



**ST. TIMOTHY**  
*Presbyterian Church*

# 2020

## YEAR BOOK

ESM

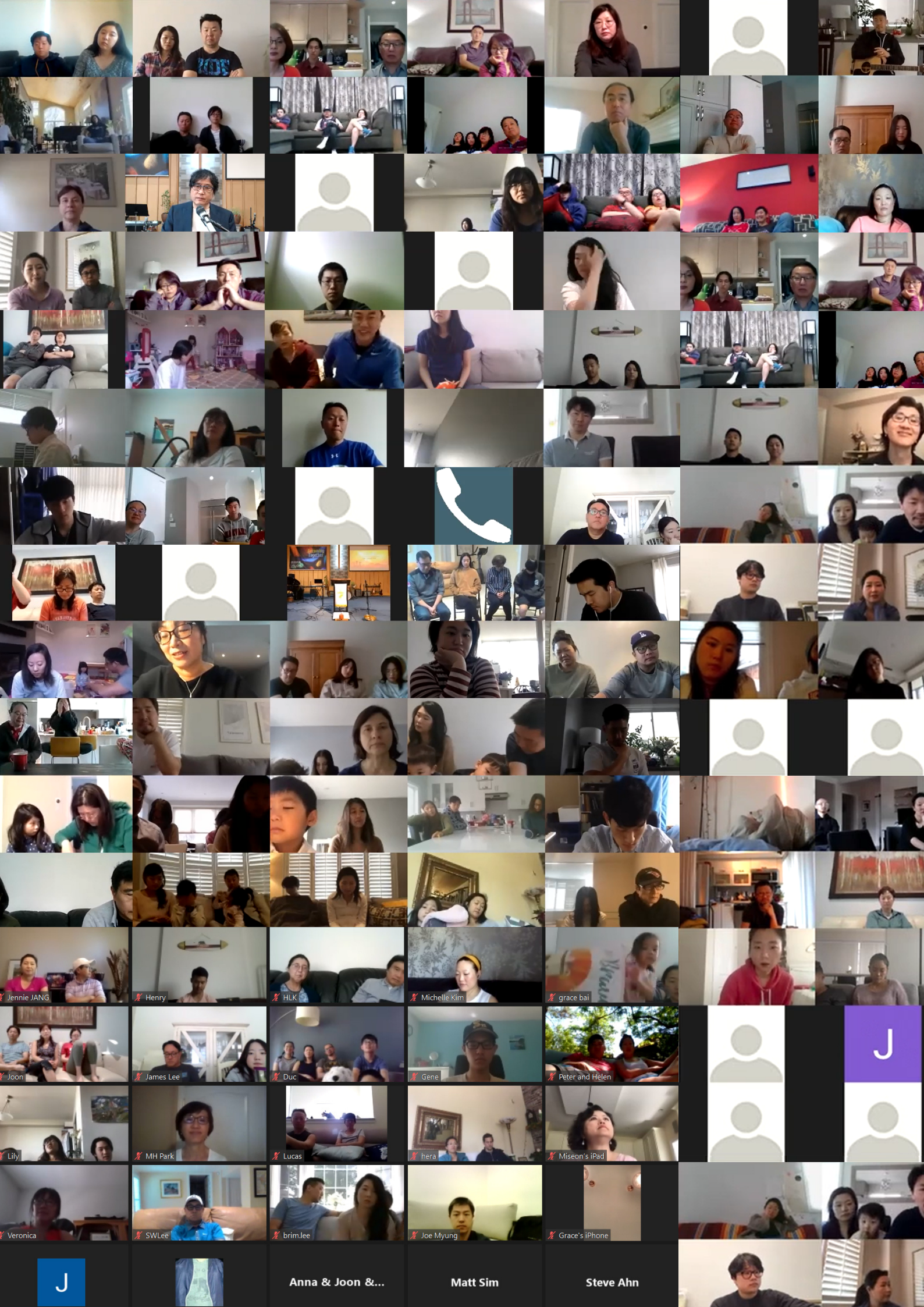
**BECOMING  
TOGETHER**

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Jennie JANG

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hera

Miseon's iPad

Veronica

SWLee

brim.lee

Joe Myung

Grace's iPhone

Anna & Joon &...

Matt Sim

Steve Ahn



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**Young Families  
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**Choir Ministry**







A WORD FROM  
**REV. IN KEE KIM**  
Senior Minister

Dear friends at St. Tim,

2020 was a very unusual year. It was a historical year that had no precedent. It clearly showed how frail and vulnerable we human beings are. We experienced human weaknesses not just at the personal level but in a global dimension. The “invisible” had so much power to shut down everything around us. People had to close businesses, restaurants, schools, shopping malls and so on. We could not meet friends and have social time. Families had to stay separated even during holiday seasons. We realized that what we took for granted all these years may not always be there for us. We experienced that more poignantly than ever before when we said goodbye to our beloved.

2020 truly exposed human frailty and vulnerability but at the same time, I realized that we human beings are more resilient than I expected. At the beginning of this pandemic, I wasn't sure how to carry on the ministry. I wondered what the future of the church would be without being able to gather together physically. Surprisingly, people's faith was stronger than I imagined. They gathered together more diligently through Zoom and they encouraged each other to keep on keeping on. We did not have to cancel Sunday worship services. The attendance of the worship services was even more than when we met in person. We did all the Bible studies: Monday Bible studies, TBS, Thursday YF studies, Friday gathering, and so on.



## A WORD FROM **REV. IN KEE KIM**

That attitude was the same in the KSM. Both ESM and KSM members gave generously so that we could continue our ministry. Even though we were physical separated, we tried to connect the members through care packages. We visited with care packages and with social distancing, we met people outside. We also did not want to neglect people in need, both in our city and globally. We sent care packages to Teesdale community; we did a toy drive and people gave generously. We continued our ministry for Evangel Hall, delivering food for the people in need and also raise a fund for food vouchers. We did a special offering for South Africa and people enthusiastically participated. We also organized a vigil for the racial inequality we experience in North America. We invited our neighbor church, St. Andrew's Humber Heights Presbyterian Church to have worship with us during the summer.

