

The Colorado Mission Team hosted a yard sale on May 1 & 2.



Volume 83 Issue 10

May 17, 2026

From the Pastor...

This Sunday is Ascension Sunday. It's the day we celebrate Jesus returning to the heaven and remember that he will come again one day to gather us home. Jesus' return is something that has been speculated upon for centuries.

I don't spend a lot of time wondering when Jesus will return. He specifically told the disciples, "It is not for you to know the times or dates" (Acts 1:7). I do, however, take hope in knowing that Jesus will one day set all things right.

In the meantime, we have work to do. I remember as a boy my daddy telling me we'd go fishing later "later-on". Later-on is a southern expression that is ambiguous. I wanted a time, but dad wouldn't be pinned down.

Every time I'd ask dad about when we might leave, he'd say, "later-on or after-awhile." Then he'd add, "for now you have work to do!" It took me a while to figure out that "later-on" meant after I had mowed the grass and dad had pulled the weeds.

He could have told me, "We'll go fishing when you finish your chores," but I would have rushed the job. He could have also said, "We'll go fishing, when I finish what I'm doing," but I would have pestered him to death.

The disciples asked Jesus when he would return and Jesus basically said, "don't worry about that, just do your job." Before Jesus returns, we have work to do and so does God. Our work is to be Jesus's witnesses. God's work is to bring in the Kingdom.

This Sunday and next Wednesday, we'll focus on how to be witnesses to Christ. I promise, it will not be about high-pressure pitches. We're going to focus, rather, on naturally sharing what God is doing in our lives. I hope you will join us for these important times.

Schedule

Sunday, May 17

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, May 18

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, May 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Music & Missions & Youth on Mission

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, May 21

11:00 a.m. Senior Adult Luncheon

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, May 24

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, May 27

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, May 28

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate / Preschool Director
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
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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Upcoming Events

Graduation Sunday
May 17

Pa ssport Kids Camp
June 10-13

Pa ssport Youth Camp
June 21-26

Co orado Mission Trip
July 11-17

Jubilee Sunday
July 26

Vacation Bible School
July 27-31

Wednesday Evening Activities Resume
August 19

Operation Inasmuch / Project Nehemiah
August 29

Parents Night Out
September 11

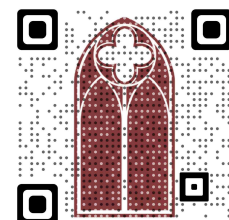
Spiritual Statistics

	5/5	5/10
In-Person	161	201
Online	27	37
Sunday School	78	95

Financial Statistics

	May	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	81,226.00	719,575.00
Budget Receipts	40,090.00	608,769.00
Goals Not Met	(41,136.00)	(110,806.00)
Alms	1,697.00	17,503.00
Designated	3,208.00	111,175.00

Scan the QR code to give online.





Announcements

Graduation Sunday May 17, 2026

We will recognize our four high school graduates on Graduation Sunday. Laundry baskets will be on the first pew for the congregation to fill with the items that will be helpful to the graduates on their next adventures.

These items include: gift cards, command strips or hooks, surge protectors, journals, index cards, scissors, tape, pens, markers, highlighters, small first aid kit, batteries, flashlight, duct tape, lint roller, chapstick, tide pens or shout wipes, can opener, snacks, candy/gum/mints, plastic utensils, paper plates, and chip clips.

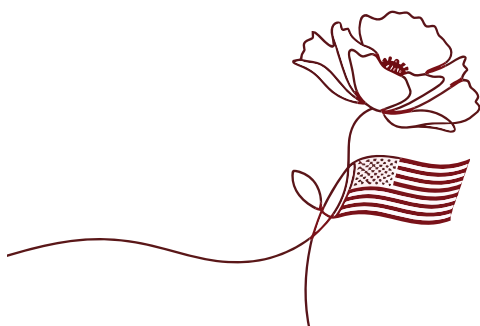
Senior Adult Luncheon

Thursday, May 21, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

The Gospel Voices with Clay Lunsford will entertain. The menu includes chicken pie, green beans, slaw, and dessert. Cost is \$6. Please make your reservation by Monday, May 18 at noon.

Books Written by Church Members

Books written by current and former church members are on display in the breezeway. If you know of any church member that has published a book, please contact the church office so we can add it to our collection.



MEMORIAL DAY

A Message from Minister of Missions Elizabeth Kilby

We had a great time at the yard sale and we were able to raise over \$2500 for our Colorado mission trip. We did so well on Friday we were able to have it fully half-off on all day Saturday.

Thank you so much for all of your donations your hard work and your effort to make this possible.

We also were blessed with a huge donation of men's underwear from a partner and we are currently getting those out to all of our community needs.

This is how working together to better the community really pays off.

Thank you.

Many thoughts and prayers.

Elizabeth



Kanji of the Year

by Carson Foushee, www.cbf.net/blog

Beginning in 1995, a national poll has helped to select the kanji (Chinese character) that best describes the year that was in Japan. A grand public announcement is made in mid-December of the winner at one of Kyoto's most famous temples when a priest writes the kanji in calligraphy on a piece of traditional Japanese paper about 5 feet high and 3 feet wide. This tradition has helped to keep a record of the most important events and stories throughout the decades.

Sometimes a kanji is used to describe a single event, while in other years it has portrayed a collection of events. In 2013, Japan celebrated a successful bid to receive the 2020 Olympics with the kanji 輪 meaning "rings" as in the Olympic rings. In 2018, the kanji 災 meaning "disaster" was chosen to represent not only the effects of two natural disasters, but also a nuclear plant accident and a scandal at Mitsubishi Motors. The kanji of the year for 2025 was 熊 meaning "bear." Japan saw a surge in bear attacks that lead to record numbers of injuries and fatalities. Heightened anxiety accompanied the damage of crops in rural areas, school closures and event cancellations. There also was the return of four of Japan's six panda bears to China.



I was first introduced to this tradition during Japanese language school when challenged by a teacher to consider a kanji that defined my own year. While I had considered resolutions for a new year, I had never really taken time to try and put the previous year into a single word. Since 2017, Laura I have adopted the custom as our own.

That first year the kanji 変 meaning "change" defined a move to Tokyo that included adjusting to life in one of the world's largest cities and a shift from working life back into the classroom as full-time language students. Since then, words like 親 meaning "parent" in celebration of the birth of our first child, 待 meaning "waiting" in reflection of our long wait for a visa to return to Japan during COVID and 築 meaning "build" connected to new relationships built after our return to Kanazawa, have defined several of our years.

My kanji for 2025 is 旅 meaning "travel." This is in reflection of the above normal level of travel that both Laura and I undertook in the 2025 calendar year. My family traveled for Thailand, Tokyo and Nagoya for ministry activities. Laura traveled to America twice for CBF meetings, which included the 2025 General Assembly in St. Louis. I traveled to Brisbane, Australia for the Baptist World Alliance's 23rd Baptist World Congress. I traveled to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to prepare for a 2026 peacemaking mission experience with a CBF partner congregation. I traveled about once a month to the Noto Peninsula to serve along with local partners in earthquake relief. My family also traveled for fun to Lake Biwa, Tokyo Disneyland and a special end of year trip to Hawaii. On a larger scale, I also continue to travel in faith alongside our local church in Kanazawa and our friends across the globe as pilgrims on the journey of faith.

As I enter 2026, I seek to keep my eyes open to the world around me and how God is at work within me as I prepare to continue to this tradition.