



THE INTERIM

Volume 77 Issue 11

May 24, 2020

From the Pastor...

Memorial Day always reminds me of the many funerals I've conducted for veterans. I am particularly moved when the chaplain speaks of a person's service. It goes something like this:

When the call of our country was heard, our comrade answered. Self was forgotten for the cause of the greater good. As a brave person he/she marched away with a commitment to serve our great country and the cause of freedom.

The phrase, "self was forgotten for the cause of the greater good," is particularly impactful; because it is so rare these days. It reminds me of Jesus' call to "deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow" (Matthew 16:24).

Today we are at war with an unseen enemy called Covid-19. We've been asked to make sacrifices, but our patience is already growing thin. We've had to change our lives and even the way we do church. It's been challenging, but good has come out of it as well.

As we enter into the Season of Pentecost, we remember that being the church has little to do with buildings. In Acts, the Spirit shows up in homes, marketplaces, roadsides, courtyards and other unlikely places. Each time the Spirit breaks out, people turn to God and serve others.

One of the clearest evidences of the work of the Spirit is generosity. Before the Church ever had its first building, Christians gave to support people in need and vital ministries. I see the Spirit at work in First Baptist Church because you, too, are being generous amidst this crisis.

While many churches have experienced decreased giving, our offerings have actually increased! Therefore, we felt it would not be right for us to take Payroll Protection Program funds for our church (our Preschool will receive limited funds). We are instead letting these monies go to other churches, charities and businesses with more need.

What does all of this have to do with Memorial Day? Sacrifice and generosity are hallmarks of this day and of our faith. I am grateful for the sacrifices of our service personnel. I appreciate the sacrifices you are making for our ministry. I pray we will continue to rise to the challenges of this day.



Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13

Schedule

Sunday, May 24

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Zoom & Live Stream
10:00 a.m. Worship - Live Stream

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day - Church Office Closed

Wednesday, May 27

6:00 p.m. Outdoor Prayer & Worship Service
Reservations Required for Evening Meal
\$6.00/meal

Sunday, May 31

Possible In-Person Meeting

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, June 3

12:00 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
Cost of lunch is \$5.00

Happy Birthday!

June 2

Alamitra Blackwelder
Lexie Blackwelder

June 3

David Keller
Jeffery King
Eddie Wiseman

June 4

Andrew Kilby

June 5

Addie Haywood
Sarah Mullins Long

June 6

Dennis Dyckes
Nina Guy
Georgia Pendleton
Mike Plyler
Andrea Williams

June 7

Holly Hinceman

June 8

Ellen Tsumas

June 9

Wayne Laws

June 11

Becky Petree
David Potter

June 15

Hannah Beale
Gemma Hinceman

June 16

Caroline Taylor
Pam Winston

June 18

Gwen Miller

June 19

Lisa Benfield

June 20

Amelia Keller
Peggy Koepnick

June 21

Theresa Faires
Izzy Faulkenberry

June 22

Pearl Rosser

June 21

Evelyn Funderburk
English Tsumas
Trey Whittenton

June 22

Edna David
Gary Fyfe
Brad Shook

June 25

Janet Hamlett
Fleeta Speaks

June 26

Pat McMillan
Katelyn Mitchell

June 27

Mac Funderburk
Richard Sykes

June 29

Dianne Martin
Terry Wimpy

June 30

Clayton Cline

Sunday School Zoom Links

You can use these links to access your Sunday School class meeting every Sunday.

Youth

<https://zoom.us/j/498935664?pwd=dzZXSHVwTmRZWjc2cldpbXJKam1Fdz09>
Meeting ID: 498 935 664
Password: FBCSYOUTH

Links on the church website and Facebook page have been deactivated for our children's internet safety.

