



THE INTERIM

Aaron Milstead chases bubbles that he received in his at-home worship packet from Ms. Melissa.

Volume 77 Issue 9 **April 26, 2020**

From the Pastor...

Living with the novel corona virus isn't very novel any more. In fact, it is getting very old. We are all tired of being shut up at home, accommodating work and school schedules and missing church. It is a grief experience to lose so many normal activities of life and many of us are feeling tired and down.

Of course, most of us are only being inconvenienced. Worldwide, millions have gotten sick and hundreds of thousands have died. Likewise, the global economic impact has been devastating. Because Iredell has been spared widespread sickness and death, it is tempting not to take this as seriously as it is. We, however, need to stay vigilant.

Someone recently commented that what they thought was going to be a sprint has turned into a marathon. We knew we had to adjust life for a while, but now we are dealing with the reality that we are in a long race where the finish line keeps moving. We are not the first to feel this way. Christians have been through many difficulties throughout history and learned each time to rely on our faith.

Toward the end of his life, Paul was able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). I wonder how many times Paul wondered, "what could come next." His life was filled with difficulties and challenges. I imagine he often wanted to give up or give in; but he learned how to be content in God's grace (Philippians 4:12).

One of the secrets of living in times of uncertainty is to understand what we can control and what we need to let God control. We can't cure this virus, but we can limit its spread by limiting our contact with one another for a while. We can't avoid our grief, but we can accept it and allow it to make us more empathetic. We can't stop the economic devastation, but we can support those who are hurting the most.

Perhaps the aspect we can influence most is our own attitude. Denying any emotion is unhealthy, but so is camping out in negativity. No feeling has to control us. We can accept how we feel, express it healthily and move on. Good Friday was necessary, but Easter is eternal. Despite our circumstances, we are called to hope. In fact, I'd like your help in refocusing us onto hope.

Please post a short video (10-20 seconds) on our First Baptist Church of Statesville FaceBook page. In it share where you are seeing or finding hope in these days. You could tell a story, sing a song, quote a scripture or just say hello to your church family. Be creative! I know of a church where the youth group challenged the adults to a lip sync battle – it's quite funny.

My hope is that seeing one another's faces will encourage us all. We might even make a montage of clips and email them out to the entire congregation. If you aren't on FaceBook you can e-mail your video to Kayley@statesvillefbc.org and she can post it for you. Remember, keep it short and upbeat. I look forward to actually seeing you (or at least your video) soon!

Where Do You Find Hope?

Please post a short video (10-20 seconds) on our First Baptist Church of Statesville FaceBook page. Share where you are seeing or finding hope in these days. You could tell a story, sing a song, quote a scripture or just say hello to your church family. Be creative!



<https://www.facebook.com/FBCStatesville/>

Ministries Continue Amid Pandemic

Schedule

Sunday, April 26

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

Wednesday, April 29

12:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Zoom
 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal Available for Pick Up
 Reservations Required
 Menu: glazed ham, sweet potatoes, & peas
 \$6.00/meal

Sunday, May 3

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

Wednesday, May 6

12:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Zoom
 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal Available for Pick Up
 Reservations Required
 Menu: meatballs, garden salad, & garlic bread
 \$6.00/meal



Adult Sunday School Zoom Link & Password

<https://zoom.us/j/95486330678?pwd=bEJxYk05dkRLejFmTFRRReXNQTDVzZz09>
 Meeting ID: 954 8633 0678
 Password: 412860

Direct Link to Live Stream for Sunday School & Worship Service

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpU9lq8fgFB_w1N_aEeCTyg/videos.

Order of Service & Sermon Outline

The Order of Service and the Sermon Outline can be found on our website, www.statesvillefbc.org, and in your weekly e-mail regarding Sunday School and Worship.

Zoom Link for Wednesday Prayer Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/259365815?pwd=RS9HUkk1OGsvdE5uT0NHbCtQNjhnZz09>
 Meeting ID: 259 365 815
 Password: 978702

Directions for joining a Zoom Meeting:

You can join a zoom meeting by clicking one of the links below from any computer. Simply choose the class you will attend and click on the link at the appropriate time for the meeting. If you are using a phone or a tablet you may need to download the app first. If you need more help:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting> offers further directions.

Online Giving

You can now support FBC with online giving. Simply go to our website, www.statesvillefbc.org, and click the Giving tab. Follow the link to the online form. This form will enable you to give toward the church budget online.

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

	April	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	61,506.00	538,619.00
Budget Receipts	50,325.00	476,351.00
Needed to Meet Goals	11,181.00	62,268.00
Alms	295	4,172.00
Designated	2,565	43,968.00

Pastoral Care During Covid-19 Crisis

Our deacons, pastors and Sunday School teachers are all making calls to check on our members. If you have a need, however, please feel free to call the church office (704-873-7231). Though we are not able to make hospital or in home visits, we are having prayers over the phone and pastoral counseling by phone or Zoom. We also encourage you to call one another and let us know if you find unmet needs.

Please also let us know if you or someone you know is in need of food, medicine, or other essentials. We have volunteers who are willing to get those items and deliver them outside your door. Our church is also making a special donation to Iredell Christian Ministries to help ensure food and financial aid is available to Iredell county residents in need.



