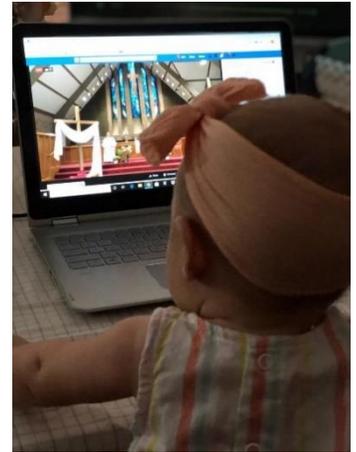


## Northwood Celebrates Easter...



Photos, top to bottom, left to right:  
 Esteban, Jesse, Hayden, Andrew and  
 Kate Davila  
 Ron and Mary Finkel  
 Evelyn at online worship  
 Desmond, Eli, and Moses Esparza  
 Birdie and Evie Carey  
 Nick, Jennifer, and Evelyn Roberson  
 Anne Detweiler's nieces and  
 nephews through Patricia Page: Alex,  
 Ethan, Sebastian, Savannah, Faith,  
 Leilani, and Elvis  
 Glen Bading and friend  
 Don and Gail Clowe



... it came just the same.

# Keeping Up While We're Staying Apart

## Sherryl Walsh: Musings on Time...



“Stay Home, Work Safe” hasn’t upended my life, since my kids are grown, my husband can’t WFH, and I’ve been working from home for most of the last six years. In the course of a month, I don’t go much of anywhere but church activities, the gym, and the grocery store anyway. So except for having slightly fewer reasons to leave the house, the rhythm of my life has not been disturbed.

But one thing IS different. The things I can still go and do don’t have deadlines on them; I can choose when to do them. It’s astonishing to see how much time and effort I spent on transitions now that I can decide when to make them. Just that little extra bit of wiggle room has given me a sense of new possibilities. I’ve even been able to knock out a few things that have been dangling off the end of the priority list for a while. It makes me think maybe it’s not the amount of time I have that matters, but whether I feel in control of it.

Which leads me to a second set of thoughts on time, around pruning the proverbial “bucket list.” In the past couple of years I’ve become more aware that there’s less of my life in front of me than behind me, and the coronavirus has brought that into sharper focus. I’ve started to apply these questions to everything on the list:

- Does this thing I thought I wanted to do really matter now? Will it “bring me joy”?
- Is it more important than cultivating relationships? (Since there’s reason to believe I CAN take some of those with me.)
- Will anyone care if this thing I feel I HAVE to do is left undone? (e.g. would it break a promise, or leave a mess for my kids to sort through and clean up?)
- Will it leave this campsite of an earthly home better than I found it?

By the grace of our Lord and Savior, I don’t have to be afraid of what’s on the other side of that next Big Transition. But I want to exercise the measure of control I have on this side, however small, and choose well.

## Elizabeth Hewins: Grammy’s Self-Isolation with a Teen



As many of you know, Katy has been living with me for about a month now. In light of her father’s daily “outside” occupation, we thought she would be safer with me—and what 18-year-old doesn’t want to leave home! She says I am the “cool grammy.” She was in a “quarantined” role for two weeks after she got here, with her bedroom and her bath as her domain. She finished Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday in quarantine, but fittingly enough, she came out of quarantine in time for Easter Sunday, so we could sit and worship together. Many of you saw my posts about us watching the services on either side of my pantry wall with the computer in the doorway.

But now she is back to being in my life, and it feels as if she has always been there (as she often was on weekends and school breaks). So, what is life for a grammy living with a teen? Well, I will just say she isn’t coming to me for advice on calculus! I can remember when I was a senior, I spent quite a bit of time in my bedroom, with my trusty 45s playing loud until my Dad hollered at me. She’s listening to...well I don’t know what/who she is listening too. My ploy is I just turn up my speakers blaring Queen until one of us relents! Usually playing Radio Ga Ga will get her to come out and clap with me, or the Ay-oh chant will do it. Good to know we do have a few things in common. We are doing pretty well at tolerating each other’s quirks.

