

Vol. 13, Issue 2, February 2024

connect

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NIV

DO EVERYTHING IN

Love

FEB.

4th-25th Baby Bottle Campaign



We invite you to join us in the 2024 Baby Bottle Campaign for A New Beginning Crisis Pregnancy Center. The Bottles will be available beginning February 4th in the lobby areas. All donations go directly to the Center. Checks should be made payable to "A New Beginning Pregnancy Resource Center".

16th-18th DNOW Weekend (Refuel)

D-NOW 2024
Made New
2 Corinthians 5:17

details on pgs. 10-11

18th Jason Lovins Band morning services



2024

Can't be here in-person?

Join us live Sundays
 at 9 & 10:45 am
 on Facebook, Imbc.tv,
 or our LMBC app.

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

2nd-4th, 11th & 25th
Created for Connection

The workshop is \$99 and is limited to five couples. You can register or find out more details by calling Shawna Bumgardner. (304-544-4303)

1st
LKC Appreciation Dinner
 • 6 pm, Renaissance Room

4th
Communion
 • 6 pm, WC Auditorium

8th
Widows Luncheon:
Chocolate, Chocolate, and More Chocolate!
 • 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

9th
PrimeTime Celebrates Love
 • 6 pm, Renaissance Room

Lewis Kids connection

Visit lmbc.org/lkc or ask to join our Facebook group

*We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve in our K-3 age range once a month in the first and second services on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Rebekah Shaffer at r.shaffer@lmbc.org.

***Sunday Mornings**
WC lower level

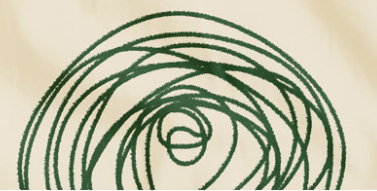
4: Jesus told a woman about living water
 11: God loves all people
 18: People rejected Jesus
 25: People were amazed by Jesus

Weds @ 7pm
in the FLC

7,14,21,28: Bible Basics

4th Thursday
from 4-5:15 pm
@ Ebenezer

22: Bible Club



Refuel Winter Calendar

2023-2024

February
 14 - Pink-Out/Candy Exchange
 16-18 - D-Now WKND



D-NOW WEEKEND W/ THE JASON LOVINS BAND

FEB. 16-18

REFUEL
 STUDENTS

Follow us on Instagram!

@refuelstudents

REFUEL STUDENT MINISTRY | WEDNESDAYS @ 645PM IN THE STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING
 LEWIS MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH | [LMBC.ORG](https://lmbc.org) | 5385 W PEA RIDGE RD, HUNTINGTON, WV 25705

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



“On this side of heaven, we will never be able to love one another perfectly, but as each day passes, we can do better.”

Have you ever stopped to consider why the phrase “love one another” is a command in Scripture? I think the simple answer is that loving one another is not an easy task. Loving one another takes work; it often needs to be deliberate; it can be messy, time-consuming, and dangerous, but it can be rewarding, maturing, and addicting. The church of today continues to struggle with this one simple command. Books have been written to help believers better implement this command, annual conferences are held to talk about the newest methods of loving one another, and church leaders are constantly assessing their ministries in the context of loving one another. Jesus has already issued the command to love one another, and that command is reinforced throughout the New Testament (i.e. First John), but practically speaking, how are we to go about doing it? Thankfully, the author of the Book of Hebrews answers this question by giving us four distinct ways in which we show love to one another.

Loving One Another must be habitual

Hebrews 13:1 says, “Let brotherly love continue.” Did you notice the tense of the command in this verse? Brotherly love was already a distinguishing mark of the early church. In first-century culture, the relationship between siblings was the closest and strongest of relationships; many times, that love exceeded the love for a child. However, time, stress, conflict, and a multitude of other causes can strain even the tightest bonds; the author of Hebrews is worried that their love will fade, and his concerns are duly noted. If there is any love that ought to remain habitual through life’s journey, it ought to be our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Based upon the blood of Jesus Christ, each believer has an obligation to love one another. Now, I know that some believers might rub you the wrong way; you don’t have to like

them, but you are commanded to love them. The family of God is not a family of competition; it’s a family of cooperation. Every believer desires to run a race that is faithful to the end, and your family, the body of Christ, are the ones who can help you reach that goal.

