

FORT WAYNE BAPTIST  
Church



July 2020  
Newsletter

**Pastor:**

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**Fort Wayne  
Baptist Church**

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**Web:**

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**Sunday:**

Bible Study—9:00 AM  
Worship—10:00 AM

**Wednesday Eve:**

Dine Lite—6:00  
Bell Choir —4:30  
Choir Practice—5:30

## The Missing Sheep Matters

My great-great grandfather fought for the Confederacy. I do not say that with any pride. He was just another poor man who fought to protect the rich's way of life. I grew up in walking distance of antebellum homes that had been spared by the Union Army. My whole life I was surrounded by very personal stories of the Civil Rights movement, of my mother's first job in down town Birmingham and her watching the protests, of my grandmother calling my father and his brothers in from playing when the big black cars driven by men in white robes went down the street, of my grandfather fighting for equal treatment for the black members of the Steel Workers Union. I grew older and I met people who were the first to be bussed in to break segregated schools, who had marched with King, and I knew how people talked about race on all sides. It was the South, it was Birmingham, Alabama. Our sins were ever before us, and yet magnified and repeated.



Thus, Black Lives Matter is no surprise to me. The declaration is not racist just because it points to race. It is an attempt to get people to acknowledge that in this country today black lives are often treated as if they do not matter. Perhaps all of you who keep posting "all lives matter" would understand better if we said, "black lives matter too."

I was going to try and explain why it is necessary at this point in history to make a point of this, how black lives are devalued systematically by government institutions and have been for centuries but due to privatization of prisons and the militarization of police and other facts it is worse now, but I realized that if there are so many voices saying these things that if you were not listening to them you would not listen to me.

So instead I want to point out the theological reasons that we as Christians should support the deeply needed social change that has to happen in our society. I could point to Matthew 25 to show how the followers of Christ are known by their behavior toward those most in need. I could discuss, again, any of several passages from the Old Testament Prophets about social justice. However, I think one simple passage will serve.



Continued on next page...

Luke 15.

There was a shepherd who had 100 sheep. One got lost. He left the 99 and went to get it. Yes, all the sheep mattered, but not all the sheep were in the same level of danger. One sheep was threatened by predators, lacked safe water and food, was alone and hurting. That is not to say the others no longer needed protection, or food, or water. It was simply that one sheep needed extra attention in that moment.

We are both the sheep and the agents of the shepherd. If we learn that one part of our community is in greater danger than the others, we need to change that. It is what Christ would do. It is what we should do.

If we make excuses for why we do not; if we try to make it about us; if we try to say the missing sheep is without risk; if we value our privilege, traditions, and status quo more than we value the wellbeing and life of others we ignore the Gospel.

Sometimes it's not about all sheep, sometimes it must be about the missing sheep.

—Pastor Scott



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- The country during the corona virus pandemic and the protests and riots
- Marvel Powell — multiple health issues
- Don Schaab — reoccurring health issues
- Joyce Shaab — pulled something moving a patient and is still in pain
- Dick Stoner — kidney stones and damage done to their store during the protests
- Brian Blair — new address — 300 East Washington Blvd Room 1221, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; (260) 206-1708
- The Proctors are going north for the Summer
- Barb Ramsey — travelling to TX to pick up a car
- Hti Mu — breast cancer
- Al Noak's (Dennis' brother) son passed away. He was 48. This follows health complications.
- Pat Brown (Cec's Cousin) — has been diagnosed with a particularly virulent form of lymphoma and will begin chemo soon
- Liz Hager (young daughter of Janet's friend n KY) — Last December she had a tumor on the mastoid bone of her ear which removing led to hearing loss on that side. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, she had a surgery to possibly restore the hearing in that ear, but it was unsuccessful as the surgeon found that the tumor was back and bigger, so he removed more of her mastoid bones and parts of 3 other bones of hearing and some bone along her skull and sent the tumor for pathology. She is scheduled for another surgery in September to access any tumor regrowth.
- John Trammel — continued prayers
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson) — continued prayers

