

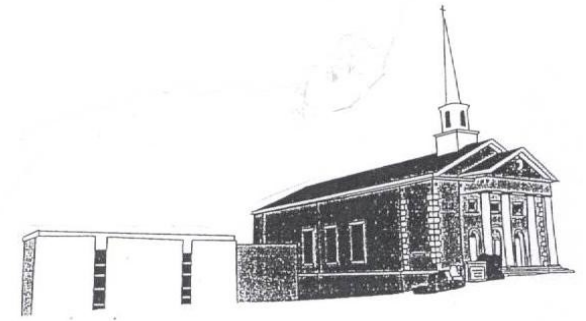
In this time of quarantine and physical distancing, I hope you are doing your best to “make lemonade out of lemons.” Certainly our prayers and attention should turn, first and foremost, to those who suffering because of COVID-19: those who have lost a loved one, those who are battling the virus, those who have lost employment. Those losses are not what I have in mind in this article, because we cannot just tell them, “Make lemonade; everything will be alright.” Rather, I am speaking to the rest of us, whose lives have certainly been disrupted, but not so tragically. I have found, whenever there are unexpected turns in life, or noticeable disappointments, that it is important to reflect on the situation and circumstances. If we are having more “down time,” or alone time, than normally, we can take advantage of that time. We can spend time doing that reading we feel we never have time to do. We can begin writing in a journal—recording for ourselves and our family the emotions and realities of this unprecedented time. We can be disciplined in a daily period of silent prayer and contemplation. We can write a letter to an old friend—actually using our own handwriting, rather than electronically. We can do that project in our yard or around the house that we have not had time to do. Even if our workload has not changed, and we are just working more from home, we can be more intentional in working on our inner life. It is so easy to get distracted with anxiety and news, with paying bills, with zoning out via TV or the internet, that we fail to do some deep, personal inner work that we all need to do in order to progress and mature.

As followers of Christ, I think this time of pandemic is a good time to work on our inward spiritual journey. If we tend to read the Bible just informationally—seeking to understand it with our mind—we can work on the practice of reading it formationally. That is, we can read a brief passage of scripture (such as the lectionary readings we use in our guide each week), pray for God to speak a word to us, and then sit in silence for a few minutes. Doing this may seem strange and a waste of time at first. You may need to practice it for a couple of weeks before you sense any progress. You will be tempted to let your mind wander to your “to do” list for the day. But if you keep at it, and remain open to listening for God’s Spirit in the silence, you will hear a word from God. It may be a long ago memory from the recesses of your mind. Or a particular individual may come to mind. Or you may receive some insight, spurred by the Bible passage. About a specific character flaw or oversight in your relationships that you need to tend to. The point is not to come to the Bible with an agenda about what you want in your life, or what you expect to get out of the Bible passage. The point is to come to it with an open, listening heart and spirit, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak a personal word to you for that day.

Wherever you are in life commitments, in your spiritual journey, this season of societal unrest is an excellent time for us to learn to lean further into God, to rest in God’s presence, and to experience a more intimate relationship with our Lord. I hope you will take this time to tend to what needs tending, rather than giving into the temptation to be more productive. Tending to the Holy Spirit within you will be more productive than anything you do on your own strength—as you will grow in “production” of the fruit of the Spirit.

Blessings from a distance—Doug

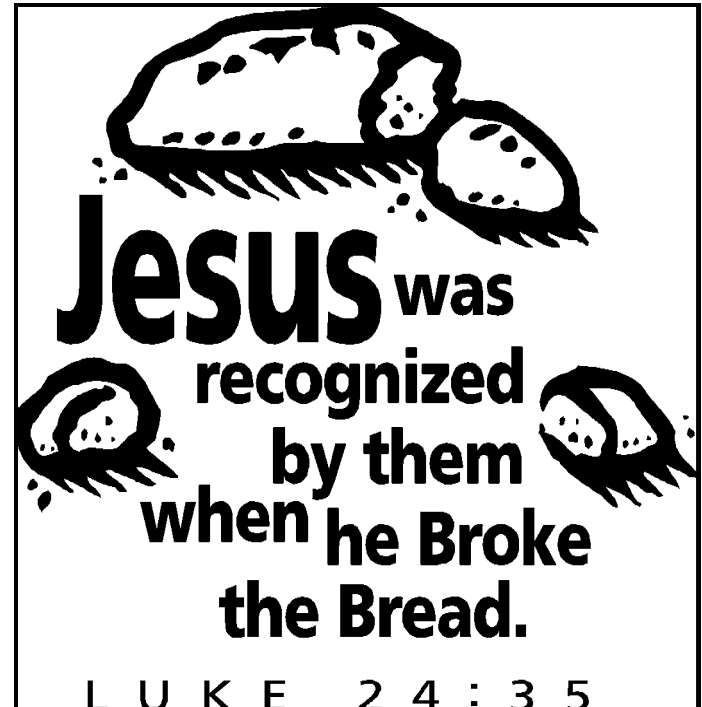
# Hardwick Herald



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April 22, 2020



Please have juice and bread available when you watch the Sunday Morning Service video on the Hardwick Baptist Church Facebook page this Sunday so that we may partake Communion together.

