

Macedonian Call

May 2022



A Note From Pastor Randy

In a recent interview with a national news organization, Franklin Graham stated the obvious for most US Christians: "People have turned their backs on God. . . . Our educators have taken God out of schools. Our politicians have taken God out of politics. Our nation is not better [for it]. Our nation is worse." He also said, "We're so twisted. And I hope our nation would wake up and see the problems we're facing and realize the only hope is God. . . . This is a critical time for our nation. Issues like abortion and sexuality and gender are being politicized like never before, but these are moral issues that the Bible is clear on. Even though freedom of speech and religion are under attack—as Christians, we still have a right to be clear about our beliefs."

One indication of our nation's "twistedness," is the current groundswell by secular progressives to completely wipe away distinctions between genders. A crazy example of this movement recently came to light with the introduction of new iPhone emojis. Since 2019 vendors have been making considerable efforts to offer all people emojis with three different gender variants: one man, one woman, and a non-gender-specifying person. The latest Apple beta update continues this trend by adding two new gender neutral people emojis in the form of a person with crown and a pregnant person, as well as adding a new pregnant man emoji. Several years ago the left waged war against "toxic masculinity," today their target seems to be aimed primarily at eliminating the distinctions, characteristics, nature and roles of women in the home and in society at large: *gender-neutral* terms such as "people who birth", "birthing folks" or "birthing bodies," are replacing the phrase "pregnant women" or "expectant mother"; maternity wards are being rebranded as "birthing centers,"

"breast-feeding" is out—"chest feeding" is in. To some these changes may seem insignificant as they're only a relabeling or restating of familiar terms. Nothing could be farther from the truth. You see, these moves are designed to eradicate gender-specific traits—traits given to men and women by God. As Christians we should not sit idly by and watch these changes take place. We must teach our children the truth regarding biblical manhood and biblical womanhood. They must understand that the gender-neutral movement is anti-biblical. I believe our Christian churches are relatively silent on these issues, so this month, in a sermon series titled "Deliberate Design," we're going to discover what God's Word has to say about manhood, womanhood and parenting the way He designed it. And, we'll see that anything which deviates from His design is "so twisted". ~ Pastor Randy

"Rev. Franklin Graham: School Board Member Is 'Most important elected official' in America Today" Maureen Mackey, foxnews.com, 04/19/22, accessed 04/19/22.



Join us for a time of prayer at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will follow.
Sign up at the Welcome Center



Be the hands & feet of Jesus in our community on
Saturday, May 14th 8:30 am—Noon
Sign up at the Welcome Center



A Note From Susan

"Amazing Grace"

There have been many hymns and worship ballads written about God's grace, but none quite so moving as "Amazing Grace". Written by John Newton in the late eighteenth century, it is a powerful assurance and declaration of the grace of God working in all our lives. When Newton was just eleven, he joined his father at sea and began a tumultuous life in the Navy, eventually becoming captain of a slave ship. In a period of four years, however, his life was drastically turned around: he nearly drowned, he married a very pious Mary Catlett, and he read through Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*. In 1754 he gave up the slave trade and joined forces with the great abolitionist, William Wilberforce. A number of years later, he was ordained for ministry, and soon after wrote this great text, declaring that we are saved only by the grace of God. Newton wrote, "I can see no reason why the Lord singled me out for mercy...unless it was to show, by one astonishing instance, that with Him "nothing is impossible" (Newton, *The Life of John Newton*). As we sing the very familiar words of this hymn, how powerful it is to think of ourselves as an "astonishing instance" of God's grace and mercy.

~ Susan

Source: Hymnary.org/Amazing Grace



**Choir Rehearsal each Sunday
@ 5:00 pm**

You are invited to join us
for Sunday School each
week at 9:45 am.
Classes are available
nursery through senior adults!