We are strong with God. Faith gives us the strength. We never lose hope. Even in ashes, we see flowers blooming. A shoot will spring up from the stump. 2020 was a difficult year but it only made us stronger.

With that strength, we will face 2021. Things will only get better. Our theme for 2021 is "Open Wide." As Scripture says, if we "open our mouth wide," then God will fill it. Let us open our mouth wide and God will fill it. Let us open our hearts wide and God will fill it so that we can take any challenges. Let us open our eyes and ears wide. We will be able to see the wonderful works of God and hear God's gentle voice.





A WORD FROM  
**REV. SIMON PARK**  
Associate Minister

We will look back on 2020 as the year the world stood still. COVID-19 was a singular event that affected the whole world in a way we had never experienced.

Each year, our church reflects on a theme for the upcoming year. We pray, seek discernment and inspiration on where God is leading us. Somehow, “Becoming Together” became the theme for 2020. Little did we know how relevant and prescient that theme would be.

When COVID-19 hit us, we literally had to reinvent how we did church. It forced us to reflect on who we were as a spiritual community. What was most inspiring for us is how the community truly came together. Everything else was stripped away, but we rediscovered the heart of worship. Worship is the beating heart of the church, and the reason why we exist. Seeing each of you week in and week out for worship was truly inspiring.

We thank God for leading us and guiding us through a truly unprecedented year. All the reflections inside this yearbook try to capture God’s presence and guidance in this community over the past year. We look forward to how God will lead us in the year ahead!



**PRE-COVID**



# New Year's Retreat

Each year we begin with a new year retreat and this year was no different. The theme was “Becoming Together.” We reflected on the meaning of community and how spirituality relates with it. It was a great time of reflection, discussion and starting off the year on a hopeful note. Little did we know how relevant this theme would become.



**“Becoming Together”  
Lecture Book**



**Gathered together for service**





# YOUNG FAMILIES RETREAT

This was the third YF retreat. This has become a great way for the young families of our church to come together to reflect and have good fellowship, not to mention fun times for the kids. It was a great time to get away from normal routines for even one night and be able to share and discuss meaningfully with one another.

# ESM IN THE YEAR OF COVID

# MARCH

## The End of Life as We Knew It

Life was proceeding as we knew it. It was the first year of a new decade and had their various hopes and dreams. Little did we know that everything would come to a standstill. Life as we knew it was over. For the first time in the history of our lives, all church services halted. This was a true shock to our system. Never before had church been cancelled. The staff and session quickly sprung into action to adapt to this new and crazy circumstance. We began by pre-recording worship services and trying to upload them on time so that people could watch. We experienced many technical glitches. We quickly got a Zoom account and tried to learn how this might be used for our Sunday worship. After a few weeks of recording and posting services online, including adding a primitive chat box to our website, we adapted and got ready to come together, albeit virtually, as a community.

An empty sanctuary during Sunday Service



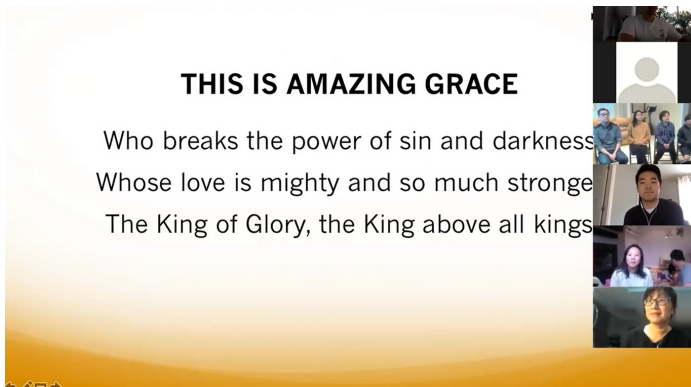


# APRIL

## Easter and the Shift to Zoom

What an easter to remember!

On Easter Sunday, we launched our very first Zoom Sunday worship. What an emotional time and experience this was! To see our whole congregation together on screen for the first time, to see all the familiar faces of our members saying hi to one another truly felt like God was resurrecting our community. We sort of take it granted for now, but words cannot convey how novel and how wonderful this experience was. We sang together from our own homes, we listened to the message, watched videos that were made by our young kids and so much more. We even celebrated communion on this Easter Sunday. This shift to Zoom showed the centrality of worship and the important place it has in the life of our community. We thank God for this wonderful Easter Sunday and the beginning of a new era in our life as a community.



## PANDEMIC REFLECTIONS

faith, hope and love in a time of crisis

# Life in The First Wave

When the pandemic hit us, it was a true shock to our system. Never before had we experienced anything like this. It's hard to fully recall the thoughts and emotions going through our minds, but luckily we reflected throughout this whole experience. Various members would share their thoughts and feelings of the moment as we were going through this. People's reflections were such a blessing to the community by providing encouragement, a sense of solidarity, and the feeling that we truly were all in this together. We thank God for guiding us through these very difficult initial months.



SPIRIT LEAD ME WHERE MY TRUST IS WITHOUT BORDERS

When my nephew was born last year, I remember both sides of the family were all gathered in anticipation at the hospital for his arrival. There will definitely be no extra visitors for our baby's birth and I wonder how long even Steve will be allowed to stay with me in the hospital. Just for delivery? A couple of hours afterwards? When will family be able to meet our daughter? How about friends?

Sometimes I feel conflicted over celebrating life in the midst of so much illness and death. As we anticipate our own baby, I also know 4 moms who have given birth in the past month and their happiness welcoming a child in these times gives me encouragement and hope. In the same month, one day while watching the news, we sadly found out a neighbour on our floor lost his mother to Covid-19. Life and death happening all at once can feel overwhelming.

ing, my own feelings are daily made more become opportunities to stay present, grateful and reflect.