Any discipline, whether faithfully reading your Bible daily or preparing your body for an Olympic competition, requires the most basic action: practice. “Practice makes perfect,” says the adage, but let’s polish that phrase with practice can make you better. On this side of heaven, we will never be able to love one another perfectly, but as each day passes, we can do better. Do we really expect to win Olympic gold with only a few practice sessions under our belt? Of course not! Every human being has a sin nature and is inherently only interested in themselves; therefore, demonstrating love for others will not come naturally; it will take work, and it must be intentional.

Loving One Another must be hospitable

Hebrews 13:2 reads, “Do not forget to entertain strangers,” but a more literal reading from the Greek text would say hospitality, do not neglect. Hospitality was a vital part of first-century culture, and it continues to be highly prized in many Middle Eastern countries. The author of Hebrews reminds his readers to make sure they are not neglecting hospitality to two groups: strangers and prisoners. The term stranger could mean a fellow brother in Christ, or it could mean an unbeliever. The latter designation is probably the better of the two options based on the larger context of Hebrews 13. Regardless, the believing community was to show hospitality towards those inside or outside their communities.

In the first century, travel was rather difficult, and inns were not always the safest places to lodge, and sometimes (in the case of the birth of Christ) they were booked up. Inns were notoriously dangerous and immoral; they were targets for thieves and prostitutes. So, Christians would welcome traveling believers, especially those laboring in the gospel, into their homes, even if they had never met them. To open up your home to a traveling stranger evidenced brotherly love and was considered a high virtue in first-

century society. The earliest Christian assemblies met in homes that provided a natural setting for extending hospitality toward strangers as well as traveling missionaries (i.e., Paul and his team or missionaries that visit churches today). Practicing this hospitality could put Christians in a vulnerable position. An early Christian handbook called The Didache, section 11.4-6, states these cautious words:

“Let every Apostle who comes to you be received as the Lord, but let him not stay more than one day, or if need be a second as well; but if he stays three days, he is a false prophet. And when an Apostle goes forth let him accept nothing but bread till he reach his night lodging; but if he ask for money, he is a false prophet.”

The command to be hospitable must be blended with some common sense about our human nature. We should be generous and ready to share, but we should not foster someone’s irresponsible habits.

Furthermore, as Hebrews 13:2 continues, sometimes those strangers who were shown hospitality could be supernatural beings. Since the writer of Hebrews uses extensive Old Testament allusions and quotations, he could likely be referencing an Old Testament narrative at this point. For example, in Genesis 18 and 19, Abraham and later Lot welcomed strangers and treated them as family, not knowing they were supernatural beings. The point is not that we should open our homes up to every stranger in hopes of receiving a supernatural being; the point is that we may never know the far-reaching effect of our simple act of hospitality. The stranger(s) to whom you show hospitality might be a bigger blessing to you in return, as the supernatural beings were to Abraham and Lot. Hebrews 13:3 introduces another group to be hospitable towards: prisoners. A guest may come unannounced, but prisoners must be sought out. Who are they? The author of Hebrews is not explicitly referring to criminals (although we should go to prisons and share the gospel with them); the context takes us back to Hebrews 10:32-33, where we read that some believers were imprisoned for their faith and are suffering in chains. Listen to the passage:

“But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated.”

These imprisoned Christians must not be forgotten. How could you forget something traumatic like this? In the first century, prisoners were treated poorly and relied on family and friends for necessities. In the Roman system, prisoners were not given anything other than a bit of bread and water by the jailer, and even that could be withheld. Incarceration was not a form of punishment; it was a holding pattern until a judgment was rendered, and it could go on for an extended period. This meant that outside help would be needed if the prisoner were to get sick, become malnourished, or even die.

Don't miss the nuance in the text. It may be that some believers were withholding help to their fellow believers who were imprisoned. Why? If they entered the jail and provided help to their fellow believers, then they would come face to face with their suffering and shame. In other words, they would get their hands dirty helping their fellow believers, and sadly, some believers chose to avoid such situations. I'm so glad Jesus didn't avoid coming into a sin-cursed world to bring aid to the world. He even took on flesh and became a man so that He could become intimately connected with our pain and suffering. Jesus was not embarrassed by being associated with our pain and suffering, He knew the full extent of what it would cost Him when He willingly stepped into a human body.

