



HBC ALIVE

A Publication of Harrisonburg Baptist Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia

March 2021

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WHAT I LEARNED FROM A VACCINE CLINIC

DR. MATT WINTERS

The wind was raw as I served at my post in the parking lot at the COVID-19 vaccine clinic in Luray, VA. Crammed into the local VFW post were some twenty-five tables, thirty volunteers and eight hundred doses of vaccine. We were an eclectic group of volunteers merged from varied agencies to bless the community not just with vaccine inoculation, but also, as I learned, with hope, encouragement, relief and grace. Among the cars, in the near-freezing temperature, I watched the hub of activity from afar. This perspective allowed me to pause and realize how these important moments shared at a vaccine clinic inform the practice of Christian life.

In my role as parking attendant, I spoke to each family as they pulled into the post. I anticipated directing them to a parking spot while confirming their appointment times. Many individuals arrived early fearing the vaccine would run out. Some feared not being able to get into the building at all due to handicaps. Few mentioned that without the vaccine, they doubted they would survive to see the summer. Many were anxious, fearful and worried. I found the most helpful response was to remind each family that we had a good team of people to take care of them. For the families who needed a nurse to come to the car, the nurses came outside. For those who needed wheelchairs, we helped them into the building. For those who needed to remember that they weren't alone, I reminded them that we were here with them. So many seniors reminded me that this was one of the few times they had been around people in almost a year. I laughed, joked and told short stories of encouragement. As the families left, smiles on their faces were rampant. Windows would roll down, spirits lifted, and thanks burst from their mouths as they pulled out of the clinic site. Our team helped address the fears and anxieties of the moment. We were there. We gave them a voice. We met a need. Life returned, along with hope, smiles, joy and praise. Providing hope mattered, even if it came from a parking lot.

-Pastor Matt

WINTER BLESSINGS

MARK GRIFFIN, LEADERSHIP TEAM

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and I will give you rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load that I put on you is light.”

A friend from my hometown became a pastor later in his life. He posts his sermon lesson early each Sunday morning to share with all of his friends and the following is one of his recent posts which I would like to share with you.

It's wintertime and this year seems a little more like normal to me. Snow, ice, cold rain and short days. We tend to grow weary of short days and long nights as we long for spring and hope “Phil” predicts a short wintertime. A hard winter helps us to appreciate the warmth that is sure to come with the sunshine and spring.

I think that it is amazing to watch tall, evergreen trees get weighed down with ice and snow. The once tall trees are now bogged down under the weight. We too can be like the trees. We can stand tall but when sin enters our lives we tend to have that heavy weight on our shoulders.

As the temperature rises and the sun begins to shine the snow and ice fall off of the trees and they will rise back to normal. It is the same when we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins. The burden of sin is lifted and we can stand tall and look forward to a bright future. As Christians, we can look forward to an even greater world than the spring can bring us on this earth. The difference is that spring will come and go but God's kingdom will last forever and ever.

So remember, as the trees come back to life so can we when sin is lifted from our shoulders. May God bless you and yours each and everyday. — *Glen Stinnett, pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in Hardy, VA*

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF



Pastor Eli Withers

FOR 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

We extend our sincere thanks to Eli for five years of faithful service at HBC. She's helped us navigate the mountains and valleys of ministry over her tenure. Her steady hand and reliable presence has allowed us to remember that God's presence is here with us. Her creativity is on display as we continue to worship with a variety of expressions and engagements. We appreciate how she's grown as a minister and challenged us to grow as the body of Christ. We are so thankful for fun times, joyous spirits, faithful presence, encouraging words and cherished memories that we've shared together. Eli, we are grateful to have you as a part of HBC's leadership.



MINISTRY UPDATES

Lenten Worship Services

Downtown churches are offering a Lenten worship opportunity from 12:15-12:30 each Wednesday during Lent, and then each day during Holy Week. Please check the church Facebook account to connect with the live feed.

Holy Week

By the end of March, Holy Week will be upon us. Palm Sunday is March 28 with Easter on April 4. As is customary, we'll host a Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 1 and a Good Friday Stations of the Cross reflective walk on April 2. We'll celebrate Easter Sunday with a sunrise service on the lawn on Easter morning. Be on the lookout for more information on the times of these services.

Spring 2021 Small Groups

Following are several small groups that will be meeting this spring. If you have questions about joining a group, feel free to contact Pastor Eli.

TUESDAYS TOGETHER

A general Bible study and conversation small group. Join us at any time!

When: Tuesdays at 11am

Where: HBC Fellowship Hall

WHAT'S NEXT?

Addressing the transition from college to post-college life and all the hopes, expectations, and pressures that brings.

When: Tuesdays at 7pm

Where: Zoom

Leader: Brandon Hawley

WHITE FRAGILITY

What is white fragility? In this ground-breaking and timely book, antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility. Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear,

guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth examination, DiAngelo explores how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

When: Wednesdays at 3pm, March 17 - April 28

Where: HBC Fellowship Hall

Leader: Karen Folsom

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE. GROWTH IS OPTIONAL.

Coping with loss and change and finding hope through a study of *You are Never Alone* by Mac Lucado.