And as I reflect on becoming a parent, I also find that I am deeply reflecting on my identity and dependence as a child too a child of God. I am reminded that I am not in control and that God is. As His child, God doesn't expect me to understand everything or be able to figure everything out all on my own. I hope that I can trust my loving Father to be with me, strengthen me, take care of me and guide me as I hope my child would trust in me as her parent. As I carry this baby inside of me, and

*Ruth Kim, "When Expecting a Baby"*

allowing people to enter stores without masks. People buying absurd amounts of toilet paper because that can definitely keep you fed for two weeks. And the list doesn't stop there. Ultimately, the world is deprived of love. Now more than ever, we need to be able to love ourselves and those around us.

I think my faith is definitely going through a very rocky path. Questions like where is Christ in the face of this pandemic? In the face of crisis, can we persevere? I don't know. I'm not sure what to feel. Now more than ever, I think people need to take care of themselves and to be mindful of others. I mean, the Israelites had to wait 40 years before even thinking about getting into the Promised Land. It definitely wasn't an easy life but their patience was well rewarded. Can our situation even be compared to their struggles? For that? I don't know.

*Joshua Chung, "Love During Uncertain Times"*

to either spend more time with our roommates, or spend more time with ourselves. Both of these options are challenging, and cause us to see the cracks in our relationships and in ourselves. The strongest of us fail to be comfortable alone in our own company for such prolonged periods of time because many of us have issues we've been able to ignore by immersing ourselves in other activities until now. Now we have to face ourselves, because there's not much to do to distract ourselves.

We have an opportunity now to see ourselves as we are, and decide what we want for ourselves and who we want to be moving forward. Never before have we had such an opportunity where we have nothing but time. It's tough to face ourselves but with enough trust and faith, there is the prospect of becoming who we are meant to be. For me, this will be a time to not only try to be patient and kind, but also to have the clarity to see in myself and others the things God wants me to see, and the courage to change what needs to be changed.

*Mena Johnstone, "Seeing Ourselves As We Are"*

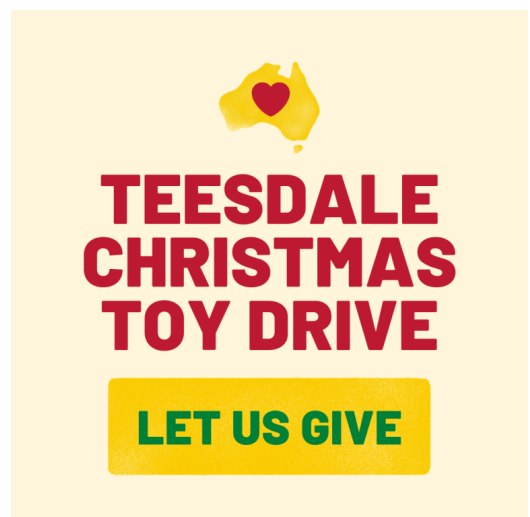




# Our Hearts Open Up

## Initiatives During The Pandemic

What was most heartbreaking was how stark and visible the suffering of others became. The cracks that were previously hidden in our society came into full view as we saw the disparities out in the open. Our community came together to do what little we could to help those in need, to try and be a blessing as God had blessed us. We poured our hearts and opened our wallets to express our solidarity with those who were suffering and facing great difficulty. We raised about \$5000 for Evangel Hall, \$15000 for South Africa and another \$4000 for the Lebanon Crisis. We also donated a truckload of food for the food bank.





# Our Hearts Open Up

Initiatives During The Pandemic



# STANDING TOGETHER

Solidarity Vigil

Standing For

## BLACK LIVES MATTER

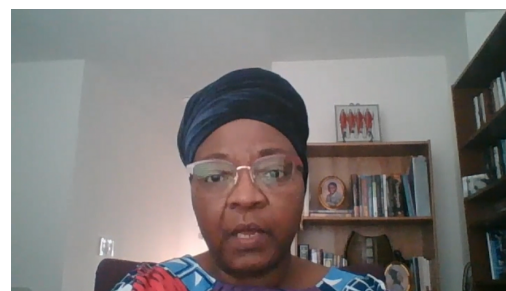


**Rev. Paulette Brown**

During the summer of COVID, the cry for racial justice swept the continent and the world itself. No longer could people remain silent at the continual plight and suffering of our black brothers and sisters. Our church came together to host an online vigil to stand in solidarity with the black community and to examine ourselves and make a commitment to racial justice.

*“This is why we are here, I hope. To share this anger, to help fight justice. Not for Floyd, not for me, not for any black person that you know, but for the truth of the gospel.”*

*—Rev. Dr. Esther Acolatse*



**Rev. Dr.  
Esther Acolatse**



# BLACK LIVES MATTER



## **Joint worship with St. Andrew's Humber Heights**

Through the vigil, we developed a friendship with Rev. Paulette Brown, the minister of St. Andrew's Humber Heights Presbyterian Church. We ended up partnering over the summer as they joined us to worship together over the summer months, and our youths worked together to run a virtual camp for kids in the community. It was a wonderful experience of fellowship and worshipping our God together.

# ST. TIMOTHY SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2020

"New Wine and Fresh Wineskins"

## Summer Internship Comes Alive

Over this past summer, our church has been blessed by a group of wonderful individuals who have served our church as Interns and brought life to our community. In the months they spent immersed in the vibrant life and ministry of our congregation, our weekly service, online summer camp and other events have been able to flourish despite the hardships following COVID.





"This year's internship was unlike any job that I have had before. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the internship was held almost totally virtually. Yet, due to today's advanced technology, I didn't feel distant. In fact, the many video calls and the constant communication via text was a welcome bit of socializing in an otherwise very isolating time. Since the main focus of this year's internship was the website and the virtual standing of the church, through this internship I was able to better understand and appreciate the amount of work that goes into keeping this community connected. The various spiritual studies that were also a part of the internship aided in my ability to stay connected with God. In the early stages of the pandemic, life often felt as though it were on pause - with my daily activities such as school and extracurriculars having ceased. Surprisingly though, this had a positive impact on my relationship with God because for the first time in a while, I felt as though I could truly live in my present. I no longer had to worry about my upcoming tests, the people at school or succeeding in my extracurriculars. Instead, my life's focus was reduced to center around just me, my heart and my thoughts. Therefore, through the internship's studies, I finally had space and time to wrestle with questions that had been weighing heavily on my heart. Also, the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement during the summer affected this year's internship. With our church's focus on racism, I was able to confront a topic that I had often shied away from. Organizing the different studies, events and initiatives in support of the movement allowed me to educate and connect with an issue that I've had the privilege to never be exposed to or challenged by in my life. Hearing the experiences of different individuals who had been affected by racism and studying the underlying roots of racism has allowed me to better connect with the topic on both an emotional and cerebral level. Overall, this year's internship was as unprecedented as the situation that it occurred in. Through it, I was able to help my faith community and also experience lots of personal growth in many facets of my life. I am extremely grateful for being given the experiences that I acquired through the internship and look forward to the future of the program."