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE.**



**CROSSWALK ADULT
SMALL GROUPS**
Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

**Wonderstruck: Awaken to
the Nearness of God
(Women's Study)**

**Intentional Choices: Discovering
Contentment in Stressful Times
Game Plan for Life**

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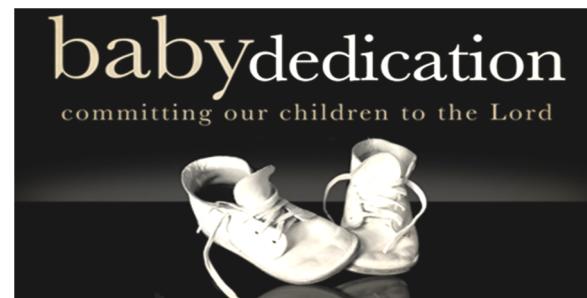
The first Wednesday of each month is CARE Night. CARE is an acronym for Christians Actively Reaching Everyone. We have a meal at 6 pm and ministry opportunities follow at 6:30 pm This month CARE Night is May 4th.



**Embrace Ministry Secret Sister Reveal Dinner
May 5th @ 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
All ladies are invited to join in the Fun Fellowship!!!!**



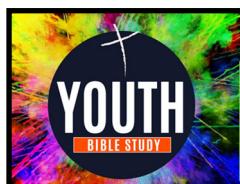
*All Ladies are invited to
join us for a Mother's
Day Breakfast on Sunday,
May 8th at 9:00 am in the
Fellowship Hall.*



**During Morning Worship on Mother's Day
Sunday, May 8th**



**Monthly Meeting
Saturday, May 28th @ 7 am
in the Fellowship Hall
Join us for a light breakfast,
mission & ministry updates, a
brief Bible study and prayer.**



**Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
7th—12th Grades**



AWANA - Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed - 2 Timothy 2:15
Wednesdays @6:30 pm
3 Years—6th Grade

Bible Drill - 4th—6th grade
Sundays @ 5pm in the
Fellowship Hall
MBC Bible Drill
Wednesday, May 11th @ 6:00 pm



4•2•4

4.2.4 is worship designed for children 4 yrs.—4th grades. The goal of 4.2.4 is to help children know Jesus and grow in loving fellowship with Him. 4.2.4 meets during worship service at 11 am



Sunday, May 15th following the morning service the Children's Ministry will sponsor a Spaghetti dinner. All proceeds will help with children's summer camp



**Graduate
Recognition
Sunday
May 22nd**



Sunday, May 1st @ 6:00 pm
Lawings Chapel Baptist Church
(We will leave the church at 5:00 pm)

A Note From Pastor Joe



Keeping with April's thoughts (because there's still some negative and bad things going on in our world) let's turn back to Psalm 103.

We noted that in the first four verses some things David said God had done for us. I hope you wrote down your own Psalm of praise as I suggested. Maybe you could text it to me, I would love to read it. Look what else David tells us in verses 6-10. A good "in Bible" commentary on these five verses is what Paul writes in Romans 5:20: "Where sin abounds, grace abounds much more." Why did God do all those things we talked about in April? Because of GRACE ABOUNDING. Know what? The older I get the more grace I need from my Lord. I am getting less patient, less kind, less understanding, quick to state my opinion and on and on. I don't like me sometimes and I have to remember that it is not only the negative and bad things in the world, but the negative and bad things in me. I need, with my aging body and mind, that ageless grace that David is talking about in Psalm 103. By His Amazing Grace ~ Pastor Joe P.S. I told you last month you could put your mind back on the negative and bad things if you want. But do me a favor and wait until after July's Note from Joe!

Ministry Activities



JOY Ministry Bible Study
Each Thursday at 11:00 am

Tuesday, May 10th Serving at East Lincolnton Christian Ministry.
Meet at the church @ 8:30 am
Lunch following at a local restaurant

South Fork Baptist Association

Annual Senior Rally

Thursday, May 12th

@ Boger City Baptist Church

11am—2 pm

Special Music, Door Prizes, Lunch and

Great Fellowship!!

(We will leave the church at 10:00 am)