What do we do for fun—well, Thursdays are “clean your bathroom” day! I have tried to cook for us, but that’s another whole disaster story there. Ever since I turned on the blender with the lid off, my dietitian has tried to come up with easy recipes for me. Fortunately, Katy likes to cook—she made me a cheesecake with a brownie base and chocolate sauce! THAT’S going to be a few more miles on the exercise bike! She gets frustrated at my vegan lifestyle, because for her, cooking is a way to show love.

Yesterday for excitement, we drove to the Ace Hardware in Sattler to pick up a drill to help us put together that desk I ordered from WayFair—which is missing holes where screws are supposed to hold it together. Normally I would call Jason, who would arrive with every tool known to man and get it done. But we decided “Girl Power” would get it done. Check back with me later for THAT story!

She is good company and keeps the loneliness at bay. When I most despair about trying to get her through the last months of her senior year, I remember that my actions and my attitudes and my faith can sit as examples for her and I can be a positive influence in her life and her faith formation. I can try to remain calm when the drama queen shows up, and I can try to remind her of the things she can remember with gratitude. In the process of reminding her of her faith and her gratitude and her “can do” attitude, I am reminding myself. We girls will persevere and succeed. But just in case, say a few prayers for us!

## Random Thoughts from Jay & Jane Maust



Thanks for the dedicated support to those who make the NPC Facebook Services a huge success---Pastor Dick, Owen, Deborah, Tommy, Cotton, Nicki, Patty and Raymond and others behind the scenes

Don't forget to keep up with your giving and pledges as our bills and overhead expenses have not ceased, but thankfully our utility expenses have decreased . Send your checks to the Church Office or contribute electronically.

During these challenging and trying times, reach out by cards, notes, e-mails, or telephone calls to fellow NPC members, family, neighbors, classmates, and those you have not touched base with for a while.

Remember the advice of the late Steve Jobs who told us, “The six best Doctors in the world are SUNLIGHT, REST, EXERCISE, DIET, SELF-CONFIDENCE, and FRIENDS. Maintain them in all stages and enjoy a healthy life.”

May your troubles be less–  
May your blessings be more–  
May nothing but happiness come through your door.

God Bless.

## Sarah Esparza: Parenting in a Pandemic: Week 7 of Quarantine



“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Parenting small children during any newsworthy time is challenging. How much or how little should be shared with them? We have to say something (kids can smell a cover-up a mile away). Eric and I explain that there is a new germ making people sick. That we don’t want it to become something that is around all the time, so we stay away from some of our favorite places and people. That means no church, no school, no visits with friends. But everything is okay.

“Do you have any questions?” we ask.

A small voice replies: “Yes. Is there anything lava can’t melt?”

My oldest sons are 6 and full of questions.

“What was the biggest war?” “Did we win?” “What if I can’t ever fall asleep again?”

“Why?” “Why?” “Why not?”

Helping them to understand that things are different but okay has been my biggest challenge. Week 2 of quarantine was the first time I couldn’t get milk. I watched the bottom of the milk jug get closer and closer as I subbed toast and cheese for my sons’ usual cereal. I didn’t know what it meant to not be able to get milk. My heart jumped when I finally found a cache of 2% at a Dollar General. Just as quickly I felt tears come. I have had times where I could not afford food (I was young and single then). But this was the first time I couldn’t *find* food. I have growing kids. *They need milk.* My silent

prayers were answered when NEISD started their lunch pickup program. Problem solved! Still, I feel a lump of anxiety watching the eggs and milk slowly disappear from our fridge. But it's all okay.

My sons are 6 and full of questions.

“Does lots of money really take you away from God?”

“How could Jesus’ dad be God if his dad was Joseph and his mom was Mary? It’s a little confusing.”

“What if we aren’t sure about Jesus coming back to life?”