—Emily Kim, Summer Intern





*Summer YF Gathering*

# A SUMMER RESPITE

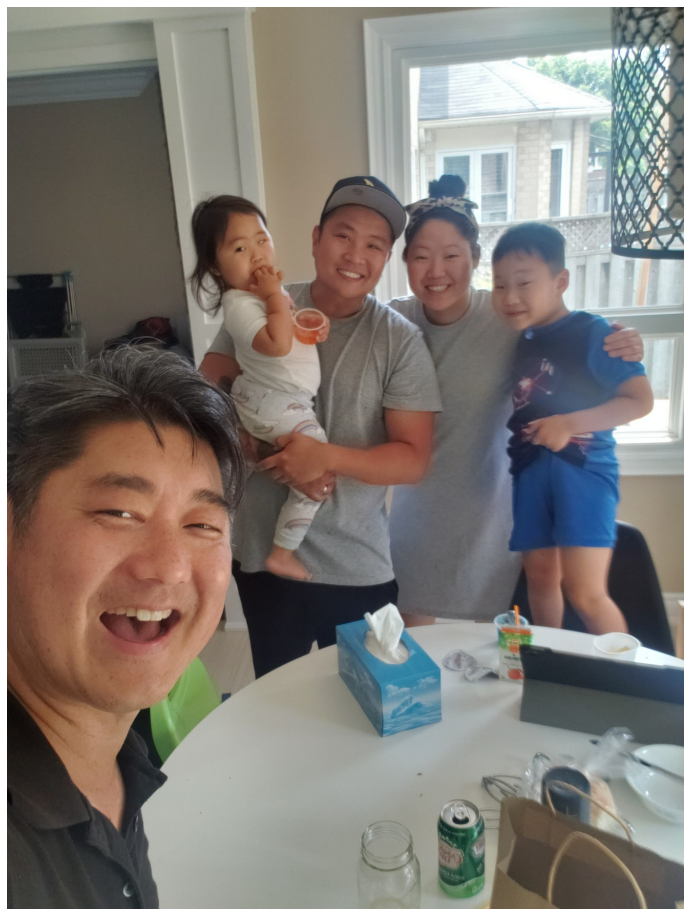
The summer months were a respite from the stress and craziness of the first wave. People spent time outdoors and enjoyed the weather. Our interns led us in an active summer! We were even able to enjoy the start of hybrid in-person and virtual worship services.





*Phase 1 Re-Opening Sunday Service*

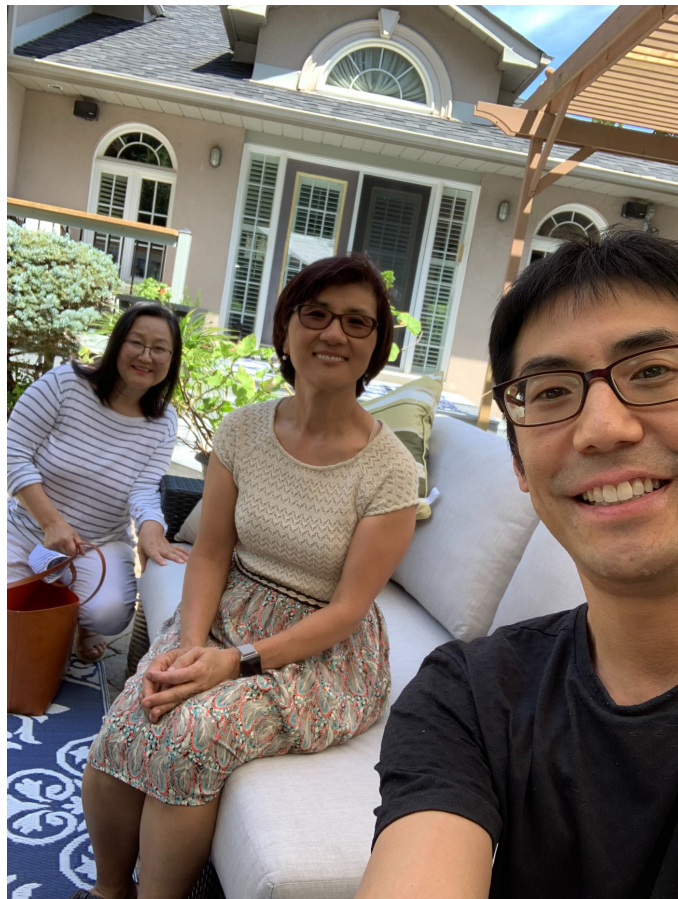




Care Package Deliveries



ST. TIMOTHY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Care Package Deliveries