# **Worship Service Will Be Resuming on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>**

What to expect when coming back to church:

1. Masks are required for the good of all. We have some masks for those who do not have their own.
2. Social distancing is required. If they do not live in your house, stay six feet away. No hand shakes. No hugs. No elbow bumps.
3. If you have a fever or any other symptoms, do not come.
4. Do not use hymn books or pew Bibles.
5. There will be no bulletin or other handouts.
6. There will be no singing. Instead we will listen to hymns being played.
7. There will be no responsive or collective reading. The pastor will read and congregants will respond silently in their head.
8. Collection should be placed in the plates as you are coming or going. It will not be passed, but gathered at the end of the service.
9. Communion will not be offered at this time.
10. Only the sanctuary and restrooms will be open.
11. There will be no Sunday School, Coffee Hour, or other gatherings.
12. There will be no childcare provided.

If you have concerns for your safety, that is entirely reasonable. No one will hold it against you if you choose to wait to return. The pastor will continue to provide a sermon via YouTube/Church Website for those who wish it.

**Continue to Join us for Bible Study and a  
Sunday Worship Service  
from your home!**

Tuesday through Thursday Pastor Scott has been doing a Bible Study, and on Sunday we have a short service and sermon. These are all available through our website:

**<https://fortwaynebaptist.com/blog/>**

# Letter from our General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA

Dear American Baptists,

The death of George Floyd has caused widespread pain, rage, protests, and violence in Minneapolis and across the United States. I appreciate the input received from officers of the Regional Executive Ministers Council, members of the National Executive Council, and others in constructing a response to this event. While American Baptists have never advocated violence, we grieve with those feeling the pent-up pain from years of racial discrimination and injustice. The horrifying video captured at the corner of Chicago Avenue and 38th Street in Minneapolis has released years of frustration that can never be fully understood by those who have not consistently lived with injustice historically and presently.

Acts of current racial injustice as well as the effects of historic racial injustices have been brought into the light in recent weeks as we recognize that African-Americans have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In a recent study, the Centers for Disease Control found that 45% of individuals for whom race or ethnicity data was available were white, compared to 55% of individuals in the surrounding community and that 33% of hospitalized patients were black compared to 18% in the community. Unequal access to healthcare, jobs, education, and training have all been influenced by the racialized society in which we continue to live.

Unfortunately, acts of violence have been cast upon many ethnically distinct groups within our congregations and among our international partners. Many Chinese as well as Asian-Americans are being targeted, harassed, and even physically attacked because of comments made about COVID-19. In Malaysia, we are hearing reports of the government using information collected from the treatment of persons affected by COVID-19 for deportation despite earlier statements that no one who sought medical services for the coronavirus would be arrested based on their immigration status.

Racism and Xenophobia have deep roots in American history and culture and wrongs cannot be righted overnight. While expeditious action is critical to the pursuit of justice for George Floyd, dialogue, conversation, systemic change, and continued acts of justice to curb the sources of prejudice and discrimination are needed.

In these tense times of ache and agony and stinging memories of bias and wrongdoing, we are called again to combat racism and resist violence. American Baptists have historically advocated against both violence as well as racial injustice. “Our denominational history is rich with resistance against violence. From Roger Williams speaking in defense of First Nations People, to the Abolitionists, down to Walter Rauschenbusch, and Martin Luther King, American Baptists in particular have been on the forefront for the cessation of violence and the coming of Shalom.” (American Baptist Case Statement on Violence from the 2015 Mission Table). I am calling on people of faith to find the resources of the Spirit to calm their anger. “Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3, NASV)

Our denominational history is also rich in working toward justice in general and racial justice in particular. “Racial justice,” as defined in our 1989 ABCUSA policy statement, “is recognizing our oneness in Christ, confessing that we have not become what God wants us to be, and committing ourselves to pressing on to that mark of high calling by which we can become a liberating symbol to our nation and world of what it means to be the people of God. In so doing, we can challenge our nation to live up to its high purposes.”

“Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16, NASV) I charge our American Baptist family to continue to search, advocate, and live where the good way lies.

Dr. C. Jeff Woods  
Interim General Secretary  
American Baptist Churches USA

# What's Happening

Hello!

My mom (Sharon Rusk) asked that I share this info with the folks at Fort Wayne Baptist Church, as many of them have supported and prayed for Olivia as she began her higher learning pursuits...

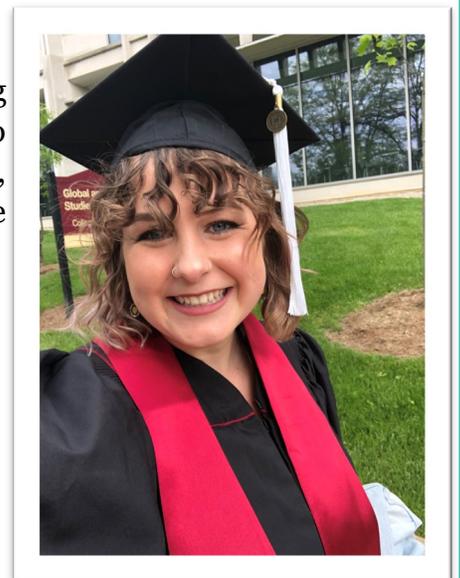
Well, I think we can all agree these are unusual times. While some of have been impacted more than others, I think it's fair to say that Olivia's final semester of her senior year of college brought its own unique set of challenges. First, classes were temporarily suspended and then moved online while all social activities were cancelled. So no Little 500 weekend, no final goodbyes and no graduation ceremony. The job Olivia had lined up through the summer fell through and her Fulbright Scholarship has delayed her departure to Mexico (to teach English) until January at the earliest. Quite a bit for a 22 year old with a double major in International Studies and Spanish to process while trying to figure out her future. With all of that, we're all sheltering in place, so no get togethers to celebrate Olivia's achievements or hear what she hopes to do next. But I'm hoping this letter can remedy a bit of that...

Olivia was able to secure a job with IU from May - August working in Bloomington as a summer housing assistant. So, if you'd like to send her a card of congratulations for earning her bachelors degree, I'm sure she'd love hearing from you. Oh yeah, she goes by Olive now:

Olive Rusk  
Willkie Residence Center N203A  
150 N. Rose Avenue  
Bloomington IN 47405

We look forward to seeing everyone in person in the near future.

Be well,  
Randy Jr.



## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Limited office hours until further notice

If you need immediate assistance,

call or text Pastor Scott at (260) 715-8080 or Janet at (260) 609-8710.

Until we resume regular office hours, Janet will be in the office on

Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm and Fridays 10:00am-1:00pm.

Nick is in on Tuesdays.

Email will be checked on a regular basis, so if you leave a message, be patient and Janet or Nick will get back to you.

Thank you.

# Fort Wayne Baptist Church

## July 2020



| Sun  | Mon   | Tue | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|---|-----|--|---|---|--|
|  |   |     | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4<br> |
| 5<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Srvc.   | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11   |
| 12<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Srvc.<br><br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>JANICA<br>CARTER!! | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16<br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>JULIE<br>ROBINSON!!      | 17<br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>VAUNETTA<br>BARNHILL!! | 18   |
| 19<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Srvc.  | 20<br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>JEFF BUDD!!<br><br>HAPPY<br>ANNIVERSARY<br>DON & JOYCE<br>SCHAAB!! | 21  | 22<br>HAPPY<br>ANNIVERSARY<br>LARRY &<br>JOYCE<br>BAILEY!! | 23<br>HAPPY<br>ANNIVERSARY<br>DICK & CEC<br>PLUMB!! | 24<br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>JANET<br>LEFFEL!!      | 25   |
| 26<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship Srvc.  | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30  | 31  |  |