Loving One Another must be honorable

The topic of marriage introduced in Hebrews 13:4 might seem like an abrupt change in the text, but if you look closer you will begin to see all the connections. The word honor is part of traditional wedding vows and part of some familiar Bible verses, too, like “honor your father and mother.” Honor carries the idea of exceptional value or highly prized. The institution of marriage, the author of Hebrews says, should be honorable by all. You might be

tempted to look at our current day and assume that our current view of marriage is much worse than that of the first century. Don't be blinded! Whether living in the first century or the twenty-first century, the institution of marriage has been a target and will continue to be a target by the forces of darkness. When a husband and wife enter the bonds of marriage, they declare that the institution of marriage is honorable. It is highly prized and valued because it has been ordained and designed by God. A husband and wife are setting an example of honoring what the Lord honors.

Now comes the contrast, “but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” Fidelity to one's spouse is crucial if the marriage is to be highly prized; when the marriage is defiled, then some of the value of marriage is lost. When a man and a woman enter a marriage covenant, the expectation is that they will remain loyal and faithful to each other as long as they live. The very heart of marriage is tied to unselfishness; when your desire is to put your spouse's needs above your own – this is love in action. Fornicators and adulterers are examples of those who have selfish motives, being ruled by their own passions and only concerned with loving themselves. The simple point to be learned is that remaining faithful to the spouse you've committed yourself to is an example of showing love to others. How are you supposed to love your other brothers and sisters in Christ if you can't love the one you've committed your life to?

Loving One Another must be about HIM

Hebrews 13:5 says, “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have...” The covetous or greedy man pursues selfish aims, whether immoral desires (v.4) or financial desires (v.5), without regard to the rights of others. Don't be a lover of your possessions is what the author of Hebrews is reminding the early church. Worldly possessions are not wrong; improper use of, abuse, and love for them often derails believers without prejudice. Did you know that money and/or possessions are the fourth most taught subject by Jesus in the Gospels? (In case you were curious, the kingdom of God, God the Father, and faith are the top three). One of the most

significant and well-known lessons that Jesus taught about possessions is found in Matthew 6:24:

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and riches.”

Jesus was concerned about the danger of making money or possessions the center of one's affections. Jesus also called the Pharisees “lovers of money” (Luke 16:14). He called them out for their lack of trust in God's care and provision. For the readers of the book of Hebrews, this appeal had special relevance. In earlier days, when they had been subjected to public abuse and arrest, and some had been imprisoned, they remained steadfast in their faith even though this meant losing some of their possessions (Hebrews 10:34). Love for our Christian brothers and sisters and unbelievers stands in contrast to the love of possessions and riches, it is an ugly expression of deep-rooted selfishness. When a person is consumed with what they have, they become utterly selfish. Furthermore, how are believers to be selfless, considering the needs of others when increasing their net worth is what fills their heart? God expects us to be wise about managing what He has entrusted to us, but the “love of” enters the picture when those possessions control us.

1 Timothy 6:10 contains the phrase that most believers have heard, “The love of money is the root of all evil,” but what about the rest of the verse? Why is the rest of the verse not memorized and quoted completely? We've missed something important. Here is the whole verse:

“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

People can be so enamored and overtaken with their riches and possessions that it can cause them to stray from the faith. Believers who love their possessions more than they love God pierce themselves through with many sorrows; it has the idea of impaling oneself. It renders

the person immovable. What a believer has in Christ is far more important than any earthly treasure. It's about His presence in our lives, not the possessions that we amass. Our contentment in this life will only be learned and experienced through a selfless life. It was the selfless act of God that gave us the Son as a sacrifice for our sins, and it was the selfless obedience of the Son to the will of the Father. HE is our contentment! For as Hebrews 13:6 points out, He will never leave us or forsake us. Our contentment is based on the solemn and sure promise of God's unfailing presence and care. I am HIS and HE is mine. How many times have we sought the things of the world to fill the void in our lives, when we knew that only the presence of God could fill the void?

Beloved! If we know that His presence is with us, then should we not seek His help? “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear, what can man do unto me?” This quotation comes from Psalm 118:6, which is the middle verse of the entire Bible. The very center of the Bible reminds us of the amazing promise that God is our helper and we have absolutely nothing to fear. When we fall in love with HIM repeatedly, day after day, year after year, then loving others may get easier, or it might become more difficult. In this great task of simply loving one another, we must not get discouraged, nor should we fear. The Lord is with us, and He is our helper in this pursuit to love one another better, deeper, and fuller.



by Jeremy Shaffer

Jeremy Shaffer is an assistant pastor who oversees the technical and administrative areas of the ministry. He regularly works alongside his wife Rebekah in the Children's Ministry, teaches in the LMBC Bible Institute, and teaches together with his wife tackling marriage and family topics as well as general Bible studies for adults. He has been serving the Lord at LMBC since 2004. He and Rebekah have two children, Grace and Luke.