# Bracing Through the Second Wave

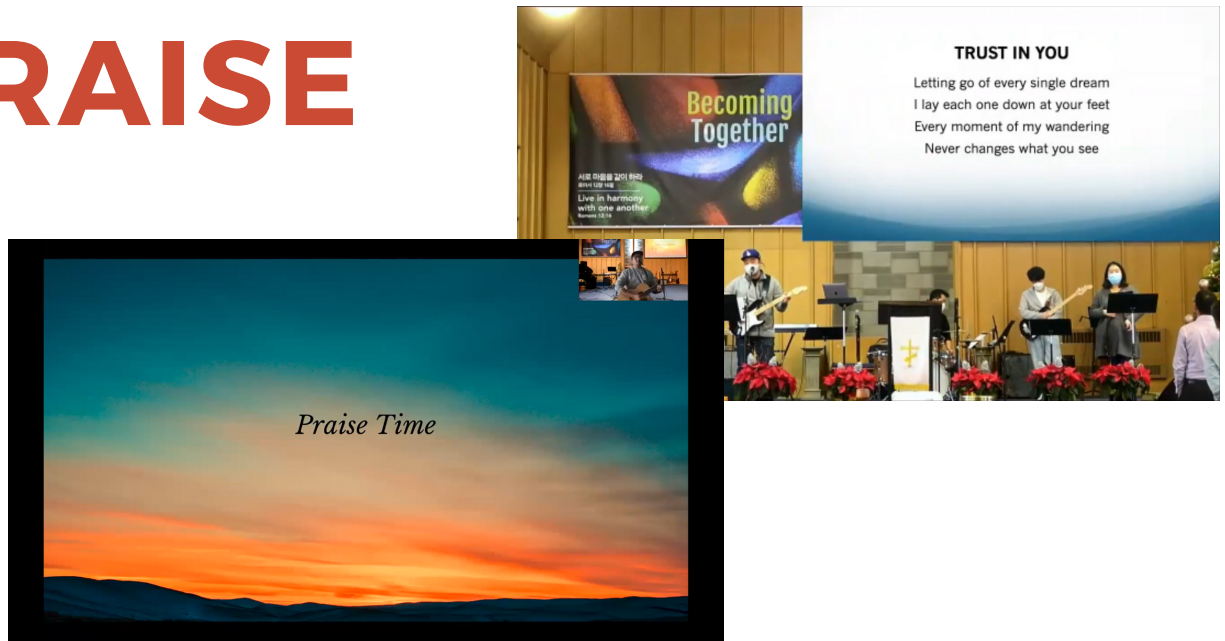
After a summer respite of spending time outdoors and feeling like things were under better control, the fall came along with the second wave of the virus. As this second wave came, our nerves became further frayed and our anxieties began to rise again. We were all in a hunkered-down mentality as we continued to endure isolation and life that was far from normal. The two things that sustained us during these darker autumn months were the message and community. The word of God truly kept us going, gave us perspective and nourished our souls to be reflective of ourselves and our circumstances of our world; to try and discern God's movement in all of this. It drew us closer to God in humility and to seek God's will for us. It also formed us further as a spiritual community. Our identity as a worshiping and spiritual community became sharper and more heightened. We knew that God's spirit, prayer and the Word were at the core of who we were.



# MINISTRIES IN THE YEAR OF COVID



# PRAISE



“2020...a year that will go down in the history books. At the beginning of the pandemic, like many others, I was focused on all the things we were missing out on and how challenging our new quarantine lives were. Now that the year has concluded, I find myself reflecting more on the blessings of this past year and how lucky we all are. While we weren't able to worship together, we were blessed with the enablement of technology and were still able to praise God together over zoom. It wasn't always easy - a big part of worship leading includes the ability to read the congregation and interpret where the spirit is leading. This was made incredibly difficult with virtual worship since everyone is separated.

We ultimately adjusted and found our groove though and it was amazing to see some new faces join us as well. This year also gave us ample opportunity to meditate and reflect on our lives and our faith. Through Psalms of Devotion, I found myself reflecting on the passage of the week consistently and while the program was intended to provide blessings and a way for the congregation to experience worship on their own, I found myself being blessed while prayerfully preparing it weekly. I truly believe that God has been here with all of us throughout this challenging year and he intends to grow our faith and trust in Him through this experience. With that said, I can't wait till we can see each other again and worship together as one body, united under one roof.”

—Josh Kim, Praise Team Leader



## Reflecting on Praise

“What a year 2020 has been...On the surface, with COVID-19, this year appears to have been a year of doubt, fear, and confusion in our everyday and spiritual lives. But by the end of it, it is clear that we are ending it as one where we were able to think creatively and in unity, to overcome the challenges and temptations that we faced as a church. As a group we've found a way to continue worshiping together - and in some ways, get more attendance and participation. Running Sunday worship praise solo from my kitchen has been challenging - admittedly, it's hard to be motivated and also hard to expect the congregation to be engaged. It was a tough gap to overcome but I believe that God sent a message to help keep the ministry for praise going. This year, we introduced a new program in ***Psalms of Devotion***, where our congregation members could continue to experience praise and worship on their own, despite not having the opportunity to do it live, and with a full team on Sundays. It's been a tricky year, but one where **God has clearly been heavily involved**, speaking to the leaders of the church, and guiding us as a congregation to stay unified as a community and continue His ministry. Praise be to God!”

—Jonathan Cho, Praise Team Leader

# CHOIR

“Silver lining. That’s how I would describe 2020.

I remember our first music ministry meeting with pastors in January, 2020. We emphasized to choose the anthem accordingly to scripture passages and to reinforce leading spiritually through music ministry. However, it was the same as previous years planning for regular Sunday anthems, special music for joint worship with KSM, and the Christmas concert.

As of March 2020 - beginning of the time of COVID, singing together in choir became the most critical activity. We all never have imagined we can not go to church and worship together. I had to adapt quickly to create a new form of choir. It was very new for everyone and not an easy process creating one virtual choir video. However, just like the title of the first virtual choir anthem, <How Great Thou Art>, God was great and faithful for me to lead the choir continuously in this unprecedented time. Whenever I was heavily burdened with Sunday anthem preparation, God has faithfully provided me with peace and wisdom - and especially connected me with the right people to make every anthem successful. More than any other times, I have been considering music to be a spiritual gateway for congregations to worship God. We are grateful that, even in the time of pandemic, God has led us to ‘Become Together’ by allowing us to be spiritually enriched and overflow with joy singing with children, instrumentalist, smaller and larger group. I am truly thankful for all choir members, virtual choir editors (Paul Jang and Josh Chung) and participants in the choir for praising God together in harmony.

‘Open Wide’ in 2021, we’re still in uncertain times. However, I am certainly looking forward to see how God will lead St.Tim’s choir to fill our worship and our heart.”

