

Audrey Tompkins-Horne and Gemma Hinceman show their dirty hands after starting their resurrection garden.



## THE INTERIM

Volume 78 Issue 6

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### From the Pastor...

I've received more comments about last week's sermon, *The Last Supper: Eating with the Betrayer*, than any other message I preached at FBCS. Several commented that they had not thought about the grace Judas was offered by Jesus. Others noted that the line, "grace has to be accepted to work," hit home with them.

If you were not able to worship with us last Sunday, you can watch the sermon online at our website: [www.statesvillefbc.org](http://www.statesvillefbc.org). But I'll also give a brief recap here. The sermon compared the failures of both Judas and Peter. Each had experienced Jesus's grace and heard his call to live for God's Kingdom. One took his life and the other founded Jesus' Church.

Judas missed many opportunities for grace, choosing instead to focus on himself. This self-centeredness led Judas to betray Jesus. Even though Judas immediately regretted his decision, he still focused on himself and took his own life. Peter also denied Jesus and felt deep remorse. Peter, however, was able to refocus on a cause bigger than him and eventually hear words of forgiveness and challenge.

In short, we all experience words of grace and degradation. We must make a choice as to which voices we allow into our minds, hearts and lives. Grace will always lead to life, but it is never earned. It is gift that must be accepted with gratitude. It is also a gift that requires a change of life and focus.

Many of you spoke words of grace and appreciation for my sharing the story about losing my sister, Jeanie, to suicide. I told the story of Valerie and me going to the place where she had been found in her car. It was a small country church and she had parked beside the cemetery. We sat and cried and wished Jeanie could have understood how much she was loved and needed.

When we were leaving, we rode to the other side of the church, where a sign read, "Jesus loves you!" I can't say that the sign would have saved her life, but I wish she had seen it. I wish even more she had known it deep down. Val and I both realized, however, that the sign was a reminder to us as well. In our sadness, we too needed to hear words of grace.

Much of my preaching revolves around Jesus' command for us to love God and others. I realize, however, this can only be done when we experience God's love ourselves. Grace is unmerited love. It just is. We have no power to demand it or right to claim it. For it to work, however, we have to allow it into our hearts and out to others.

Right and wrong are important and we all need rules to live by. When it comes down to erring on legalism or grace, I hope to always err on the side of grace. We never know what's going on inside another person, but I guarantee you they need grace. Thank you for the grace you give Valerie and me every day. I pray our church will be one filled with grace that transforms our lives and overflows to all we encounter.

## Schedule

### Sunday, March 14

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson  
Uploaded to YouTube

8:45 a.m. Sunday School - Zoom & Adams Hall  
Multipurpose Room (FLC)

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

### Monday, March 15

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, March 17

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

5:30 p.m. To-Go Meals

Menu: fried salt & pepper catfish, hush puppies,  
slaw, & jello

### Thursday, March 18

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Sunday, March 21

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson  
Uploaded to YouTube

8:45 a.m. Sunday School - Zoom & Adams Hall &  
Multipurpose Room (FLC)

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

### Monday, March 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, March 24

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

5:30 p.m. To-Go Meals

Menu: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mixed  
veggies, & chocolate pudding

### Thursday, March 25

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

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. 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  
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## A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

The days are getting longer and it seems that so are our to do lists. My list always seems to triple when it is nice and lighter longer outside. With that being said, much of my list consists of spring projects that I may have put off from the winter. Think of the things on your list this week and see if there is something on your list that someone you know may also have on their list. Help them accomplish it or accomplish it for them. We can still care for others while being socially responsible and strategic about living out our mission. My prayer is that we can sow kindness and grow love during this season. We make a difference one small single act at a time.