Horizons

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74224580015?pwd=NfVWRzJKc040c3daajdSbytpNnVtUT09>
Meeting ID: 742 2458 0015
Password: 0NDGPa

Crosswalk

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5836118334?pwd=SHhFZzdFZlI4ZVRGdW95Mzh3THlCdz09>
Meeting ID: 583 611 8334
Password: 3760

Adults

<https://zoom.us/j/95486330678?pwd=bEJxYk05dkRLejFmTFRRcXNQTDVzZz09>
Meeting ID: 954 8633 0678
Password: 412860
One tap mobile
+19294362866,,628381975# US (New York)
Meeting ID: 954 8633 0678

Children

Melissa records a new lesson for the children each week. You can access the link in your weekly e-mail, on the church Facebook page, and on the church website, www.statesvillefbc.org.

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Ms. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Families
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
Tel: 704-873-7231

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Financial Statistics

	May	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	68,536.00	607,324.00
Budget Receipts	50,104.00	553,471.00
Needed to Meet Goals	18,432.00	53,684.00
Alms	270.00	4,442.00
Designated	8,785.00	54,753.00

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

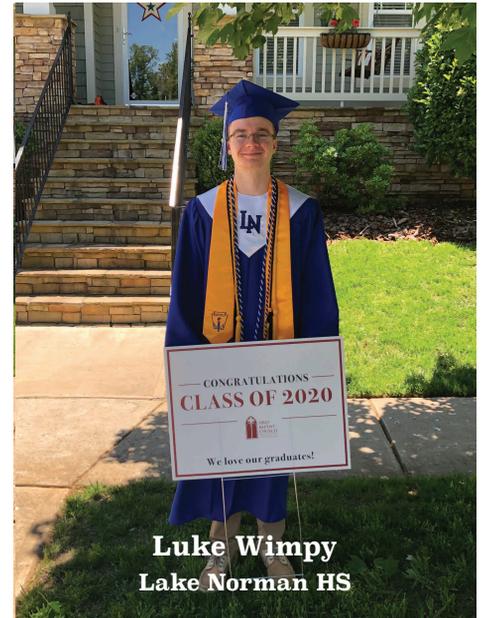
Congratulations to the Class of 2020! We are proud of all of our high school graduates - Hannah Falter, Madelyn McLain, Preston McLain, Taylor Osborne, Gavin Williams, & Luke Wimpy.



Hannah Falter
South Iredell HS



Madelyn & Preston McLain
South Iredell HS & North Iredell HS

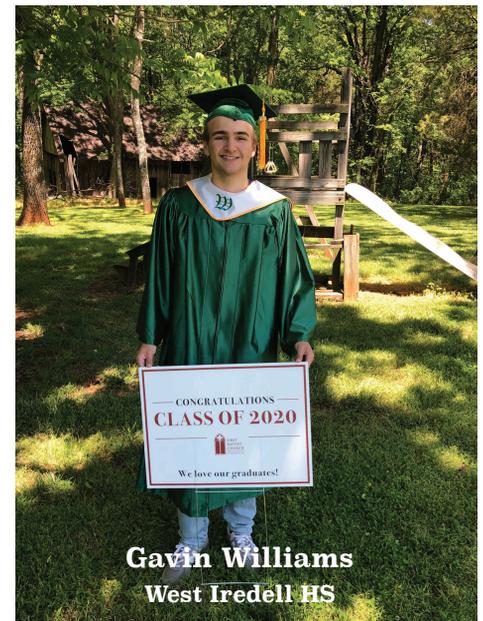


Luke Wimpy
Lake Norman HS



Taylor Osborne
South Iredell HS

—CLASS OF—
2020



Gavin Williams
West Iredell HS

God Hears Our Hearts

Are you sometimes frustrated that God isn't answering your prayers? Oh, but He is! God doesn't always answer the exact way we ask. In fact, I have found that very rarely does He answer my prayers the way I have worded them. God answers the prayers of our hearts, not our head. He knows what we really need, not just what we think we need. When we surrender our wants and needs to His omniscience ("His thoughts are higher than ours"), and His omnipotence ("is anything too hard for God?"), we will begin to experience the unleashed power of answered prayer.

"If we know God hears us every time we ask Him, we know we have what we ask from Him." (1 John 5:15)

Thank You, God, that You hear (and answer) my heart every time I speak to You.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 181: Times of Great Need

After we arrived in Lebanon from furlough on March 7, we went back to our regular meetings—but only for two days—because on Wednesday, March 11, the prime minister of Lebanon asked people to stop gathering.