—Olivia Han, Choir Director

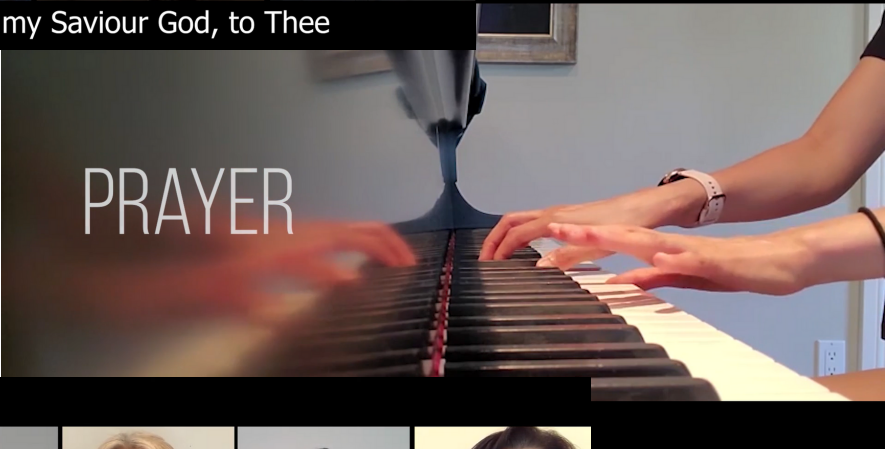


# CHOIR

We thank our choir filled with beautiful voices for the music we were able to connect over each week!



Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee



From a hill, so far away.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

“At the beginning of 2020, we all had high hopes and expectations for the children’s ministries, and we had been looking forward to new ways of doing ministry. No one at that time could have guessed in what new way we would be doing ministry. We were not expecting the empty chairs on Sunday mornings, having to switch to online summer programs, having to worship through zoom. We could not properly celebrate and welcome the births of many new babies last year. It was a very difficult year, and it seemed there was nothing we could do except pray. However, although it was a very challenging year, God was with us, God was merciful, and God was gracious. It was by the grace of God that we could stay connected and continue to worship God. Looking towards the future, we know it’s not yet over. However, whatever the situation may be, we know God will be with us, just as God was with us in the year 2020. God is great! All the time!”

—James Park, Youth Pastor









# HI-C

“2020 was quite an eventful year for the Hi-C. None of us expected it to be a year without lock-ins and retreats (first in Hi-C history, I think!). Right from the get-go, we had to adjust and adapt to the challenges of being in community online. At times, we struggled with feelings of isolation, indifference, and frustration at not being able to be together in-person. But as the year unfolded, we began to see how timely the theme of ‘Becoming Together’ was; we realized that this was the time to come together as one, to be present for each other, and to discern what God was doing in our midst. Not only did we make the effort to get together virtually as often as possible, we also took part in our own Bible studies for the very first time! Through our study on Jonah, we reflected on overcoming our fears and avoidance by taking ownership of our life; and through Ruth, we reflected on the importance of practising hesed (lovingkindness) in community in times of uncertainty and transition. All in all, 2020 became a year of rebuilding our Hi-C from ground up and connecting with one another in ways we had not before. As a pastor, I could not be more thankful for the maturity and steadfastness that both our execs and students showed throughout this challenging year. God has been faithful and gracious toward us. Even though we still long for the day when we can be together in-person, we head into 2021 with a heart that is ‘open wide,’ knowing that God will guide us and fill us abundantly!”

—Dave Lee, Youth Pastor



# COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULTS



“In the past, our College group has faced the unique challenge of being far away and apart during the school year, and of having to reconnect with each other during the holidays and summer months. This year proved to be even more challenging because of the pandemic. However, thanks to our College Leadership Team (Sarah Choe, Jonathan Chung, Paul Jang, and Kaitlin Lee), we hosted a few fellowship events for the students during the summer, both online (despite our collective ‘dislike’ for Zoom) and in-person. At one of our College get-togethers at church, we welcomed and recognized some of our incoming first-years from Hi-C. We were also blessed to have the opportunity to reflect on our life and calling together through the study on Jonah, and delve deeply into the theme of race and justice through our reflection on Martin Luther King Jr. As difficult as 2020 was, I am grateful for the health and well-being of our students, as well as their faithful and willing presence that made this year worthwhile. I look forward to the day when we can all be in one place, rekindling our relationships, and worshipping God together!”

