



# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Diverse People United in Christ*

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April 22, 2020

The Mosaic

Volume 34, Issue 8

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## ***A Letter to a Church in Crisis***

A follower of Jesus wrote a letter to struggling Christians and regional churches in crisis. To me, the letter sounds a lot like what we have been doing as ministers in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. No, the letter I've been reading isn't addressing today's Church situation, although the struggles of churches in a pandemic to make payroll, stay connected to members, and assist those who are suffering and dying feels very much like a crisis. I'm referring to Peter's letter to the churches in Asia Minor.

The Epistle lessons from the lectionary have us reading through 1 Peter and, to be honest, I hadn't really given much attention to this little five-chapter book. It does have some difficult to understand and even cringe-worthy verses like "Wives, likewise, submit to your own husbands" and "For the sake of the Lord submit to every human institution." Yikes. I'm not sure any person wants to hear this kind of advice when in a crisis.

Yet, 1 Peter also touches on various doctrines of how to look to Jesus in suffering and how to live with purpose and authority in a tumultuous world. The themes in 1 Peter are rich and broad. For example, the letter uncovers the Christian community's frustrations with people who are abusing strangers and those without power. It also reveals the need for toxic people to separate from one another. The letter also references suffering and persecution, glory, hope, pilgrimage, courage, and the ever-present true grace of God.

And Peter, referencing his location in the fifth chapter, was experiencing all of these things while in "Babylon." Although Babylon was an ancient region of the world and, at the time, a smaller city near the Euphrates, it is thought that Babylon was a symbolic word used in the book of Revelation to describe the evil and unjust powers of the day. And, for Peter's time in the first century world, Rome would've been that powerful entity. Peter, indeed, lived and died in Rome, so for him to be in Babylon (Rome) when writing to a church in crisis reveals Peter's understanding of suffering and his suggestions about living as followers of Christ in a chaotic place.

For the five weeks leading us to Pentecost, we will focus on Peter's letter to a church in crisis during Sunday morning Worship. It is my hope that as we explore Peter's letter, we will discover the purpose of Christ and the love of God in our own actions as we come together as an isolated and burdened people to survive in an uncertain time. How might we read Peter's letter to a church in a crisis and at the bottom sign our own names?

*Pastor Mike*

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for May 6 & 20, 2020.  
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

# NORTH TEXAS GIVING TUESDAY | NOW

On Tuesday, May 5, the Communities Foundation of Texas' North Texas Giving Day, the Dallas Cowboys, and the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas will host an emergency response day of giving, **North Texas Giving Tuesday Now**, to encourage donor support for nonprofit organizations reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Early giving is open now through May 4. We have provided links for our RLBC partner organizations which provide important assistance to the most vulnerable in our beloved community. If you are able, please click on the blue links to give to these wonderful organizations.

## [North Dallas Shared Ministries](https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/north-dallas-shared-ministries-inc)

<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/north-dallas-shared-ministries-inc>

NDSM's mission is to provide charitable assistance to persons in need by appropriately addressing their immediate needs and providing them with opportunities for long-term positive change and stability. Services during COVID-19 include food, rent and utility assistance, employment assistance, medical and dental care, mental health counseling, and tax preparation.

## [Hope Supply Co.](https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/hopesupplyco)

<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/hopesupplyco>

Hope Supply Co. meets the critical needs of homeless and at-risk children across North Texas by providing care necessities to families. Since the initial impact of COVID-19, diaper need has increased 300% due to job loss and illness, along with the need for baby wipes, hygiene kits, and formula.

## [Healing Hands Ministries](https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/healinghandsministries)

<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/healinghandsministries>

Healing Hands Ministries welcomes every neighbor with barrier-free access to healthcare. On March 16th, HHM fully activated their emergency preparedness plan. The crisis call team has answered more than 17,000 calls and they have launched a tele-health model with 300 completed clinical visits in the first two weeks of launch. They continue to care for one of the most vulnerable populations in our community - mothers and babies - with 71 deliveries scheduled for the month of April.

## [Dallas Christian Women's Job Corp](https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/dallas-christian-womens-job-corps)

<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/dallas-christian-womens-job-corps>

The mission of Dallas Christian Women's Job Corps (DCWJC) is to offer a supportive environment where women in need or one step away from crisis are equipped for self-sufficiency and job-readiness skills while providing a context in which women help women. Your gift can help provide housing, utility, and medical assistance to their clients.

## [City Square \(TRAC\)](https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/CitySquare)

<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/CitySquare>

CitySquare set up an Emergency Relief Fund to cover critical, unexpected costs associated with caring for our neighbors during this crisis. We continue to serve our neighbors through key services: the Food Pantry meets our neighbors' basic food needs, the Dallas Connector provides free, essential transportation for homeless neighbors, and the Transition Resource Action Center's (TRAC) Dallas office is open as an Emergency Resource Center for Homeless Youth, including food and social support. We were already serving a record number of neighbors annually, and with the economic/employment impact of COVID-19, service demand has increased again.