Gym Floor Refinishing *Continuing the Dream Update*

Thanks to an anonymous donor we are in the process of refinishing and restriping the gym floor. The donor advanced a *Continuing the Dream* gift and designated it toward this project, because it made sense to do refinish the floor while we are out of the Family Life Center. Here is what the project will involve:

- Hardwood court will be sanded down to its surface
- Sealers will be applied
- A basketball court, volleyball court, and two pickle ball courts will be painted onto the floor
- Two additional coats of sealer will be applied

The gym should be completed and ready for play by the time we are able to reopen again. Cost of the project is around \$11,000, which is \$2,000 under our estimated budget.

To date we have received \$250,222 toward our *Continuing the Dream* projects. This amount has provided for the sanctuary stone restoration and waterproofing (which has been completed). Our next project will be renovating the hallway behind the sanctuary. While the building is closed would also be a good time to complete the hallway project, but we would need to receive another \$67,000 to proceed.

Heart Searching Prayer

The real depth of my spiritual life and walk with the Lord is reflected by my devotion and love for God and my desire and passion to be in His presence through heart-searching prayer, seeking the Lord with all of my heart.

This passion, to be in His presence with passionate prayer, heart-searching prayer, is really a passion for our Lord Jesus Christ, above and beyond any desire I may have for a cause, a ministry, a mission or even for others. This passion for the Lord, seeking the Lord wholeheartedly, stimulates and energizes my serving the Lord.

Father, I desire to seek after you wholeheartedly and to make my home in Your heart as You have made Your home in mine. May I live in Your presence all the days of my life, listening to Your voice, obeying Your words and spending myself in the cause of Your kingdom!

--Adapted from *Giving Ourselves to Prayer: An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry* (Chapter 21, *The Bible and Personal Passion in Prayer* by Earl Pickard). This book is available in our church library.



Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."

Hosea 6:3



CBF Mission Bites

Mission Bite 176: Unto the Least of Those

Karen refugees often arrive in the San Francisco Bay Area straight out of refugee camps in Burma or Thailand where the climate is tropical. Sometimes they only have summer clothing and lack winter coats needed for cold northern California winters. And like everyone's families, every year their children outgrow the coat they wore the previous winter. Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church, a CBF congregation in San Francisco, collected gently used coats for Karen refugees and sent volunteers to distribute the coats among Karen families in Oakland.

"Lord, when did we see you lacking clothing and clothe you? Inasmuch as you did it unto one of the least of these" Matthew 25

-Rick and Lita Sample, CBF field personnel serving in the San Francisco Bay Area

Mission Bite 177: Doing for Others

Many Latino immigrants work in restaurants, offer housekeeping services, or have employers who are impacted and must lay off workers. Most of these workers won't have unemployment benefits and don't receive (or qualify for) public assistance. They are some of the most vulnerable persons during the current COVID-19 crisis.

Maria is a single mother of five who cleans houses. Since the state of Virginia has ordered all residents to "Shelter in Place," Maria isn't working. Her clients asked her not to come for her health and safety as well as their own, so she has no income. Maria used her extra time to make food deliveries in her neighborhood for Cinco Panes, LUCHA Ministries' food distribution program. Nearly 45 families received rice, beans, and other essential products this week, and the need grows as jobs end.

-Greg and Sue Smith, CBF field personnel in Fredericksburg, Virginia

Mission Bite 178: Honor the Hands

COVID-19 couldn't pick a worse time to disturb Immokalee, Florida. Even though April is at the tail end of the prime agricultural season, there are still commercial tomatoes to pick, as well as cucumbers and watermelons. And there are lots of migrant farmworkers—mostly Haitian, Mexican and Guatemalan—in this town of approximately 20,000 people.

Living in overcrowded trailers, these workers travel back and forth between home and fields in cramped buses and vans. So much for social distancing.

With a nationwide panic-driven demand for groceries, food banks are facing decreased donations as well as fewer volunteers. That means that community-based food pantries are accessing less food for their clients. Unfortunately, this is the case of Misión Peniel, a Presbyterian (PCUSA), Immokalee-based food pantry that works closely with Cultivate Abundance, a CBF Engagement Partner.

To guarantee that Misión Peniel has an adequate supply of fresh, nutritious food for its farmworker clientele, Cultivate Abundance staff and volunteers tend a community garden at the food pantry as well as another in nearby Naples, Florida. The organization also facilitates the efforts of local churches, organizations and home gardeners to grow and share fruit and vegetables.

Although the risk of COVID-19 has led the Misión Peniel garden to temporarily restrict access to its neighbors, Cultivate Abundance is preparing sets of container gardens for distribution among 30 farmworker families. And with fewer volunteers and reduced food donations for Misión Peniel, Cultivate Abundance is helping this ministry to not only access more produce, but also share the food with farmworkers every Friday afternoon.

This is the work of Beloved Community as we "honor the hands" of those who harvest our food.

-Rick Burnette, CBF field personnel and domestic disaster response manager, Immokalee, Fla.

Happy Birthday

- May 1 Hannah May
May 2 Angie Eubanks
May 3 Susan Chapman
May 4 Vickie Frazier
May 5 Susan Boyles
May 6 Andy Gabriel
May 7 Joe Haney
May 8 Don Hawkins
May 9 David Gabriel
May 10 Neil Furr
May 11 Kristy Mitchell
May 12 Lynn Deal
May 15 Karley Crain
May 17 Lauren Milwood
May 18 Grace Ashley
May 19 Rachel Beale
May 20 David Deal
May 21 Daniel Mitchell
May 22 Jeanie Murdock
May 23 Tom Brandon
May 25 Carter Hinceman
May 26 Lisa Adcox
May 27 Carolyn Dellinger
May 28 Walter Rankin
May 29 Sarah Faulk
May 30 Fred Holbrook
Burwell Whittenton