque Theological Seminary. Unfortunately, there were some significant obstacles we couldn't overcome at that time and seminary had to be put on the back burner. Tim was deeply disappointed, but not discouraged. He knew it would come together in God's timing.

We had to wait another seven years before the opportunity was more realistically presented. In the spring semester of 2011, Tim enrolled in Sioux Falls Seminary. The next seven years he diligently and faithfully studied, accepted preaching jobs at various churches in Nebraska and Iowa, and was blessed with the wonderful support of family and friends to encourage him all along the way. In May of 2018, Tim graduated with his Master of Divinity. Josh, our youngest, was a junior in high school and really wanted to graduate from Bennington High. So, Tim put off taking his ordination exams until closer to when he would transition into full time ministry.

Josh did graduate in 2019, but life for the Hoinses was a bit tumultuous at the time so Tim had to hold off on taking the exams. By the grace of God, he took and passed them in March of this year. He's currently in the midst of seeking out a church where he can begin life as a pastor. We were hoping for something in the Midwest, but God has other plans for us. Seems the only openings right now are in the west, east, or south.

Traveling the long journey of getting Tim into ministry has bolstered my faith walk immensely. I discovered that I sincerely enjoy being a prayer warrior. Any opportunity to commune with our Lord one on one feeds my soul. The power of prayer is transforming and humbling. It demands you grow your relationship with Christ and seek His will always.

This experience hasn't been happy-go-lucky by any stretch. Through the years we've dealt with our oldest son, Nick's alcoholism, our middle son, Connor's issues with Asperger Syndrome, Josh had pretty significant asthma growing up, and that's just our kid struggles. But I will tell you this, through it all, Tim lead our family always with God as our center.



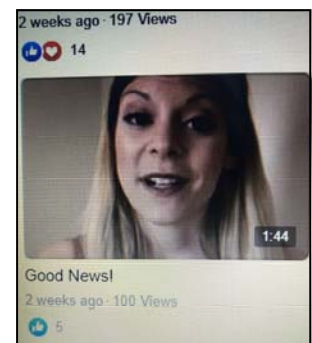
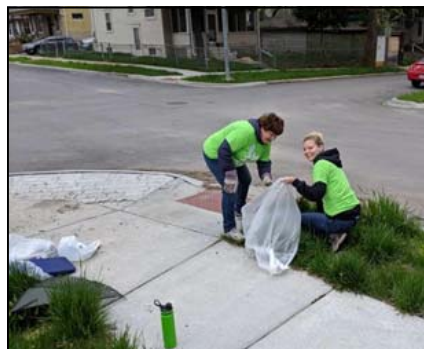
**But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession,  
and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.**

**2 Corinthians 2:14**



## CELEBRATING SARAH SNOW'S MINISTRY AT 3TC

When I mentioned this article to Sarah and asked for her input, this was her humble response: "As far as celebrating my ministry, there's no need though I appreciate the sentiment. I'm grateful to have served in this capacity for Jesus and His Kingdom. When God calls, you go, whether it is to start something new or to leave something and I'm thankful to have heard His voice. I'm so grateful for everything. I've learned a lot about leading and I've grown a lot as a person. I cherish all the friendships I made and am thankful to the team for allowing me to lead them. I'm really proud of everyone on the team and how much they've grown. They all have a love for Jesus in their hearts and I think it shows in their serving of this ministry."



Sarah, 3tc thanks you for the blessing you've been to us and for your dedication to a meaningful and joyful worship experience.

May God continue to bless you and your family in all your endeavors.





## Upcoming Events

Get in the Game! Join in the fellowship and outreach opportunities at three timbers church...

### COMMUNION - MAY 17

Communion will be taken on **Sunday, May 17**, during the online worship service.

Grab some bread and grape juice and join us online as Pastor Jeff will walk us through this.



Three Timbers is participating in Omaha Gives! on **May 20**. Visit our Omaha Gives page to see how you can create a Cheer Page and other ways to share online to help us spread the word and raise funds for our ministries at 3TC.

[OMAHA GIVES PAGE](#)

# Sending Love



Our church is praying for you.  
We are all in this pandemic together.  
Let us know how we can help you.