When: Resuming Monday, March 15 at 4pm

Where: The Huffmans'

199 Suffolk Drive

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Leaders: Nancy Shomo & Pastor Eli

LIVING LIVES IN RESPONSE TO JESUS

Episcopal priest, writer and Professor Lauren Winner says, "... the question of how to live a Christian life isn't answered by a list of do's and don'ts. It's answered by looking at lives that have been lived in response to Jesus." This small group will talk about just that. We will study Scripture, books both fiction and non-fiction, as well as poetry, song, our own experiences and more to reflect on our lives being lived in response to Jesus. We will look at the Spiritual Gifts that God has given each one of us as well as the unique qualities of our own personalities in considering who God has created us to be as well as who God is continuously calling us to be. This is the work of Spiritual Formation. We will also engage in creative projects throughout our group time to give us an opportunity to practice our faith in brand-new hands-on ways. Join us!

When: Every other Thursday at 1pm
resuming March 11

Where: HBC Fellowship Hall

Leader: Pastor Eli

LADIES' PRAYER GROUP meets on Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to join at any time!



Winter Weather!

Thanks so much for everyone's continued support through the winter weather, which has hit us every week in February. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped shovel snow, clean sidewalks and prepare for worship. We've been able to stay connected through our livestream services so we're thankful for that amazing technology. We're also grateful for your continued faithful giving, which has allowed us to continue to share in ministry together.

Missions Committee Update

MARY SMITH

OPERATION INASMUCH ON APRIL 17, 2021.

Our 2021 Inasmuch work days will be decided to Hank Bowers, who brought OIAM to HBC in 2007 and participated in many mission activities over the years. A list of projects for April 17th is below. We need your help to make this day a success. You can sign up [here](#), by going to the church website or by contacting the church office at 540-433-2456. (If you have difficulty with the above sign-up link, copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://forms.gle/dfbxRYLXqfSmUFdt7>)

- AVA Care Donations Drive-Thru
- Baptist College Ministry Revitalization
- Grattan St. Ministry
- Harrisonburg Black Run Clean-Up
- HBC Attic Clean-Up
- HBC Maintenance & Repairs
- Project Harrisonburg Renaissance
- Yard Clean-Up at HBC and Liberty St. Houses
- Yard Clean-Up for Jane Bowers

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Watch for special announcements and posters around church about current HBC mission projects and ways you can be involved.



Sunday Zoom Meetings

We are always dreaming about ways we can continue to be connected to our church family, and especially with those of you who are worshipping at home. In order to have a time to connect, HBC staff will be hosting a Zoom "Hello Session" after worship. During the session, we can check in, offer words of encouragement, pray for one another and just share moments of connecting. We will aim for the sessions to take place from about 11:30 to 12:00 each Sunday. You're welcome to drop in for a few moments or stay for the whole time. The Zoom link for each Sunday is <https://zoom.us/j/96882967557>.

Missionaries Visit

On Wednesday, February 24, Missionaries Marc and Chacho from United in Christ Ministries joined us for a series of opportunities of engagement. Among the many tasks they helped perform were an overview of their ministry with the church congregation as well as individual meetings with both the Missions Committee and the Mexico Mission Team. As we plan for a summer 2022 mission trip to south Texas and Mexico, Marc and Chacho highlighted the various ways the mission team could serve in Mexico. It was so enriching to hear how the teens were enthused to share their heart and connect with the Mexican people.

While Marc and Chacho were here, we were able to give away some food bags and cheese from the Cheese Ministry with our neighbors at the Grattan Street apartments. Members of the missions committee as well as some college students from the fraternity across the street joined us as we delivered food and offered prayers. The highlight of the food delivery was a time of hospitality shared by Eritrean families, who shared coffee and a meal with us. What a blessing the day provided!



IT'S FLOCKING SEASON!



HBC Youth is hosting a Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser during the entire month of March! Give a fun-loving friend, neighbor, or family member a yard full of beautiful plastic pink flamingos.

\$15 donation- a trained technician will deliver or remove the flock.

\$20 donation- a trained technician will remove the flock and relocate the flock to a friend of your choice.

\$30 donation- flocking insurance will protect your home from future flockings.

To arrange a flocking, flocking removal, or to purchase flocking insurance, please contact Katelyn at 540-820-5283 or katelyn@hbcalive.org.

These birds will nest in your yard for 2-4 days.

All proceeds benefit the mission trip to United in Christ Ministry in Los Fresnos, TX/Matamoros, Tamaulipas, MX.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members:

Julie Aittama, Jane Bowers,
David Downey, Dennis Greene,
Wayne & Sally Hannah, Judy Miller,
Don Musselman, Bill & Barbara Pond,
Karen & Kerry Potter, Jimmy & Nancy Russell,
Daniel Sanger, Constance Via



Extended Family:

Ann Fowler—former SS class member
Pat Long—Lyn Weaver's cousin
Susan Douma—Sherri Chapman's cousin
Doris Jean Shifflett—Joyce Deavers' sister-in-law
Charles Cavallo—Noelle Carroll's friend
Becky Morris—Ellen Shomo's friend
Dorothy Shenk—Randy Shenk's mother
Margaret Straw—Mother of Courtney Shiffer
Karen Farrier—Jessica Winters' mother



STAFF CORNER

We extend our grateful appreciation and congratulations to...