—Dave Lee, Youth Pastor



# *Weekly Bible Studies*

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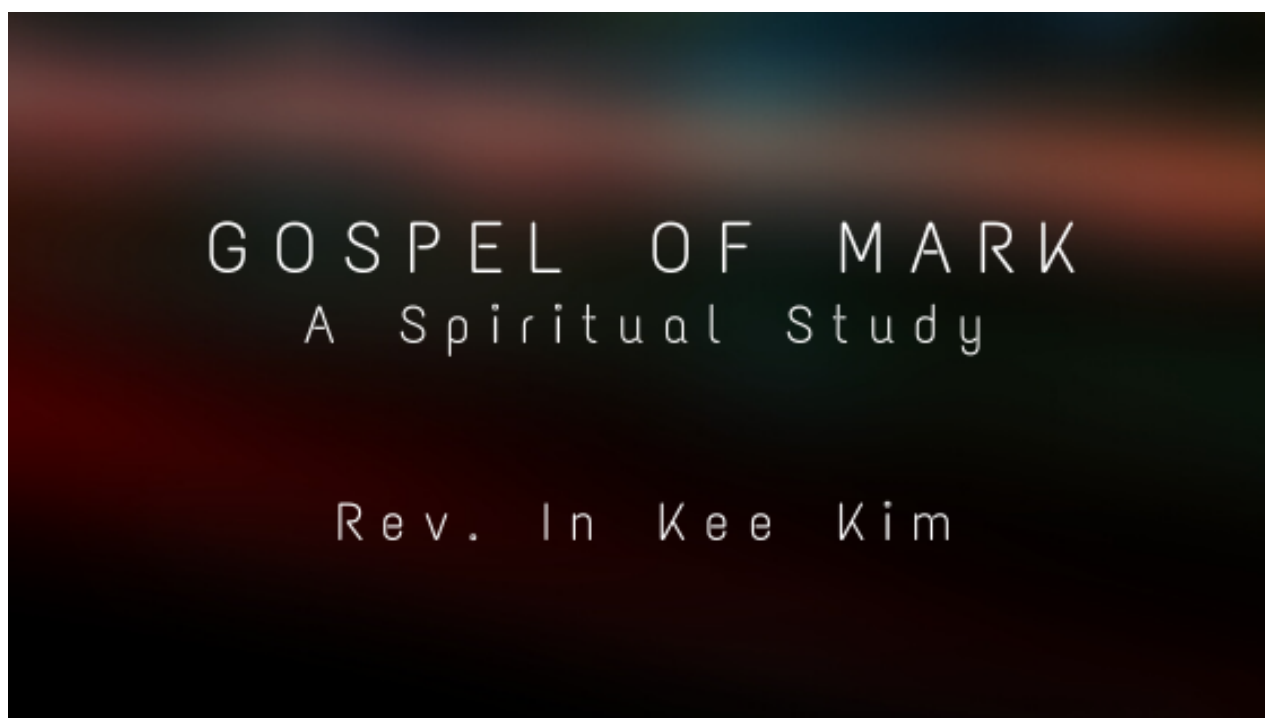
YA MONDAYS (VIA ZOOM)  
FRIDAYS (VIA ZOOM)  
TUESDAYS (AT CHURCH)



# BIBLE STUDIES

“When Simon first invited me to join Monday Bible Studies, I had more apprehension than excitement. In particular, I was concerned that I may not be able to commit to attending every week and my engagement would just falter with everything that was going on. Despite my concerns, Monday Bible Studies soon became an integral part of my quarantine life. Every Monday, Rev Simon led us through the Book of Mark in a manner that was very insightful and engaging. We also had an opportunity to provide our thoughts on the passages and share how they related to our lives. I found this to be especially valuable during this time where I felt isolated due to the pandemic. I appreciated everyone's honest reflections and truly enjoyed sharing and growing my faith through Monday Bible Studies. I hope to continue with Monday Bible Studies in the New Year and keep expanding my knowledge about the Bible and building my relationship with God.”

—Lisa Park, Monday Bible Study



# BIBLE STUDIES

“There were about 10 of us in 2020, who met in Deb and Simon’s basement every Tuesday at 7pm for Tuesday Bible Study (TBS). We would enter with stealth and silence, not to disturb the babies falling asleep upstairs. We hurry downstairs to see what awaits on the table. A big part of the TBS experience is the eats; everybody takes turns to bring the snacks, it is essential to the process.

We started the year with 1 Thessalonians, learning about Paul’s radical message for the church at Thessalonica despite being in danger himself. His message of the Messiah opening the doors to include all people threatening the established powers and rituals ended up being a lesson for ourselves too. The winter months were dragging by the time we were finishing up the book. February was dreary as usual and Spring was around the corner except the murmuring questions about this thing called COVID-19 continued to build. ‘Mask or no mask? How does it spread? Should we be worried?’ We had no idea what was going to hit in March.

By the first week of March, keeping our distance was part of the conversation and planning. We were all trying to do the right thing (whatever that was). Then what felt like all of a sudden, it was Lockdown: Stay Home. Church went online, school went online, work went online. TBS paused for a few weeks while we were all dealing with the new reality of a pandemic and struggling through our love/hate of this thing called Zoom.



Stopping TBS was never a question. The question was when would it start up again? By March 24, TBS was online and we went from an intimate room sitting face-to-face, to seeing each other in a grid on screen. It was personally difficult for me to get used to that drastic change and shifting the way I had become accustomed to engaging in TBS. We were all extra tired, way past our daily allotment of screen time and a little bit freaked out but virtual TBS was better than nothing. We started to read through Mark and started writing reflections again to share the following week. It was clear that the circumstances have pushed us to be more introspective than we would normally be, as we manage through each in our own way.

The messages coming out of Mark were reminders that whether we are in a pandemic or not; we continue to grapple with our faith, internal/external life, control and power over ourselves and others and our perspectives shaped by our history/communities. The tumultuous events in 2020 pushed us to confront injustice, racism, death, health, power and ask ourselves where do we stand? How am I going to get through this? Not alone. At the end of the day, God just wants us to love in return and be in our lives so that we may know true freedom.

TBS has been a gathering for 11 years now. Many of us have come and gone and come back again. Throughout the years we have made new friends, got new jobs, engaged/married, had babies, lost loved ones and everything in between. We continue to gather because each of us acknowledges that the life we live now is not enough — there must be more to this and we seek God. Rev. In Kee is always our patient and generous teacher. Rev. Simon keeps us together and guides us. The hope is that TBS remains a steady community where people from all walks of life grow together in a non-judgmental, open forum focused on critical thinking as we study the Bible.”

—Grace Bai, Tuesday Bible Study

# BIBLE STUDIES

“The year 2020 was a year of tremendous and unimaginable change in all of our lives filled with uncertainties, challenges and fears. Yet, I believe that God used the gospel of Mark which we studied in our Friday bible studies to bring back my focus on Him and this is what has kept me going each day, each week and each month filled with hope and purpose throughout the pandemic.

Our first bible study on Mark started on March 27 and ended on November 20 with some breaks in between. Honestly, it wasn't easy to show up on a Friday night at 8 o'clock to go on Zoom. I have to admit that the gospel of Mark was my least favourite of all the gospels. As well, I just wanted to 'zoom out' after five hours of teaching on Zoom every day of the week and just turn off my brain's power switch. Sometimes, I don't know why but I dreaded it.