**3timbers**  
CHURCH

## Porch Prayers

*Encouraging our neighbors throughout this pandemic.*

Download:

- ♦ Social media graphics
- ♦ Printable post cards
- ♦ All

at <https://threetimbers.org/porch-prayers/>

## Soul Sisters

**FALL BOOK CLUB (date TBD) (A good summer read!)**

**"Redeeming Love" by Francine Rivers**

Location: Ginger Blunk's House  
19601 Hopper Street, Elkhorn







## FINANCIAL CORNER

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

***Thank you so very much*** to all who have so faithfully continued to support Three Timbers as we have transitioned from connecting through gathering to connecting through technology. Be **bold** and share all 3TC has to offer with others! This is truly a great time to spread our Lord's message of hope as well as support the delivery of that message through his church.

*These are also times to reflect on the fact we are only stewards of what God has entrusted to our care. As stewards, there are naturally expectations from the owner. From Luke 12:48 (NIV) "From everyone who has been given much, much more will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."*

*So whether we have been blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge and/or time, it is **expected** we will use it to benefit others. While this is without doubt true for all seasons of life, I believe it is especially pertinent in challenging times to use what the Lord has entrusted us with to His service. Keep serving, 3TC family!*

*God Bless; Stay Safe, Stay Healthy,  
Rick Blunk*

Reminder... there are multiple ways to make contributions to the ministry of Three Timbers Church:

- ⇒ You may mail checks to the church post office box: PO Box 282, Bennington 68007;
- ⇒ You may use the 'Give' button for online giving at the church website;
- ⇒ As you order through Amazon please remember to use Amazon Smile and designate Three Timbers as your charity of choice.
- ⇒ And, of course, be watching for areas you can serve and engage!

YTD Revenue and Expense - As of April 30, 2020

Revenue:	\$91,397.28
Expense:	<u>\$95,154.55</u>
Net	(3,757.27)

*Note:* We have paid \$3400 towards deposits for the high school mission trip which was cancelled. These deposits will be applied towards the 2021 mission trip. We are also paid ahead at the school for rent on the three Sundays in March we were unable to use the facility. This totals another \$1020 for a total of \$4420 in items paid ahead.



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**Support three timbers church by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)**

### Stay Connected...

Are you *receiving* emails from 3tc?

Have you *moved*?

Do you have a *new phone number*?

Have you opened a *new email account*?



➡ *So we can keep you up to date, please keep us up to date!*

*Let us know if you've had changes to your contact information!  
[rick@threetimbers.org](mailto:rick@threetimbers.org) and [newsletter@threetimbers.org](mailto:newsletter@threetimbers.org)*





## 3tc Recaps



### Band of Brothers



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### Ash Wednesday Service



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

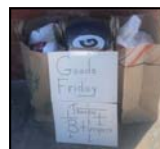
### Maunder Thursday Dinner

Special Communion Service  
6:30pm on Facebook Live  
Thursday, April 9



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### Good(s) Friday





## Navigating the Covid-19 Quarantine

*What I did while quarantined:*

*mask making, bread baking,  
jigsaw puzzling, husband nuzzling,  
trail walking, friend talking,  
too much time Netflix stalking,  
tears shed, unmade bed,  
bad hair frowning, junk food drowning,  
book reading, news seeing,  
birthday zooming, virus looming,  
AARP game playing, most of all, daily praying.*

*~ Pam Mitchell*



*This quarantine has led our family in the direction that we had thought our lives would go about 15 years ago when Brian and I were engaged and both studying secondary education at UNL. Currently, as was the original plan back then, Brian & I are both teachers (difference here is we are teaching our own children... that was not in our plan). I am the tough one demanding results and assigning additional work beyond what was given. Meanwhile, "Dr. Duensing" (still trying to figure out how he claimed*

*his doctorate in this situation when in reality he left college early for the MLB draft...) is the cool, fun teacher who really just plays catch and throws batting practice to the kids in the backyard when they are able to escape their schoolroom. The kids just cannot believe that the awesome teacher is married to the boring teacher... as was the anticipated reaction from students in our original scenario.*

*Otherwise, things are going great. :)*

*- The Duensing Family*



- I have been sewing masks! ...listening to audio books and watching lots of Netflix and Disney TV while sewing.
- We have been working outside cleaning up landscape, planting flowers and garden plants.
- I have put together one puzzle, 1500 pieces.
- My new thing I have tried is ordering my groceries on line and greatly appreciate the employees

*filling and delivering my orders.*

- Something new is a Granddaughter that is 2 weeks old, Leta.
- I have been writing lots of letters to those in self isolation, lots of FaceTime with Family and some zoom gatherings.
- I almost forgot to mention that with all the mask sewing I am pretty sure if the "Great British Baking Show" comes to Nebraska I will be ready !