ASH WEDNESDAY - Q & A

The History and the Purpose Behind the Observance

On February 14, a large percentage of people will celebrate not only Valentine's Day but a day known as Ash Wednesday. What is it? What do we know about the special day and the purpose behind the somber observance?

What is Ash Wednesday?

- Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lentⁱ, which is exactly 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Easter Sunday. It begins the period of spiritual discipline. Its official name is “Day of Ashes,” so called because of the practice of rubbing ashes on one’s forehead in the sign of a cross.
ⁱLent is intended to be a time of self-denial, moderation, fasting, and the forsaking of sinful activities and habits. (gotquestions.org)

Is Ash Wednesday in the Bible?

- No, there is no mention of Ash Wednesday in the Bible. There is a tradition of donning ashes as a sign of penitence that predates Jesus. In the Old Testament, Job repents “in dust and ashes,” and there are other associations of ashes and repentance in Esther, Samuel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. There’s no Lent in the Bible, either, though many Christians see it as an imitation of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and battling with Satan in the desert. (crosswalk.com)

Who Observes Ash Wednesday?

- Ash Wednesday and Lent are observed by most Catholics and some Protestant denominations. The Eastern Orthodox Church does not observe Ash Wednesday; instead, they start Lent on “Clean Monday.” (gotquestions.org)

Should a Christian observe Ash Wednesday?

- Since the Bible nowhere explicitly commands or condemns such a practice, Christians are at liberty to decide prayerfully whether or not to observe Ash Wednesday. If a Christian decides to observe Ash Wednesday and/or Lent, it is important to have a biblical perspective. (gotquestions.org)

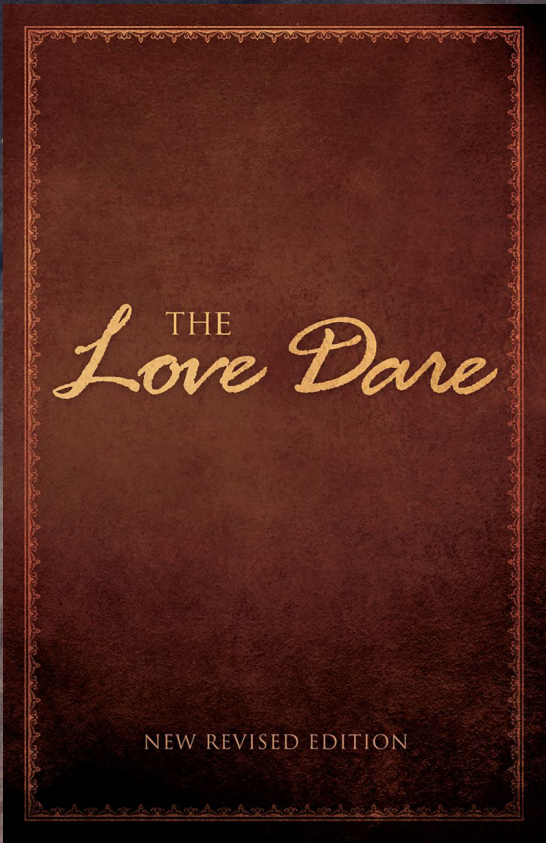
Why do Christians wear a cross of ashes on their forehead?

- The cross is meant to remind us of what is to come on Good Friday. We remember the penalty Jesus paid for us on the cross, dying for our sins so that we may have eternal life. They are also meant to remind us that we came from dust and to dust we will return (Gen 3:19). We are reminded of our human nature and our need for a Savior. (crosswalk.com)

When can you wash the ashes off your face?

- No one is required to keep the ashes on his or her face after the ritual. But some Christians choose to, perhaps as a reminder to themselves that they are mortal and fallible, while others may choose to leave them on as a witness to their faith in the hope others will ask about them and open a door to sharing their faith. (crosswalk.com)

Regardless of our choice to participate in or forego the observance of the day, we should keep in mind that repenting of/abstaining from sinful activities is something we should do whether it is Lent or not. Likewise, it is a good thing to clearly identify oneself as a Christian, but again, this should be an everyday identification. And it is good to remember that no ritual can make one’s heart right with God.