Reflecting back though, I know why I dreaded it. It was because it required me to practice 'spiritual discipline' and examine my inner self, that is my heart and discern what was in there. More importantly, no matter what was happening all around me and within me, in studying God's words, I was able to nurture the spiritual part of me and be more connected with God and be more sensitive to and forgiving with the people around me. I could come back to the 'essence' of my being and reflect on who I was, why I was here and what my life's calling was. In other words, Friday night became a time to 'continuously critique my existence.' The Christian life of 'faith, prayer and forgiveness' is a life-long journey that becomes more meaningful and richer by studying the scriptures. A journey I hope that more people would join along.”

—Heichung Lee-Kim, Friday Bible Study

HI-C BIBLE STUDY

*"Ruth"*

Fridays @ 8pm on Zoom  
Oct 2, 9, 16 & 23



# BIBLE STUDIES

“Right off the bat, to be completely honest, I’ve never been the biggest fan of bible studies. To whoever is reading this (e.g., Pastor Dave, Rev. Simon), please don’t take what I wrote personally, it’s not the specific bible studies themselves, but the general idea of them. In fact, when it came to anything church related (amongst hi-c events), bible studies always seemed the least engaging, personal, and enjoyable (fun). This is obviously a personal perspective, but to say the least, I never looked forward to bible studies as much as I looked forward to other hi-c events (such as gatherings, retreats, and lock-ins). Not until the pandemic hit, that is.

I’m not going to go on and on about how COVID-19 affected every single one of our lives, because I think we’re all quite aware of the magnitude of this situation already. However, I do want to emphasize a fact I think we can all relate to in some way or another. This pandemic came crashing down on us, without much warning, and it wasn’t until after the destruction, that we finally realized everything we’ve ever taken advantage of. We had a perspective change a bit too late, but that doesn’t mean we can’t cherish the parts of lives that still remain with us now. In the same way, every interaction I had with another human being, either virtually or socially distanced, became extremely precious to me. I didn’t realize how many times I interacted with people on a weekly basis, and I also didn’t realize how much I needed social interaction to survive before this pandemic hit. And this actually means a lot coming from a very introverted homebody.

The bible studies Pastor Dave diligently prepared and led for the hi-c during quarantine eventually became a source of strength for many, as they helped us stay spiritually connected, with each other and with God, and continue to grow with our faith, despite not being able to meet in person. This pandemic has taught me how easy it is to forget God in our troubles, anxieties/worries, and struggles. It's hard to feel God's presence when you are alone, isolated, and filled with fear, even though those are the situations when you probably need God the most. From our very first bible study since the lockdown (Jonah), to our advent study, I've been able to reconnect with the hi-c, whom I love and cherish so much, and escape, maybe just for a moment, from the anxieties of the world (thoughts in my head), and from the darkness/fear/sadness that seems to lurk in the shadows of our mundane every day lives. It sometimes feels really suffocating, when there's nowhere you can run to, nothing you can really hope for, and nothing much to rejoice about. For me personally, the bible studies have been reminders of God's presence in our lives, how God never disappears, or abandons us. God loves us dearly, and is protecting and taking care of us during every single moment of our lives. I don't know what's more reassuring than that. I've learned that God's presence is constant and everlasting. We simply need to open our eyes, ears, but mostly importantly our hearts to be fully aware of it.

Among the hi-c, but most teenagers and adults alike, it's been quite a tough year: the sleepless nights, heaviness/lethargy, emotional breakdowns, anxiety/episodes of pure panic and restlessness, constant struggle to find a distraction from your thoughts, lack of motivation/drive to do anything anymore, and feeling utterly alone (isolated/distant from the world around you). However, through these bible studies, and by spending time with people who I care about, and who care about me, in a spiritual community, I've been able to witness and experience the beauty of life. I've awoken to the power of community, awareness, and gratitude. Slowing down, taking a moment to breathe, having a reason to stop trying to find a way to distract myself, and simply reflecting on my life as a whole (past, present, and future), was truly a blessing during these dark times. As well as a very peaceful, comforting, and meaningful experience despite the havoc that torments us each and every day, and I will always (endlessly) be grateful for that."

—Caitlin Chung, Hi-C Bible Study

# PRAYER MINISTRY

“The prayer ministry began during the pandemic, in response to the uncertainty of this unknown time, creating a place to pray, share what’s on our heart and share our worries, concerns and blessings. I conceptually knew how powerful prayer was, but I don’t think I’ve really experienced the true power of prayer until this year. I didn’t realize how healing it was to share what concerns and prayers we had on our hearts and minds, and also how healing it is to just hear the words of prayers.


I’ve never been consistent with my own prayer life; it was more just conversations with God and prayers in times of anxiousness and thankfulness. But looking back, the prayer ministry has really sustained me, during this time. Knowing that we’d be meeting on Wednesday nights, it allowed me time and space to intentionally think throughout the week about what prayers are needed, in my personal life, in our community and across the world. It has kept me grounded and purposeful, knowing we’ll be coming together to pray.

Never having spent this much time on my own, or even this much time at home, I’m surprised that I haven’t gone stir-crazy. I do think that’s in part to the weekly prayer ministry, being connected more regularly with prayer and in prayers with one another. We learned that prayers are an expression of what’s in our heart; what better way to end an evening, than by sharing this with one another and knowing that God is present with us, hearing us, guiding us, blessing us.

As we take on this new year together, learning how to ‘open wide,’ let us be a prayerful community, coming together to pray and express with one another what’s in our hearts.”

—Michelle Kim, Elder





# PRAYER MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS AT 9PM VIA ZOOM



# Open Wide

행하실 큰 일을 기대하라

시편 81편 10절

And I Will Fill It

Psalms 81:10

# 2021

***“Our theme for 2021 is ‘Open Wide.’ As Scripture says, if we ‘open our mouth wide,’ then God will fill it. Let us open our mouth wide and God will fill it. Let us open our hearts wide and God will fill it so that we can take any challenges. Let us open our eyes and ears wide. We will be able to see the wonderful works of God and hear God’s gentle voice.”***

—Rev. In Kee Kim, Senior Minister



# God is faithful and good.

We thank God for carrying us through a challenging and difficult year. We thank God for bringing us together as a community to support one another and grow in our faith and understanding.

May God lead us in 2021 and beyond!