What big thoughts to have rattling around in your head! Some questions are easier to answer than others. I am grateful for their Sunday School teacher (shout out Mrs. Norma!) for encouraging a curious spirit. Most often I answer their questions with some variation of “What do you think?”

Realizing that they would not be back in school this year was a gut punch. No school? No place where they were surrounded by passionate professionals who loved them? I never saw myself as someone who took access to education for granted yet here I was, trying to wrap my head around how school could be closed. School is *magical*.

“When will we go back to school?”

“When can we go back to church?”

“When will Moses be able to swim?”

“What happens at the end of the world?”

My answer? “I don’t know. I promise I’ll tell you when I do. But it’s going to be okay.”

The strange thing about parenting in a pandemic is that everything is terrible and wonderful all at once. One minute you are desperate for a break that will never come, the next you find peace and solace in your family. You say that “everything is okay” and you kinda believe it, at least for a minute.

## Session Highlights

Session extends the Northwood PC Building Closure until May 4, 2020.

Personnel & Administration along with the day school will seek a joint government loan to pay their respective staffs and help cover utility costs and rent. Cotton Clark reported that as long as we prove



that the money is used to keep employees on the payroll, the full amount will be considered a grant. Scott Sheppard and Broadway Bank were instrumental in securing the loan/grant.

Day School will postpone its monthly contribution/shared cost payments while the school remains closed. When the church and school reopen, the contribution will be recalculated to reflect actual expenses, in accordance with the Covenant Agreement.

Our endowment is down by 15%.

Congregational Care reported that Marguerite Barzan and Cecil Wright have health concerns.

Pastor Search has new recruits for the writing team. The goal is to send it to Session members before the next meeting so it can be discussed, amended and approved.

Safe Church Team will look at issues regarding church opening to include sanitizing surfaces, managing worship, conducting Bible school this summer, and use of the building by outside groups.

Congregational Meeting is needed to elect, examine, and install new elders. In the age of Covid, we may need an alternate plan for voting.

### By Special Request

From Pastor Dick’s sermon on April 27: Words are formative and transformative in our lives. They have great power. You may have heard of Dr. Wilfred Funk, a well known publisher of Funk and Wagnall’s fame. He was asked to select the ten most expressive words in the English language. Here’s his list:

The most bitter word – alone

The most tragic – death

The most revered – mother

The most beautiful – love

The most cruel – revenge

The most peaceful– tranquil

The saddest – forgotten

The warmest – friendship

The coldest – no

The most comforting – faith

**Linda Kendall**, who recovered from Covid-19 and so has antibodies against the virus, donates plasma that is used for treatment. Linda was visiting her daughter in New York when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, and she became infected. Linda recovered, and because her blood is rich in antibodies, she is able to donate plasma.

If you believe you may be able to donate, Linda urges you to call Chris Turner at South Texas Blood and Tissue, 210-731-5555.

Linda's son Brian and daughter-in-law Brittany, both physicians in a Boston hospital, are great sources of information about Covid-19, posting frequently about events and recommendations. You can read their posts on Linda's Facebook page.



**Betty Beck** was featured in the *Express-News* with the headline "San Antonio senior relies on her faith, good memories while isolated from family members by COVID-19 restrictions." Betty has been a fixture in worship every Sunday, pulpit side, sitting with her caregiver, and undoubtedly will be again.

Betty's life story as recounted in the article is a fascinating one. At just 20 years old, she joined the Army Medical Specialist Corps as one of its first physical therapists. Stationed in Korea as that conflict ended, she met and married 1st Lt. William Beck. They became parents of two sons, and his duty stations took them around the world.



## BIRTHDAYS ARE FUN!

Women of Northwood Players (aka Floozies) celebrated with Beverle Grounds, Blanche Ryan, and Libby Overholt.

**Contemporary Book Club**, like prayer groups and circles, meets via Zoom. The groups all welcome new members.