WHAT WE’RE READING

by Donna Nash

For a straightforward guide to improving your marriage, find a copy of The Love Dare this month. If you are not married, perhaps this book could enhance a dating relationship or inspire you to greater intimacy with our Lord and Savior. The Love Dare was written for and as a product of the movie Fireproof which was released in 2008. The author is Stephen Kendrick, who along with his brother Alex, made the movie. The Love Dare and movie Fireproof left an imprint on me not only because it was released the same year that I got married, but because of the specific challenge it gives for the radical pursuit of your spouse. The focus is putting your spouse before yourself and seeking God to heal and sustain the hurts of marriage. This challenge is just as impactful today as it was when originally released. All of these years later, a simple mention of the title brings ideas to my mind of serving my spouse and loving him well.

The Love Dare is not a narrative, exposition, or devotional, but is set up to be a 40-day journey toward pursuing your spouse and “understanding and practicing unconditional love” (book jacket quote). 40 daily challenges to implement for and with your spouse are given, accompanied by scriptural and anecdotal thoughts to support the concept and/or aspect of love to be put into practice. Space for notes and journaling is included, as well as a place to check off when each day is completed by the reader to monitor progress.

If your marriage is struggling or you know someone else who is, remember that when circumstances are darkest, it is better to consider the seeds you are planting than the harvest you are reaping. The current harvest may be disappointing but you can plant seeds of hope today that will reap a better future. Implementing the 40-Day Challenge of The Love Dare will ensure that seeds planted in your marriage will reap the future marriage you desire. As depicted in the movie, this book has the potential to pull any marriage out of dire straits.

“... The Love Dare ... left an imprint on me ... because of the specific challenge it gives for the radical pursuit of your spouse.”

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE BODY AND THE COMMUNITY

What is D-Now Weekend?

A D-Now Weekend (short for “Disciple Now”) is a weekend-long retreat designed for students grades 6-12. While many student ministry retreats and trips involve traveling and doing mission work at another location, what makes D-Now Weekend different is that our students will stay in their own hometown and focus on their local community! This year’s D-Now Weekend will be held Friday, February 16, through Sunday morning, February 18.

What will students be doing this year?

Through the course of an entire weekend, students will be given various opportunities to grow deeper spiritually. Students will sit under a Bible teaching series that walks through 2 Corinthians chapter 5 and focuses on the concept of being “Made New” through the gospel. Students will be called to embrace a new future, new purpose, new identity in Christ. The weekend will begin with a teaching session on Friday evening, followed by food and a fun activity at the Marshall Rec Center in Huntington. On Saturday morning, students will have breakfast and devotions, followed

by another teaching session. In the afternoon on Saturday, students will have lunch and depart for service projects throughout the community. In the evening, students will eat dinner, participate in the final teaching session, and take part in the “Amazing Race” – a high-stakes scavenger hunt! On Sunday morning, students will sit together in their D-Now t-shirts during the 9:00 am service to celebrate the end of a wonderful weekend with the LMBC family. For each of the teaching sessions on Friday and Saturday, and for morning worship on Sunday, the Jason Lovins Band will provide music to lead our students in worship.

What’s the food* like?

Students eat at D-Now weekend...a lot. The student ministry provides dinner on Friday night, food all day on Saturday, and will have donuts and drinks for breakfast on Sunday morning. This year’s food will include things like a breakfast bar, tacos, and spaghetti, and pizza! **If a student has special dietary needs, they can let us know on the online registration form.*

How much does the weekend cost?

The cost for the weekend is \$40, which covers food, the Marshall Rec Center, curriculum, service projects, special activities, and a D-Now t-shirt. Students can pay online during registration, or in cash/check/card on Friday night when arriving for the event.

What does the schedule look like?

Refer to the provisional itinerary below to see what a D-Now weekend is like for students. As you can tell, our students will be busy!

What if a student has a previous commitment/engagement during a portion of the weekend?

While we understand that students may have ball games, performances, etc., during the weekend, our student ministry would love for them to still join us for the portion of the weekend during which they are available. During check-in on Friday night, students and parents can make arrangements with student ministry leaders regarding when they will need to be gone.

How can students register for D-Now Weekend?

You can register in person on Wednesday nights at Refuel, or you can register online anytime by visiting this lmbc.org/refuel.

How can I be praying for D-Now Weekend?

It would be a blessing for you to join with

our students and leaders by praying for nine specific things as we approach D-Now Weekend!