... **Rosemary Lonberger**, who has been HBC's organist for 14 years as of March 1. Thank you for sharing your musical talents with us each Sunday!

... **Pastor Matt Winters**, who has been HBC's Senior Pastor for one year as of March 15. We are grateful for your compassionate leadership throughout this past year of uncertainty.

... **Pastor Eli Withers**, who has been HBC's Associate Pastor (and formerly Minister of Spiritual Formation) for 5 years as of March 27. We have been greatly blessed by your leadership.

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

(1/31/21)



Budget needs to date \$ 52,225.00
Budget Receipts to date \$ 43,671.00

Special/Designated Offerings for January

- Hank Bowers Memorial \$ 1,775.00
- Betty Acker Memorials \$ 50.00
- Charlotte Kibler Memorials \$ 100.00
- Cheese Ministry \$ 25,050.00
- Saturday Bag Lunch \$ 1,040.00
- Lottie Moon Offering \$ 100.00
- Liberty Street Mortgage \$ 600.00



The Big Payoff Mortgage Balance
\$ 11,785.00

The Treasurer of the Baptist General Association of Virginia has extended thanks to churches in the state for their generous support of Cooperative Missions Giving in 2020. HBC placed 2nd in giving among the 18 churches in the Valley Region. HBC Cooperative Missions Giving in 2020 totaled \$37,130.



Dear HBC Staff and Church Family,
Dustyn and I would like to thank you so much for your prayers, calls, cards, and food during our bout with Covid 19. We are so blessed to call you our "family" and give thanks for your love, support, and many from the heart acts of kindness. We are so thankful we followed God's calling many, many years ago to make HBC our church home!

God's Blessings and Our Love,
Dustyn and Sherry Miller



MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:30pm Staff Mtg 3pm Missions Committee Mtg (FH) 6:30 Childrens Comm Mtg (Kids Alive) 6:30pm Scouts (FH)	2 11am Tuesdays Together (FH)	3 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 6pm Choir Practice 6pm HS Girls Group	4 6pm Finance Committee Mtg (FH)	5	6 10am Community Lunch (Ritchie/Stanley New Hope)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Annie Armstrong Offering & Week of Prayer						
10:30am Worship 2pm Kachin Baptist 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	13 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts 6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting (FH)	14 11am Tuesdays Together (FH)	15 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 6pm Choir Practice			16 10am Community Lunch (St. Stephen's)
14 10:30am Community Worship 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	15 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts	16 11am Tuesdays Together (FH)	17 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 6pm Choir Practice	18	19 6:30pm Youth Game Night	20 10am Community Lunch (Ritcher Team) April NL Articles Due
21 10:30am Community Worship 2pm Kachin Baptist Church 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	22 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts	23 11am Tuesdays Together (FH)	24 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 6pm Choir Practice 6pm HS Girls Group	25	26	27 10am Community Lunch (Skelley Team)
28 10:30am Community Worship 5:30pm Youth Dinner & Bible Study	29 3:30pm Staff Mtg 6:30pm Scouts	30 11am Tuesdays Together (FH)	31 10am Ladies Prayer Group (FH) 6pm Choir Practice	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Staff Days Off Gary—March 2-6 </div>		

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- Mar 7 — Bill Lee
- Mar 14 — Nancy Shomo
- Mar 21 — Debbie Douglas
- Mar 28 — Laura Fly



ADDRESS CHANGES

Heidi Ruiz
 977 Smith Ave
 Harrisonburg, VA 22802



- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Louise Johnson | 16 Gary Lohr |
| 3 Jane Bowers | 17 Austin Harper |
| 4 Trina Ellis | 19 David Hayes |
| 5 Jake Petit | 20 Betsy Fly |
| 6 Elise Ritchie | 23 Betty Ecklund |
| 8 Pattie Alvis | 27 Cindy Skelley |
| Janet Smith | 28 Chris Belcher |
| 9 Carl Crocker | 29 Kevin Petit |
| 10 Dennis Simmons | 31 Kimberly Bruce |
| 14 Cathy Baugh | Angela Hayes |
| Katie Mozingo | |



Harrisonburg Baptist Church

501 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801



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501 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 433-2456 www.hbcalive.org

Dr. Matthew L. Winters, Senior Pastor

Rev. Eli Withers, Associate Pastor

Rev. Katelyn Belcher, Minister of Youth

Dr. Gary Ritcher, Director of Music & Worship

Ebony Cleveland, Praise Band Leader

Rosemary Lonberger, Organist

Harold Bailey, Pianist

Susan Kiser, Financial Ministry Assistant

Kim Brubaker, Administrative Ministry Assistant

April Newsletter Deadline: March 20, 2020

Please submit articles to
Kim Brubaker at kim@hbcalive.org

He
HAS MADE
everything
beautiful
in its
TIME

Ecclesiastes 3:11