*- Rochelle*







## Navigating the Covid-19 Quarantine - continued...

For me, quarantine has been about God teaching me (and re-teaching me almost daily) to be flexible and content. One of my favorite bible verses is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Living this verse has not been without significant challenge throughout coronavirus restrictions, but it is a great reminder and daily application goal.

One of the biggest blessings of COVID has been watching our church adapt and continue to serve, worship, pray, gather online, love our community and thrive. I am so thankful for our 3TC family!

~ Love and virtual hugs, Kristi

### Some highlights and photos from our quarantine life:

The Coronavirus  
Wii Olympic Games



Snowman building



Seeing my hubby's name  
on the ballot



Family bike rides



← Bonnie's mask assembly line... ready to go!



In the beginning, I felt a little responsible for the quarantine... I was that person who has said more than once, "If everything would just stop, then I could get caught up." As penance, I cleaned closets, unpacked a few straggler boxes from our two-year-old move, cooked mostly lovely meals every night, and sent funny jokes and videos to my friends and family to cheer them up. As time went on the new wore off and I became more contemplative.

Here are a few things I've learned:

- ◆ I can be content staying home for an extended period of time, though separation from family has not been pleasant.
- ◆ I have a new appreciation and thankfulness for Skype and FaceTime and unlimited data.
- ◆ I can be perfectly fine one minute and very emotional the next at the impact this new enemy has wrought at every level.
- ◆ Even junk tv gets old after awhile... and all home makeovers begin to look the same.
- ◆ Thanks to the dedicated 3tc staff, my thirst for a stronger prayer life & Bible knowledge has grown and along with it, at times, those pesky emotions. I find myself waking with snippets of online lessons and tobyMac songs running through my mind, and that's comforting.
- ◆ I may be a bit picky when it comes to my groceries! In all fairness (to me) my first order-for-delivery experience did include 5 pounds of rice and 1 GIANT potato instead of 1 pound of rice and 5 pounds of potatoes! That was the same order that brought me not (1) 4-lb chicken, but (4) 4-lb. chickens. Our thoughtful son recommended a diet of chicken and rice.
- ◆ Over time, I have come to appreciate and be thankful for people who are willing to shop for and deliver groceries to those who won't leave their homes.
- ◆ I've learned I am not a very good barber, but desperate people with shaggy hair are grateful all the same. And so-so haircuts grow out and look not-so-bad as the quarantine lengthens.
- ◆ I am grateful for my family, my church family, and mostly my Lord and Savior for being with me through this very odd season. There are many lessons learned that I will think about in the years to come.

- Ginger







## 3tc Word Search

G	O	E	R	A	P	U	R	S	U	I	T	A	T
B	T	N	M	S	T	S	E	R	A	S	S	S	F
R	R	I	S	I	H	H	O	D	E	G	M	Y	R
A	E	L	I	S	R	U	J	T	I	O	I	D	I
N	E	N	N	M	E	S	R	R	M	O	S	U	P
C	H	O	G	R	E	B	M	S	T	D	S	T	A
H	O	E	I	G	T	L	O	S	T	S	S	S	S
E	U	A	N	A	I	E	O	K	N	F	A	E	T
S	S	S	G	R	M	S	P	S	A	R	R	L	O
B	E	T	G	R	B	S	R	A	R	I	A	B	R
J	K	E	I	E	E	I	A	M	G	D	H	I	J
I	I	R	O	T	R	N	Y	T	R	A	H	B	E
S	D	A	R	T	S	G	E	S	M	Y	A	M	F
Y	S	N	R	R	S	S	R	Y	S	E	G	A	F

MRGARRETT  
THREETIMBERS  
MASKS  
MRGRANT  
PASTORJEFF  
PURSUIT  
EASTER  
GOODSFRIDAY  
BIBLESTUDY  
BRANCHES  
SINGING  
MISSSARAH  
TREEHOUSEKIDS  
BLESSINGS  
MRJOE  
PRAYER  
ONLINE