1. We’re praying that God gives our saved students a desire to engage in long-term discipleship.
2. We’re praying that, through the ministry of the Jason Lovins Band, our students connect with God through worship.
3. We’re praying that, over the course of the weekend, leaders and students will form relationships that lead to long-term disciple-making.
4. We’re praying that unsaved students trust Jesus as their Savior.
5. We’re praying that students follow Jesus in baptism.
6. We’re praying that students surrender their future plans to Christ.
7. We’re praying that students and leaders will be open and engaged during table time.
8. We’re praying that students will learn the joy of serving.
9. We’re praying that students and their families will make meaningful connections with the LMBC church family.

How can I help?

There are a variety of ways that people can help with D-Now Weekend. Reach out to Matt McClay if you would like to hear how you can be involved!

Friday, Feb. 16 (5 - 11:30 pm)	Evening	Pizza
		Jason Lovins Band
		Bible Study
		Marshall Rec Center
Saturday, Feb. 17 (9 am - 9:45 pm)	Morning	Breakfast
		Jason Lovins Band
	Afternoon	Bible Study
		Lunch
	Evening	Service Projects
		Dinner
		Jason Lovins Band
		Bible Study
Sunday, Feb. 18 (8:45 - 10:15 am)	Morning	The Amazing Race
		Hangout Time
		Donuts
		Gathered Worship w/ Jason Lovins Band
		Student Testimonies



LOVE, THE GOLD STANDARD

by MaryEllen Black

“I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

According to bibleref.com,” – the gold standard for living out Christian belief, and the means by which believers are to distinguish themselves from non-believers, is expressed in their love for one another.” (emphasis added) This standard is important to grasp as we commit to following the command of Christ to love other believers, for we are not called to simply love but specifically to “love as Christ has loved us”. His hands-on illustration of washing their feet (John 13:2-5), was the act of a lowly servant, not of a teacher or master. This act of kindness was, first and foremost, a visible representation of His love for them demonstrated through a servant’s heart; and it was to serve as an example of what their role was to be toward others. It was also a subtle reprimand for them to help them understand that arguing and contending with each other over their importance in the mission was not appropriate or acceptable as His disciples.

Further, when Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, He told them (and us), “I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:15). As His followers, we are to emulate Him, serving one another in lowliness of heart and mind, seeking to build one another up in humility and love. Part of that humble service is to forgive one another (Colossians 3:13). When we seek the preeminence, neglect to serve others or refuse to forgive, we displease the Lord. True greatness in His kingdom is attained by those with a servant’s heart (Mark 9:35; 10:44), and they will be greatly blessed (John 13:17).

Jesus wanted His disciples to know that others were watching them and that they would be known by their actions, particularly by their love. As followers of Christ, they were to imitate Him – which meant living and loving like Him so that others would know the Father – just as His love had revealed the Father to them. After all, He had come to make the way, the truth, and life known to men, and that was what His disciples were and are to do in His absence.

Consider this statement by the writers at gotquestions.org: “In giving this command, Jesus did something the world had never seen before—He created a group identified by one thing: love. There are many groups in the world, and they identify themselves in any number of ways: by skin color, by uniform, by shared interest, by alma mater, etc. But the church is unique. For the first and only time in history, Jesus created a group whose identifying factor is love. Skin color doesn’t matter. Native language doesn’t matter. There are no rules about diet or uniforms or wearing funny hats. Followers of Christ are identified by their love for each other.”

Making it Personal: Ask yourself, do you love others in a way that lets others know you are a follower of Christ? (a disciple is also a “follower,” someone who adheres completely to the teachings of another, making them his rule of life and conduct.” gotquestions.org)

LOVE

JOHN 13:34, JOHN 15:12, JOHN 15:17
ROM 13:8, 1 THESS 4:9, HEB 13:1,
1 PET 1:22, 1 PET 3:8, 1 PET 4:8,
1 JOHN 3:11, 1 JOHN 3:14, 1 JOHN 3:23,
1 JOHN 4:7, 1 JOHN 4:11, 2 JOHN 5