Many thoughts and prayers.  
Elizabeth



## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of February 28 & March 7, 2021

	2/28	3/7
Live Stream Views.....	n/a.....	.61
In-Person.....	88.....	82

*Note: Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to live stream the service on February 28.*

## Financial Statistics

	March	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	69,097.00	468,999.00
Budget Receipts	15,427.00	374,426.00
Goals Not Yet Met	53,670.00	94,573.00
Eddie Steele Fund	2,152.00	3,643.00
Designated	289.00	75,441.00

## More Lent Kit Fun!

Carter Hinceman, Gemma Hinceman, Audrey Tompkins-Horne, and Cate Taylor continue to enjoy their Lent Kits. Their resurrection gardens are coming along nicely!



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## Where Could I Go From Your Presence?

“Where could I go from Your presence, Lord?” is more  
than a rhetorical question these days.  
Where my journey has taken me  
has been something I could never have plotted or planned.  
No road club could have printed out maps for this trip.  
Yet, I never left the palm of Your hand.  
Now, more than ever, I am at rest in Your sweet embrace.  
How can this be?  
Turbulent times should be unsettling.  
Strange territory should leave us  
feeling bewildered and disoriented.  
Yet here I am—somehow at rest in Your presence.  
That is familiar, reassuring, peaceful.  
The psalmist must have learned this, too.  
I can never be lost from your presence.  
If I go down to hell, Your presence surrounds me  
like a safe harbor.  
If I fly through the heavens on the wings of the morning,  
Your sweet presence puts music to the words.  
You are the eye of the storm.  
You are the cleft in the rock.  
You are the whale in the bottom of the sea.  
I’ve never been here before, Lord, but I know where I am.  
I am with You. (Prayer by Gloria Gaither, based on Psalm 139)

His servant and your friend,  
Ginny Stikeleather



## Announcements

### CBF Mission Bite

#### Mission Bite 209: Collecting Food

*Going to university is a great privilege. Even more so, perhaps, in the country where we serve. For many, sending their children to university is a sacrifice. Sometimes, a poor village will pool their money so that they can send one, maybe two, kids to college on another island. When the pandemic hit, nearly half the workforce ceased working and, as would be expected, financial difficulties quickly followed. Many parents no longer had any money to send to their children to help support their living expenses. Students who worked to support themselves were no longer employed. The pandemic quickly became a crisis of food shortage among students.*

*The Christian university we partner with, our local church, and our ministry supported by your gifts responded to these needs. At the university, faculty and student groups banded together to collect food and donations in order to prepare meals for students in need. Our church raised funds to support this and other food drives. Our young adult ministry collected food to distribute to students in our ministry who had been adversely affected by the pandemic. As we have continued to collect and distribute food, our community has grown closer in many ways, even while socially distanced and rarely meeting face-to-face.*

*Our kids wanted to join in on the giving and thank those who were bringing food to distribute. But, what could they give? They went in their room and started pulling out stuffed animals. For each person that brought something to share, they went home with a new friend.*

- Brooke and Mike, CBF field personnel serving in Southeast Asia



### Spring Forward This Weekend

Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before bed on Saturday

#### Christian Sympathy

...is extended the family of Doris Lingerfelt in her death on February 24, 2021.

#### A Note of Appreciation from the Loy Devine Family

I want to thank you all for being there for us as my father's health declined and even more so in the days and weeks after we lost him. The prayers, conversations, distanced visits, cards, calls, flowers and food were much appreciated and helped to ease the difficulty of this life experience for the whole family.

Trevor, Ginny, Jack and Zoë Devine

#### A Note of Appreciation from Peggy & Don Koepnick

To all of you, my church family, who have given us care and comfort in this darkest hour of our life, we thank you. Perhaps you sent a card, made a phone call, visited and listened, provided food, sent flowers, and for everyone who has lifted and is lifting us up in prayer and prayed for our strength, comfort, and peace, we thank and love you so much.

Peggy and Don Koepnick

### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3

This year we will hunt eggs in small groups. Sign up to hunt, hide, or fill the eggs at [www.statesvillefbc.org](http://www.statesvillefbc.org).