We still could go out to the supermarkets and buy food, so I thought to go ahead and buy all the food items needed for a food project before things shut down completely. So, we bought food for 576 families.

Unfortunately, we couldn't pass out the packages to the refugees and some locals because of the no gathering rule. But, after two weeks, the women started calling me and asking me if I can help them with some food. Maha went to the center on Monday and asked a few volunteers to meet me there so we could figure out what to do.

We were thinking of the women who called and shared with me about their hardships. There was one woman with ten children and no food; and the woman whose husband hasn't worked in 3 months. There was the woman who had no bread to feed her five children and the woman who has no cash to buy anything.

We knew these women were hurting and decided to help. So, the volunteers started packing some packages and Maha called these most needy women to come separately to get their food portions. Then we called a few more and asked them to come. By 4 p.m. on Monday, we had given out 210 food portions. Tuesday, we gave out more packages, and by the end of the day we had given out more than 320 packages. On Thursday afternoon, we gave a total of 620 packages, and we're still getting calls from women in need.

I praise the Lord for allowing us to help out in these times of need, and we keep praying for protection for us and the volunteers as we help others.

- Chaouki & Maha Boulos, CBF field personnel in Beirut, Lebanon

Mission Bite 182: A Country that Isn't Yet Home

Facing bankruptcy and financial ruin in their South American country, Luis and his family risked everything for a chance to start over in the United States. Their challenges are similar to those faced by all of us but magnified for a new immigrant family. Home schooling of elementary and middle school boys who don't yet understand English; securing health services for a 75-year-old grandmother in need of a primary care provider and medication renewals to stay healthy; finding jobs when many companies are laying off or furloughing their current employees; paying the rent; purchasing food.

Luis is now sick, as well as grandma. They are afraid and unsure of their future, and they can't return home. "We don't know what do to. We trust in God, and we covet your prayers."

Merciful God, we ask for your presence to be felt by immigrant and refugee families during these difficult times. Give them strength and courage to face the unique challenges they face in a country that isn't yet home.

-Greg and Sue Smith, Ministry among Latino immigrants, Fredericksburg Virginia



Announcements

Outdoor Prayer & Worship Service

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

6:00 p.m. - Front Lawn

Please bring your lawn chair and join us for an outdoor prayer and worship service. Boxed meals will be available. (Please be sure to bring your own beverage.) Cost of the meal is \$6.00. Reservations for the meal need to be made by Monday, May 25. Please be sure to social distance and set up your chairs 6 feet apart from anyone not in your household.

In-Person Worship Service

Sunday, May 31, 2020

9:00 a.m. Sunday School / 10:00 a.m. Worship

If our state moves into Phase Two of reopening, we will worship at FBC on Sunday, May 31. Please be sure to RSVP, so we may plan accordingly. Please gather accordingly:

Younger Adults & Children – Adams Hall

(Park behind Education Building and use side entrance on west side of building)

Median Adults & Teens – Fellowship Hall

(Park below Fellowship Hall and use Fellowship Hall entrance)

Older Adults – Sanctuary

(Park at Bunch-Johnson Funeral Home and use either Sanctuary entrance)

While at First Baptist Church, please observe the following health guidelines:

Social Distance: Stay at least six feet apart from non-family at all times and do not touch one another

Wear a Mask: This protects you and others – please bring your own if possible; a few will be available

Wash Your Hands and/or Sanitize Frequently: Hand sanitizing stations are on the walls in each hallway

Do Not Come if You are Ill or in a Vulnerable Group: Vulnerable groups include preexisting conditions and senior adults

New Sunday School Curriculum

The new Sunday School Curriculum will start on June 7. To receive your books before then, Melissa will hand them out on Tuesday, May 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. and Wednesday, May 26, 10:00 -12:00. Please drive up to the portico and she will bring them to your car. Curriculum books will also be in your designated worship space on Sunday, May 31.