ENCOURAGE

2 COR 13:11
1 THESS 4:18
1 THESS 5:11
HEB 3:13
HEB 10:25

BE HUMBLE

EPH 4:2
1 PET 3:8
1 PET 5:5

GREET

ROM 16:16
1 COR 16:20
2 COR 13:12
1 PET 5:14

HAVE COMPASSION

EPH 4:32
1 PET 3:8

LIVE IN PEACE

MARK 9:50
1 THESS 5:13

CONFESS TO

JAMES 5:16

BE SYMPATHETIC

1 PET 3:8

BEAR IN LOVE

EPH 4:2
COL 3:13

ADMONISH

COL 3:16

OFFER HOSPITALITY

1 PET 4:9

LIVE IN HARMONY

ROM 12:16

FORGIVE

EPH 4:32
COL 3:13

SPEAK SONGS TO

EPH 5:19

HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST

ROM 15:5
PHI 2:5

DO GOOD

1 THESS 5:15

DON'T GRUMBLE

JAMES 5:9

DON'T JUDGE

ROM 14:13

DON'T SLANDER

JAMES 4:11

PRAY FOR

JAMES 5:16

BE GENTLE

EPH 4:2

SPUR TO GOOD DEEDS

HEB 10:24

BE PATIENT

EPH 4:2

DON'T DEPRIVE

1 COR 7:5

BE KIND

EPH 4:32

HONOR

ROM 12:10

DON'T PROVOKE

GAL 5:26

BE LIKE-MINDED

1 PET 3:8

BE DEVOTED

ROM 12:10

DON'T PAY BACK WRONG

1 THESS 5:15

ACCEPT

ROM 15:7

BUILD UP

1 THESS 5:11

SERVE

GAL 5:13

AGREE

1 COR 1:10

CONFESS TO

JAMES 5:16

ADMONISH

COL 3:16

BE SYMPATHETIC

1 PET 3:8

LIVE IN HARMONY

ROM 12:16

FORGIVE

EPH 4:32
COL 3:13

SPEAK SONGS TO

EPH 5:19

DON'T JUDGE

ROM 14:13

DON'T SLANDER

JAMES 4:11

PRAY FOR

JAMES 5:16

BE GENTLE

EPH 4:2

SPUR TO GOOD DEEDS

HEB 10:24

BE PATIENT

EPH 4:2

DON'T DEPRIVE

1 COR 7:5

BE KIND

EPH 4:32

HONOR

ROM 12:10

DON'T PROVOKE

GAL 5:26

BE LIKE-MINDED

1 PET 3:8

BE DEVOTED

ROM 12:10

DON'T PAY BACK WRONG

1 THESS 5:15

ACCEPT

ROM 15:7

BUILD UP

1 THESS 5:11

SERVE

GAL 5:13

AGREE

1 COR 1:10

CONFESS TO

JAMES 5:16

ADMONISH

COL 3:16

BE SYMPATHETIC

1 PET 3:8

LIVE IN HARMONY

ROM 12:16

FORGIVE

EPH 4:32
COL 3:13

SPEAK SONGS TO

EPH 5:19

DON'T JUDGE

ROM 14:13

DON'T SLANDER

JAMES 4:11

PRAY FOR

JAMES 5:16

BE GENTLE

EPH 4:2

SPUR TO GOOD DEEDS

HEB 10:24

BE PATIENT

EPH 4:2

DON'T DEPRIVE

1 COR 7:5

BE KIND

EPH 4:32

HONOR

ROM 12:10

DON'T PROVOKE

GAL 5:26

BE LIKE-MINDED

1 PET 3:8

BE DEVOTED

ROM 12:10

DON'T PAY BACK WRONG

1 THESS 5:15

ACCEPT

ROM 15:7

BUILD UP

1 THESS 5:11

SERVE

GAL 5:13

AGREE

1 COR 1:10

CONFESS TO

JAMES 5:16

ADMONISH

COL 3:16

BE SYMPATHETIC

1 PET 3:8

LIVE IN HARMONY

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MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

IN SOUTH AMERICA

Reba Bowman (Dare for More), Guatemala

SECURED G. Family, Brazil

Mark & Odie Goddard, Paraguay

Mike & Trisha Goddard, Paraguay

Spencer & Joanna Goddard, Brazil

John & Brenda Gossett, Trinidad

Will & Laura Lyon, Ecuador

Jon & Erin Mathews, Brazil

Dwayne & Dianna Spear, Brazil

John & Barb Windler, Paraguay

JOSH & SARAH
WAGAR



Happy New Year! I personally enjoy the New Year season simply for the fact that it is a time to slow down, collect our thoughts, and seek the Lord's direction for the upcoming year. Allow us to take a few minutes to fill you in on how we will kick off 2024.

As we completed 2023, the Lord abundantly blessed us even in the midst of having lost so many supporting churches. He filled in the gaps and has since added more supporters to the ranks of those who are partnering with us to reach the islands. A few churches and individuals increased our support as well. The Lord has also answered more prayers by simply bringing meetings to us. With these four upcoming meetings, there is the potential to gain new partnering churches! As Hudson Taylor so aptly put it: "God's work done God's way never lacks God's supply!"

