

I hope that you were able to enjoy the 4th of July as much as COVID-induced circumstances would allow. Like so many of the good, gracious gifts in this life, it is easy to take for granted all the blessings we have that are the result of our country's independence. As I mentioned in the sermon yesterday, with much freedom comes responsibility. And in terms of those who follow Christ, we are called to use the freedoms we have through him (freedom from the wages of sin, freedom from having to earn our salvation, freedom from having to prove we are worthy of love) in the same manner in which he used his freedom: to love, to serve, to sacrifice. We see Paul's description about how Jesus used his freedom in Philipians chapter 2, as translated here in the Message Bible:

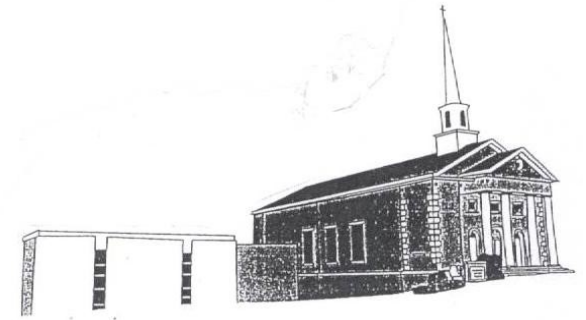
If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: agree with each other; love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. (Philipians 2:1-8)

Our first allegiance is to Christ. When we follow through on that allegiance, we not only become the Body of Christ for others to see; we also find that we are responsibly being good stewards of the freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of the United States. The best way to be faithful to sacrifices made by our country's forebearers is to be a neighbor-loving, least-of-these serving citizen of the kingdom of God. For whenever we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we find that we are, both as a Church and a country, making progress toward that more perfect union in which all are not only created equal, but each person has the appropriate opportunity to become all that God created her/him to be.

For everyone who feels they are in a position to be in a crowd setting: we look forward to seeing you in worship this Sunday at 11:00 AM. Remember the procedures that have been communicated through the deacons. Remember to wear a mask out of love for neighbors. I have read accounts of folks in third-world countries who will walk for miles each Sunday, to sit outside, on the ground in the shade of a tree, in 90-plus temperatures—all to attend a worship service, and then walk back home. If we are uncomfortable about wearing a mask for worship, let us remember those folks—and Paul's words in Philipians 2.

Love and Blessings from a distance—Doug

Hardwick Herald



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July 8, 2020



There is
therefore now
no condemnation
for those who are in
CHRIST JESUS.

ROMANS 8:1, NRSV

**HARDWICK BAPTIST CHURCH
To Resume In-Person Worship
This Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.**

Prayer List

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

In Military Service: Rudy Webb



Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study

Doug will continue to conduct a Zoom meeting Bible Discussion each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. The *Hardwick Baptist Weekly Scripture Readings for personal Prayer and Sunday Worship/Sharing* will come in handy.

Scripture Reading for July 12, 2020

Psalm 65:1-13
Isaiah 55:10-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Prayer Emphasis

In a letter to the churches of the Washington Baptist Association Rev. David Self, Associational Director of Missions outlined a plan for a special time of prayer for the churches in the Association during July. The designated dates are Saturdays, July 11, 18, and 25. Our churches have been faced with challenging times throughout these past 4 months due to COVID-19. The hope is to cover all 41 churches in the Association with prayer. Printed copies of his letter, the Prayer Guide and a list of the churches will be available in the vestibule this Sunday or if you cannot be here and would like one, call the church office and we will mail a copy to you.

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. We look forward to the time we can resume this important ministry.

Associational Men On Mission Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:00 P.M. Ridgeland Heights Baptist Dinner provided.

"A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be." —Douglas Pagels—

**Check out the HBC Website
www.hardwickbaptist.org**

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|---|--------------|
| Annual Budget 2020..... | \$ 28,729.67 |
| Needed Per Week to Meet Budget..... | \$ 5,533.27 |
| Contributions July 05, /2020..... | \$ 2,250.00 |
| Total Budget Contributions through July 05, 2020..... | \$101,131.21 |
| Total Budget Expenses through July 05, 2020..... | \$100,841.48 |
| Payroll Protection Program Loan May 1, 2020..... | \$ 18,685.00 |

Our first planned Sunday for **resuming in-person worship is July 12**. Below are the precautions we will follow according to insight from health officials and other churches:

- For the first two weeks, we will only resume Sunday morning worship.
- According to how things go, after those two weeks, we will consider having one big adult Sunday School class in the sanctuary, taught by one of the Sunday School teachers.
- For the first few weeks, we will not run our bus ministry for our children. We will continue to monitor things, as we discern when the appropriate time is to resume the bus ministry.
- We encourage all worshipers to wear a mask. We will have masks available if you do not have your own. If we all wear masks, we will be able to sing hymns. Hymnals have been removed from the pews for now; we will use the screen to project lyrics.
- We encourage you to arrive early for worship and to enter by the doors at the rear of the sanctuary (front steps of the church).
- We ask you to bring your own hand sanitizer, so that multiple people are not pumping from the same bottle.
- The water cooler and cups will be removed, for now.
- A box will be available for offerings, to deposit as you arrive or depart. You may also continue to give online or mail contributions to the church.
- *Physical distancing* will be modeled on the platform.
- We will ask our custodial service to do a deep clean in the sanctuary each week.
- Every other pew will be blocked off.
- Families will be encouraged to sit together; all others should be six feet apart
- Please observe one person at a time in the bathrooms, and only use those on the same level as the sanctuary.
- Bulletins will not be handed out, but will be set out on a table for worshipers to pick up as they arrive.

Ushers will dismiss by rows, so that distancing can be maintained as we depart.

Calendar

Sunday, July 12th:

11:00 A.M.

Morning Worship

In-person worship in Sanctuary

Please see the precautions we will follow according to CDC guidelines to protect those who come in the adjacent column. We will continue to live stream services as well for those considered high-risk due to health or age circumstances.

Wednesday, July 15th:

7:00 P.M. - Bible Study via Zoom

There will be a brief **Called Conference** following worship this Sunday morning, July 12th, to hear a recommendation from the Properties Committee concerning Fellowship Hall repairs.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 12: Joy White
July 13: Tammy Crawford
July 15: Andrew Hill, Ronnie Smith
July 16: Jason Townsend
July 18: Steven Stiles

Deacon of the Week,

7/12/2020

Cindy Folendore, 719-4059



Thank you for your faithfulness in giving through our online giving and by mail during the time our church has been unable to have in-person services due to the pandemic. We are so excited to resume our in-person Sunday Morning Worship this Sunday, July 12th, at 11:00 A.M. A box will be provided in the vestibule for your offerings if you desire to bring them or you may continue to give online or through the mail. Please continue to check on each other, especially those who won't be able to come. Be safe!