**Prayer List**

Henry/Vivian Andrews	Sharon Ezell
James Armstrong	Lamar Guy
Mack Atchison	Kenny Huff
Kenneth Babb	Martha Huff
Anne Bayne	Jim Jennings
Joyce Blizzard	Michael/Sharon Lord
Harriett & Henry Baddy	Nell Maddox
John Cooper	Jeff McMullen
Josephine Davis	Marcus McMullen
Eugenia English	Marlene Peavy
Sandra English	Bonnie Stafford
	Ben/Jackie Watson

**In Military Service:** Rudy Webb  
**All Healthcare Workers**



**Prayer Meeting/  
Bible Study**

Doug will be hosting a Zoom meeting Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. The *Resource for Daily Prayer and Scripture Meditation* which was distributed at church the last Sunday of February will come in handy.

**Scripture Readings for  
April 26  
Psalm 116:1-4,12-19  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
I Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35**



**Thank You!**

Hardwick Baptist Church people are amazing! You are truly reflecting the spirit of Christ within you as you call to check on each other, spend time in prayer and Bible Study, follow our live streams, and continue to give by mail and through on-line giving! God bless you all! We look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

**Check out the HBC Website  
[www.hardwickbaptist.org](http://www.hardwickbaptist.org)**

**Wednesday Night Program  
For Children & Youth**

We continue to monitor all updates on the Covid-19 pandemic and pray for the safety and well-being of all the children and youth we minister to. Their safety and well-being must be our main concern during this time of uncertainty. We look forward to the time we can resume this important ministry.

*"The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt Within the heart"*  
 -Helen Keller-

*Stay Safe and well  
Until we can worship together again.*

Annual Budget 2020.....	\$287,729.67
Needed Per Week to Meet Budget.....	\$ 5,533.27
Contributions since 4/19//2020.....	\$ 1,444.00
Total Budget Contributions through April 19, 2020.....	\$ 66,026.53
Total Budget Expenses through April 19, 2020.....	\$ 63,274.34

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Apr 27: Gloria Burke  
 Apr 28: Anna Crump, Miranda Daidone  
 Apr 29: Jim Willoughby  
 Apr 30: Eddie Overman  
 May 1: Aubrey Batson

**Deacon of the Week,  
4/26/2020  
Glenn Abbey, 456-4305**

**Congratulations!**

We would like to congratulate our former Associate Pastor of Music & Students, Dylan Bowden on his appointment to Ellabell United Methodist Church as Senior Pastor. Dylan left Hardwick in March of 2019, and has been serving Louisville United Methodist as their Student Pastor. In his time at Louisville UMC Dylan has gone through the licensing process for the UMC to receive his first appointment as a lead pastor. The day set for Dylan to start at Ellabell UMC is Sunday, June 28, 2020. Please be in prayer for Dylan during this time of transition.

A note from Dylan: "I am so excited for this opportunity, and thankful to God for my time at Hardwick Baptist and all of the experience I gained while serving HBC. I love you all and miss you. Keep in touch, and come visit anytime!"

Congratulations, Dylan, we are so excited and looking forward to what God is going to do through you as you serve at Ellabell.

**CALENDAR**

**Sunday, April 26:**

11:00 A..M.  
 Morning Worship  
 See Video on HBC Facebook Page  
 Have bread and juice (any Kind)  
 Available to participate in Communion

**Wednesday, April 29:**

7:00 P.M.  
 Bible Study on Zoom

**Communing With God**

After Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, pilot Buzz Aldrin requested via radio that people pause to give thanks for the achievement in their own way. At the end of his broadcast he read a verse from the Gospel of John and took communion, which his church had sent to space with him. "It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements," Aldrin said. "At the time, I could think of no better way to acknowledge the enormity of the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God."

**Watch Your Herald**

Be sure to follow your weekly "Herald" for schedule changes and cancellations in these uncertain times. We will try to keep you updated as changes occur. In case of emergency or need, please call the Church Secretary at 456-7129 for assistance.

Keep praying...it works. Our community (our friends and neighbors and those that we minister to) has been hit hard with Covid-19 —God is listening... pray for those who are sick and those healthcare workers who care for them.