## [Jewish Family Services](https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/jfsdallas)

<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/jfsdallas>

Each year our neighbor, Tiferet Israel, holds their Chili Cook-off to raise support for the charitable work of Jewish Family Services of Dallas. The WOC and our RLBC Youth had planned to attend but COVID concerns made cancelling the entire cook-off necessary. Despite losing this valuable support, JFS continues to provide emergency food supplies, social and employment services, mental health counseling, and elder support to folks in Dallas regardless of race or religion.

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# Coming Events

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- Sunday April 26 – Third Sunday of Easter**  
10:00 am Foundation Stones — Zoom 947-848-0034  
10:55 am Morning Worship — Livestream – New Sermon Series: “A Letter to a Church in Crisis”  
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom 570-930-216
- Tuesday April 28**  
12:00 pm Pastor’s Book Group — Zoom 171-949-220
- Wednesday April 29**  
6:15 pm Midweek Bible Study — Zoom 401-030-657
- Friday May 1**  
12:00 pm Midday Prayer — Zoom 550-617-830
- Sunday May 3 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
10:00 am Foundation Stones — Zoom 947-848-0034  
10:55 am Morning Worship — Livestream  
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom 570-930-216
- Tuesday May 5**  
12:00 pm Pastor’s Book Group — Zoom 171-949-220 – New Book: “Take This Bread” by Sara Miles
- Wednesday May 6 – Mosaic**  
6:15 pm Midweek Bible Study — Zoom 401-030-657

*The deadline for the order of service, the Midweek, and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.  
“Like” RLBC on Facebook or “Follow” RLBC on Twitter*

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## Royal Laners take Communion

Communion is a part of each Sunday’s worship as we Shelter-In-Place. Easter was no different.



The Hammett family observed communion by worshipping with items from Jeff’s grandparents, great aunt, and a candle made by the Gregg girls. (And communion for their sweet Clarabel, too.)

Barbara Gunnin’s thoughtful and beautiful communion for Easter included crystal, selected for purity, and items associated with memories — gifts from dear friends. Her communion for April 19 includes items from Italy to honor the devastation of this country by Covid-19.



The Rev. Dr. Brooks Ramsey, a former pastor at Royal Lane, passed away on April 17, 2020, two weeks after the death of his wife, Rebecca, on April 3. Rev. Ramsey was described by John D. Holmes in a 2001 article in the Memphis Flyer as “The Lion in Autumn” — <https://bit.ly/2VGU95C>





## Royal Laners – Easter Sunday & COVID-19

This year will be a memorable year around the world. Maybe not for the usual reasons but because of our experiences as we shelter-in place and observe social distancing. Here are just a few snapshots of Royal Laners taking annual pictures at the flowered cross – apart in body, together in spirit.

*(Left to right, beginning top left – Maddox Family, Phillips Family, Keith Family, Hill Family, Wooten & Jones Families, Bright, Gill and McKinney Families.)*



## Deacons of the Week

**April 26**

Sarah Fuller Phillips

Cathy Walling

**May 3**

Ray Cox

Margaret Darden

## Scriptures of the Week

**April 26**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

**May 3**

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

## All In-Person Midweek Services & Fellowship Meals Temporarily Suspended

### Zoom Meetings:

6:15 pm

**April 29 & May 6**

Midweek Bible Study

Meeting ID - 401 030 657

with Mike Gregg

## Happy Birthday!

### April

Nancy Ferrell..... 24

Theresa Helms..... 29

### May

Jaxson Hill..... 1

Patsy Meier..... 1

Ken Rempert ..... 3

Barbara Merry ..... 5

## A Time to Give

Giving Tuesday, the global generosity movement, is holding a special one-day worldwide fundraiser on May 5 in an extraordinary effort for pandemic relief and recovery.

Since Royal Lane is a generous church and a blessed people, we have listed all of the social service agencies we support so you can give to our organizational partners in this time.

It is our hope that you will give over and beyond your pledge to the church so these organizations can assist Dallas residents in need.



The Box Gallery  
is temporarily closed

To change mail or email preferences for *The Mosaic*, contact Barbara Merry, [bmerry@royallane.org](mailto:bmerry@royallane.org).





## Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75230-4145

# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

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*Diverse People United in Christ*

**The Mosaic is published twice a month**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Wednesday Midweek: 6:15 pm**

**Sunday School: 9:45 am**

**Sunday Worship: 10:55 am**

**Royal Lane Baptist Church  
6707 Royal Lane  
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**[www.royallane.org](http://www.royallane.org)**

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Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping  
Michael Gregg, Pastor  
Laura Keller, Minister to Children  
Jonah Hammett, Video Technician  
Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant  
Samuel Quesada, Video Technician

Tim Schaefer, Minister to Youth  
Janet Schultz; Administrative Assistant  
Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician  
Ray Vickrey, Pastor Emeritus  
David Weigle, Organist  
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship