

# Bridges

### A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - April 2020

### Theological Reflection Post 1 (3/17/2020)

One of my primary theological convictions about the nature of God is communicated in Psalm 34:18 which reads - "The LORD (YHWH) is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Thus, logically, times of distress are not times of God's absence but are times of God's nearness. The Lord is near to those who are sick, who are hurting, who are broken, who are discouraged, or have fallen down into the hole of depression. The Lord is near!! Therefore, now is the time – in this day and in this season – to expect God to be ever close and at work around you. Look for Him though not in the big events covered by the news media, that is where

most people expect to see God at work, but in the very small things that we so often take for granted. His Spirit may be speaking to you through the words and kindness of a friend, a reminder of His providence can be heard in the sweet sound of the bird outside your window, or the Lord's hand of grace and power may touch you as you open the Bible and spend time in it.

To escape the spread of the virus that plagues this world, we are told to take refuge in our homes, to shut ourselves in and hunker down until the worst has passed. Indeed, following the advice of our medical professionals is very important for the health of the body, but we are more than just body. We have a soul out of which comes the longings of the heart. How do you care for your soul in such a time? From the same Psalm as quoted above (Psalm 34) we are also told, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD (YHWH) is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalm 34:8 ESV). It is through the enjoyment of the Lord that your soul is fed.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Trent Eastman

### Theological Reflection Post 2 (3/18/2020)

Fear is very interesting. As a base emotion fear is important because it warns a person of danger so that pending harm may be avoided. Yet, fear can be irrational or grow disproportional to a danger and thus may cause actions that are not only harmful to self and others, but bring real harm to the soul. During this current COVID-19 crisis, I have witnessed people gripped by fear doing irrational things, like buying-up a year supply of toilet paper. I have also witnessed people so purposefully void of fear that they also act foolish, like the near-naked man I saw in a hotel bar wearing only a swimsuit as he drank his martini surrounded by a crowd of people (sorry for the image). The point is, fear is a powerful motivator for both wise and unwise actions, and every person so motivated

will always see their actions as being justifiable and right in their own eyes. Thus, the important question, "In the midst of fear, how do you evaluate your actions so that you may live rightly (even courageously) but not foolishly?" To me, the answer to this question is what is correctly meant by the often-heard phrase voiced by many Christians "In Christ there is no fear." This does not mean that Christians should be like the swimsuit wearing man drinking a martini at a bar showing everyone how much they are not afraid. Pretending that danger does not exist, or not being motivated by a very real and rational fear, is not only foolish but is a direct contradiction to those times that we see Jesus telling his

disciples to be afraid (see Matthew 7:15 and Matthew 16:6). But, to many people and on many occasions, Jesus also often told people to not be afraid and believe in Him. My favorite example of this is in the gospel of Mark where Jesus tells the synagogue ruler whose daughter has died "Do not fear, only believe (Mark 5:36)." So, what does it mean to live by faith and not by fear?

Think of both faith and fear as two separate ways of life. The way of fear is to hoard, hide, protect, fight or flee. The way of faith is different. The way of faith says that instead of hoarding be generous, instead of hiding be caring, instead of protecting be kind, and instead of fighting or fleeing, be trustworthy and faithful. To "not be afraid but believe" does not mean to have no fear, but rather to listen to and live the way of faith over that of fear.

I saw a great example of living by faith and not by fear yesterday. Those who have economic means (out of fear) have hoarded. This hoarding has directly impacted the poor of the land who lack the capacity to gather what they need and also suffer from many services being shut down. Around 25 volunteers from the church designed and carried out a system to safely provide substantial food to the poor. We are unclear as to the total number of people served, but the amount of food given was roughly equivalent to about 8000 meals. This meal number is broken down into 179 families and boxes of food for seniors. The average age of the volunteers was around 70 years old. Yes, they are aware of the danger, they know the medical warnings and they are not people of false bravado or foolish action. They are people of faith.... They are people of faith. A faith that opens up a different way of life not unhinged from fear, but stands above it. In deep gratitude I saw God yesterday at work through the people of faith.

> Grace and Peace, Pastor Trent Eastman

### Theological Reflection Post 3 (3/19/2020)

Are you inconvenienced yet? I spent a large chunk of my day today just talking to people who are isolated at home. Some have voiced missing others, some have talked about the fears they have for the survival of their business, others have talked about how hard it has been to go and get things. Being isolated or even quarantined is a new experience for most people. We have grown accustomed to 24/7 Walmarts, the church community, and eating in restaurants. Our lives have been turned upside down and limited by this forced isolation.

Yet, our secular modern age itself can be defined as a type of isolation or quarantine from the Spiritual. The Lord has been framed out of the public square, and people are taught that our lives are just the product of chance or coincidence. And because modern secular life has quarantined itself from God, there is little lasting meaning given to the things that people do. We (people as a whole in the west), have lived disenchanted (quarantined) lives from God and thus unwittingly, like today, lack a sense of the spiritual significance that invades our world.

Bible verses like Psalm 19:1 reminds us that the Lord invades all of creation, it reads "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Every day, and every event is dripping with divine presence. It is time to come out of Spiritual isolation and encounter the living God. How do you do that? I think a good place to begin is to follow the instruction given to Peter, James and John by the Father when they were struggling to understand what it means for the Kingdom of God to be present among us. The Father said to them – "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him (Luke 9:35)!" We come out of our spiritual isolation through engagement with God's Word. Thus, I encourage you to open up the Bible to one of the Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and listen to the Son.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Trent Eastman

### Theological Reflection Post 4 (3/21/2020)

There is a story in the Bible about a very godly king. His name is Asa of Judah who ruled for 41 years. He was the great grandson of Solomon and would have ruled about 22 years after the death of Solomon. Scripture tells us that "Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God (2 Chronicles 14:2)." Indeed, through most of Asa's life, he sought after the Lord. As king, he followed the Lord and kept the commands; he got rid of political corruption; he sought the welfare of the cities under his care; and even during a time of war where a million men marched against Judah, Asa prays the prayer "Help us, O Lord, our God, for we rely on you (2 Chronicles 14:11)." He was a good king. But something happens. After a time of peace and prosperity, King Asa grew proud and arrogant. He became overly confident in his military and in the economy of Judah, leading him to be a bully to the nations around him. The Lord sent to King Asa prophets to call the king and nation back to the Lord, but the King instead responded with rage and cast the prophet into prison and even inflicted cruelties upon the people. The Lord then sent a sickness upon Asa and scripture tells us that even during the time of sickness, which would lead to his death, King Asa would not seek the Lord (2 Chronicles 16:12).

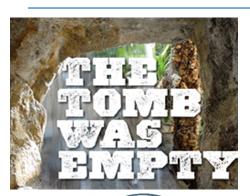
This Bible story has been haunting me these past few days. I feel the story of King Asa is a story of many people, and of many nations - the United States included. We (our nations) has been so blessed by God. We have grown strong, have called upon the Lord in times of war, and indeed have lived through a period of time of great peace and prosperity unknown to previous generations. But, like King Asa, I feel that we too have grown proud and arrogant, trusting more in the things of this world (like the military or stock exchange), than in the Lord. Yet, God is always faithful, and in His faithfulness. He has continued to send godly men and women to proclaim the Word and call people to Himself. Unfortunately, like King Asa, the world as defined by our culture, has sought to shackle all things spiritual or religious to the realm of personal private observance. We cannot shackle God, but we (as a culture) can grow deaf and blind, and I think this is what has happened. We are now caught up in a time of crisis, wondering where is God? Not realizing that God has always been present but our hearts and minds have been turned from Him. I do not know where this COVID-19 virus has come from, or what has caused it. I do not believe, nor do I want to suggest that it is from God. But what I do believe, and what I do want to suggest, is that if we do anything, let us turn our hearts to God and cry out to Him. "Help us, O Lord, our God, for we rely on you." Be courageous in your faith.

> Grace and Peace, Pastor Trent Eastman



### April Birthdays

- 4 Donna Norris
- 6 Cam Brown
- 8 Mary Clifton
- 9 Joe Anderson Linda Cummings Pearl Miller (106 years young)
- 11 Lisa Blake Rhett Casto (1st) **Bradley Chenault**
- 12 Sharon Blume Linda Keller Cooper Manchester
- 13 Gracie Morgan
- 16 Tessie Deuser
- 17 Pete Jones Judy Lantz Jim Sanborn
- 18 Haley Boyce Jonah Egan **Betty Owens**
- 20 Brenda Bates Mitchell Hall **Bret Woodall**
- 23 Norm Allred Toni Gygi Bessie Vanover
- 24 Bob Smith
- 25 Melanie Mullin
- 26 Theressa Dillon Paula Holley Jenneth Lemley
- 27 Michael Campbell
- 28 Kyle Cook Gloria Holmes
- 29 Becky Davis **Taylor Hazelett** Earl Trawick Waylon Vanover
- 30 Katrina Eskins Sharon Snoddy







### SPRING...RESURRECTION...HALLELUJAH!

We can choose to rejoice in this wondrous season--God's promise of life! And we can rest assured that our God always keeps His promises!

Even though our Bible study sessions were cut short, please don't let that stop you from staying in the Word! Go ahead and finish the study you started, then go online to *lifeway.com/women*. There, you can download the videos that you missed. You could also look for a Bible study that you might like to get into on your own...or maybe do with a friend. Or you might want to pull out an older study book that you've kept, and go through it again. And Pastor Trent plans to have study questions available to go along with his sermons which will stream online on Sundays. Just make it a goal to use this unusual time to do something different to keep studying God's Word! Hopefully, God can use us in ways we never imagined as we allow Him to mold us in this season of life.

May your Easter be blessed from above by the God who knows us, cares for us, and loves us. He raised Jesus from the grave...and He WILL be with us as we continue to love and serve Him.

Remember, there is VICTORY IN JESUS!

"But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57

For Good... **Dolores Adkins** 



2 – Dan & Laura Jordan (15th)

2 - Don & Ellen Walker

3 – Bill & Debbie Lapole

5 – Josh & Rachel Sierson

8 – Robin & Becky Crouch

9 – Dean & Cookie Caldwell (60th)

14 – *David & Donna Dunn* (35<sup>th</sup>)

14 - Sandy White & Don Williams

16 - Jeff & Ileene Fetty (15th)

20 – Eddie & Karen Gillispie

22 - Jonathan Duncan & Mary MacClellan

25 – Andy & Kim Finley

27 - Gary & Donna Norris

29 - Matthew & April Walker



Sunday, April 19 for May issue of **Bridges** 

Judy's Shawls will not meet in April.



The Senior Adult **Fellowship Luncheon** for April has been canceled.

Hoping things will get back to normal soon and we can get together for fun, food and fellowship.











### From Pastor Lee Boso

## Connection

### Connection

I usually think about connecting with people over dinner, a cup of coffee, a run or a meeting. In the past week I have realized how much I take for granted the face to face interactions I get to have on a regular basis. But I've also learned something else. We can be connected even if we aren't in the same physical location. Sure, seeing facial expressions and gestures is my preferred way of connecting, but I have found joy this week as I have spoken to people on the phone, sent emails, texts, and other messages.

The author of Hebrews says in chapter 10 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

I think many times we think about this passage as it relates to our physical proximity. But what about that word "consider". Take some time with your family and consider, dream, brainstorm ways, even as we are at home and are asked to social distance, how can we still encourage, connect, and care for one another? Can you speak to your

AND LET US CONSIDER HOW WE MAY SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS, NOT GIVING UP MEETING TOGETHER, AS SOME ARE IN THE HABIT OF DOING, BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER—AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING. HEBREWS 10:24-25

neighbors if they are out for a walk? Can you make and send cards? In chapter 13 we are encouraged to love, show hospitality, and pray for each other. During this time, we can consider new and different ways to connect, but these experiences may help you experience the joy of God and share that joy with others.

During this time, our youth and children are utilizing zoom and other social media to connect with each other, share resources, and connect with God. If you have questions about any of these please reach out to me!

I'm praying for you and praying that God comes near to you as you and your family draw near to God! May the God of peace who brought from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with everything good that you may do His will!

### **NOTES from NBC Choir Director** (Karen Dailey)

Matthew's account of the last hours of Christ's life tells us Jesus sang a hymn with his disciples. (Matthew 26:30) WOW! *We have a singing Savior!* Not only does He provide us salvation, but He also provides us an example of how we should handle trying and burdensome situations. Take a moment to imagine Him singing a song of praise while walking with the disciples to the Mount of Olives. He knew that He was facing betrayal, agony, torture, separation from His Father, and death on the cross for the sins of the world and yet, *He sang*. Even on the cross itself He was quoting a song, a psalm that He was taught as a child. These songs sustained Him in his darkest hours.

Try singing songs from long ago to provide sweet peace, beautiful comforting word of how God has been and will continue to be faithful. "It Is No Secret What God Can Do" "Amazing Grace" "Holy, Holy, Holy" "Trust and Obey" "How Great Thou Art" "Jesus Is Coming Soon" "That Glad Reunion Day" "It Is Well With My Soul" "Blessed Assurance" "Nothing But the Blood." So many beautiful hymns of our faith.

Oh, but that's not to say you can't also enjoy contemporary praises, because as long as they are of sound doctrine and speak the truth of God's love, mercy and grace they also can be a balm to your soul! "Glorious Day!" "Is He Worthy?" "Even If" "Waymaker" "Living Hope" "Raise a Hallelujah" "No Longer Slaves" "Great Are You Lord" "Faithful" "Lord I Need You" Again, WOW! So many songs and so little time to sing them all!

Using His perfect example, during these trying times we, too, can use scripture AND songs of faith and truth to bring us comfort, peace and even joy. We lift our hands, our hearts and voices in songs of praise. With everything I am, I want to sing and give praise to my LORD. Won't you join me? PRAISE YE THE LORD!



### **Baptist Campus Ministries in West Virginia**

Biblical literacy is foundational to the life of a disciple. "Changing lives that change the world" is the mission of BCM and educating students on God's Word was the focus at Marshall University in January. BCM groups from Alderson Broaddus, Concord, Fairmont State, Marshall and WVU

came together for Walk Thru the Bible: Old Testament Live training. This is a day of learning about the Old Testament and an active learning experience. The 40 visual movements helped students better connect the stories of the Old Testament. The 90 students and adults that participated were challenged to allow God's word to change their lives. One adult attendee said, "It does my spirit good to see college students on fire for God and His Word".

To cap off the great event, one student from Concord University indicated in his survey that he had given his life to Christ during the event! What a great example of how God is using BCM to change lives that change the world!

### A story from our missionary in Bolivia, J. D. Reed.



For 2 ½ years the House of Hope in Cochabamba, Bolivia, has been actively looking for a bus. After a long search, we found the bus and were able to buy it with generous donations of people all over the US. Last week, one of our directors, Ricardo Achu, asked if I wanted to go see the bus. With that, we were off to the painter's house where we found Carlos the painter finishing the exterior. After we told him what the bus was going to be used for, he said he was very thankful to be working on the bus knowing what it was going to be used for.

Then he took off his hat and began to tell his story. His younger life was marked by alcoholism, a broken relationship with his wife, and ultimately a broken relationship with the church. He said that he was longing to come back, but didn't know how to make things right any more. Ricardo began to tell him how he developed his relationship with Christ and the church and that all Carlos needed to do was to turn back toward the God that loved him. He said he might someday.

We got back into the car to head back to the house and I asked Ricardo how he got to this place with Carlos. He said that when he first bought the bus, he noticed that Carlos was singing along to some beautiful traditional Peruvian music. During that first day, Carlos asked Ricardo if he had any good music to share and the answer was yes. He promised to bring it back in the morning and then headed off. Ricardo found some worship music in the Peruvian style and brought it back the next morning and headed on his way. Two weeks later when he returned to check on the bus, Carlos was listening to and singing along with "gusto" to Ricardo's music. Carlos was smiling and said that the music was great.

As Carlos told me his story briefly, I could see he was broken-hearted and wanted an opportunity to return to God, but assumed it was not possible because of his mountain of his sins. I told him that Christ welcomes all of us to his grace if we only repent and believe. It didn't matter what we had done, because Christ provided grace for us all. Then we prayed. I led him through a prayer and he asked God's forgiveness for his walking away and to renew his relationship. I followed up with my own prayer asking the Holy Spirit to point him in the direction of a church and to give him to courage to walk through it.

We closed out the prayer, finished our juice and made our way out the door. He picked up his paint gun and went back to singing the songs, but this time there was just a little bit more hope in his voice and a new gleam in his eye. Who knew that simply painting a bus could change a life. Then as we walked to the car, Ricardo said with a smile on his face, "I know where I will be on Sunday!

Thanks be to God for his immeasurable gift to us, no matter where we are!

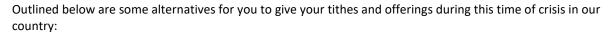


Volunteer extraordinaire **George Ellis** was pictured in the March 18 edition of the Herald-Dispatch carrying a client's groceries out from our Food Pantry. The Food Pantry volunteers are working overtime to help our neighbors in the current crisis.

### From the Board of Finance

God instructs us through the prophet, Malachi, to "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house ..." Malachi 3:10 (ESV). In 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:8 (ESV), Paul writes "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

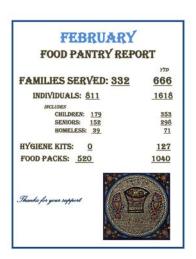
New Baptist Church will likely struggle financially due to the Coronavirus crisis. We plan to carry out the ministries of the church as best we can throughout this time. Your faithful giving now is critical. To give you some perspective, it takes \$32,500 per month in total to pay our employees, our minimum mortgage payment, utilities, and insurance/taxes.



- 1. You can donate to New Baptist Church by **writing a check** and mailing it to 610 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Huntington, WV 25702.
- 2. **Most banks and credit unions offer a free electronic "Bill Pay" service**. In essence, your bank will mail the church a bank issued check for you. All you have to do is set up a reoccurring payment (weekly, biweekly, semi-monthly, or monthly), using your bank's mobile app or its website, for the amount you want to give to New Baptist Church. Our mailing address is 610 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Huntington, WV 25702.
- 3. You can **donate to New Baptist Church through our website**, <u>www.newbaptistchurch.com</u>. We have a donate button on our web page. Click on the donate button, follow the instructions, and give to New Baptist Church through our PayPal account. Also, a link to this PayPal giving option has been added to our Facebook page. (PayPal charges the church \$.30 per transaction and 2.2% of the donation amount for this service.)

Thank you for being the people of God.

Darrell Walden, Chair







### **Financial Peace University is going Virtual**

Having group discussions in FPU class, is a very important part of the weekly sessions. Regrettably, with the current issues with the corona virus, it is best we don't meet in a classroom at church. I decided to go virtual with the class starting March 31. Instead of meeting at the church for two hours a week, class members will watch the weekly video on the FPU Internet site prior to our Tuesday video chats. We will use Zoom, a free app you can download to your phone or computer, to join the group discussion about the current weekly video. The video meeting is at 7:00pm starting Tuesday 3/31 and every following Tuesday for nine weeks. Video sessions last 30-40 minutes.

There is still time to sign up for the class online using the link: fpu.com/1106365 and purchasing your membership for \$99. As an alternative, I have three memberships/workbooks available for \$99 in the church office (first come first serve)

Questions? Call or text me at 304-972-9050 or email JohnBaisden53@gmail.com.

This is going to be an exciting class!!!

It is no secret that the coronavirus has caused us to change how we do things. To flatten the curve of the spread of the virus we have been told to stay at home. Social distancing has caused us to look for different ways to gather for worship and fellowship. We are working diligently to get our live streaming of the worship service and Wednesday Bible study available on platforms so that anyone with internet can access them. Important information will be placed on the church website.

I want to commend our Sunday School classes for the way they are caring for each other. In conversations with people I hear that their teacher or someone else from the class has called them to check up on them. What a testimony. As a church staff we want to offer our help, if necessary, to allow your class to connect virtually (by internet).

Let me encourage you to listen to the Radio Bible Class each Sunday at 9:30 am on 930AM or 94.1FM. I will be recording the lesson each week and then making it available on the internet also. Details on how to access it will be on the church website.

New Baptist Church Sunday Morning Radio Bible Study

94.1 FM or 930 AM

The Largest Runing Religious Radio Program In the Tri-Statel

Many or you have commented how much you have enjoyed worshipping with many different churches on the internet at this time of confinement. I too, have

enjoyed connecting with our church and with our daughter's church in Louisiana on Sundays. But what I have missed is being with my church family. It is just not the same on the internet. I look forward to the day when we can meet together for worship and fellowship. But until that day comes, join us virtually as we make the best of a tough circumstance.

### **Prayer Concerns**



(Please let the church office know if there are any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer concern list.)

Church Family and Friends: Karen Pruitt Adams, Chelcie & Coralie Adkins, Jenny Benson, Tom & Laura Blake, Ed Bowling, Julie Brammer, Dorothy Castleberry, Mary Clifton, Jack Cook, Chelsea Caldwell Courts, Lisa Daniels, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Tracy Foster, Patty Green, Doris Halcombe, Patsy Hall, Ripley Haney, Minnie Harris, Bill Herrold, David High, Anna Holstein, John Hovey, Linda Hutchinson, Scott Jackson, Bill Lapole, Virginia Lawrence, Judson Maverick Maynard, Roy Maynor, Linda Miller, Michelle Morgan, Pam Mullins, Mary Coughenour Murphy, Grace Napier, Warren Napier, Barbara Pauley, Carl Pemberton, Sr., Jerry Powers, Jack Rickman, Jimmy Robinson, Ronnie & Denise Runnels, Amy Sacre, Walt & Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Kimberly Sifford, Major & Lynnette Simms, Keith & Bonnie Simpkins, Butch Smith, Jim Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, Judy Swann, Grover Tadlock, Sandy Taylor, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Nolice White, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark Willett, Sharon Wimmer

Pray also for our pastors and our church; the community around us; unsaved loved ones; our military personnel; our government leaders; our country, all affected by the COVID-19 crisis

# The Jelly Bean Prayer

### RED

is for the blood he gave, **GREEN** 

is for the grass he made.

### **YELLOW**

is for the sun so bright,

### ORANGE

is for the edge of the night.

### BLACK

is for the sins we made, WISTITE
is for the grace he gave.

### PURPLE

is for his hour of sorrow,

### **PINK**

is for our new tomorrow.

An egg full of jelly beans, colorful and smeet, is a prayer, is a promise, is a special treat.

May the joy of Christ's Resurrection fill your heart and bless your life.

-UNKNOWN

### **New Baptist Church**

610 28<sup>th</sup> Street Huntington WV 25702

### Office Hours:

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Tuesday thru Friday

### Phone:

304-523-3355

### Fax:

304-523-3399

### E-mail:

newbaptist2008@gmail.com

### On the Web:

www.newbaptistchurch.com

### Pastors:

Rev. Trent Eastman (trente@me.com)

Rev. Lee Boso (leeboso@gmail.com)

Rev. Robin Crouch (rlcrouch1948@gmail.com)

### **Service Hours:**

Because of current health concerns related to the COVID-19 virus, our services have been greatly modified.

Please check with the church office for updates as to when we will return to a normal schedule.

In the meantime, we encourage you to worship with us online. For our Sunday morning (11am) worship we live stream on the NBC Facebook page. For those who do not use FB, we can also be found on YouTube.



NEW BAPTIST CHURCH 610 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET HUNTINGTON WV 25702