We are also excited to fill you in on our departure plans! These are still tentative, but Lord-willing, they should be settled very soon. As you may recall, Uriah has been given the "all-clear" by his neurosurgeon if this next MRI shows no changes. The MRI is scheduled for January 29. We do not anticipate any negative news and are planning to proceed as if we have been given the all-clear. To this end, we are looking at flying out on February 23rd. We will be taking our time in getting back to the islands by first stopping in Hawaii for several days to give the kids a break from the plane as well as to present our ministry at my former church, Ohana Baptist Church in Honolulu.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

For full updates, go to lmbc.org/missionary-updates

Lord willing, we will also be stopping in Guam for a meeting, though this has not yet been confirmed as of the date of this letter. All said, we are praying that we will be able to arrive back in Chuuk within the first week of March. Please be praying for Uriah's MRI and our travel plans. We are ready!

Prayer requests:

- Please pray for our preparations to leave for Chuuk
- Uriah's MRI Jan 29, 2024

You can read the full newsletter and watch their new video by visiting <https://lmbc.org/blog/2023/11/16/the-wagars-chuuk-micronesia>



GIFTS FOR JESUS OFFERING

with **WorldHelp**[®]
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

As promised in the last edition of the Connect, here is the total of our 2023 Gifts for Jesus donations (drum-roll...): **\$84,065.00!** We want to thank everyone who contributed to this priceless gift. If you are new to LMBC, you may be wondering how your donations are “gifts for Jesus.” The answer is both easy and exciting! Your monetary gifts enable us to reach families and communities around the world with the love of Jesus for months, years, and possibly for generations to come. By partnering with World Help, we are able to meet physical needs like clean and accessible water, animals that provide not only food but a source of income, and many other life-giving needs; but we are also able to reach people with the message of the Gospel that they may otherwise never hear. With your generous gifts of \$101,000 last year (2022), 4 wells were dug, 2 churches were built, 2050 Bibles were distributed, 20 men were trained to Pastor a church, and 20 churches were planted. Your gifts allowed us to free 30 girls from slavery, bring medical and physical help to 100 malnourished children, and provide food for an entire year for 30 other children.

Your 2023 Gifts for Jesus of \$84,065 will once again be used in partnership with World Help for water projects and feeding 100 children for an entire year. The rest of the funds will be used to provide life-saving supplies to three hundred people, as well as to purchase goats, chickens, cows, pigs, and bundles of livestock that will provide food and income for hundreds. *If you missed giving to the Gifts for Jesus collection, there's still time. We can make an even bigger impact with your gifts. Simply note on the check or envelope Gifts for Jesus and get it to us by Sunday, Feb. 4.



DIFFERENCE MAKERS

SERVE GOD SERVE OTHERS

Visit lmbc.org/serve to find specific needs and see where you can serve here at LMBC.

EBENEZER IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH OUR COMMUNITY

Check here monthly or online for the times and events and upcoming opportunities to volunteer or participate and help us make a difference.

EBENEZER CALENDAR

all at Ebenezer unless otherwise stated

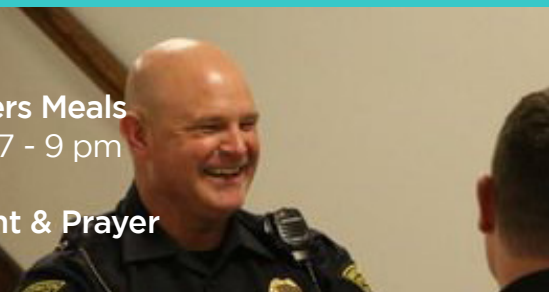
FEB. 13

First Responders Meals

11 am - 2 pm & 7 - 9 pm

Encouragement & Prayer

11 am - 2 pm



FEB. 22

Bible Club

4 - 5:15 pm



Share the Love

As you will read throughout this month's edition we are focusing on loving one another as Christ loved us. - We want to share this love with others outside of LMBC. To help you do this, we are using the booklet John 3:16. The booklet details the verse, the love of Christ, the gift of eternal life, and a way to contact us with questions or to allow us to rejoice with them in their decision to believe in Jesus as their Savior.

You are encouraged to take at least one each week and share it with someone in your path.





TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST
FAMILY NEWS

Bereavements

- Charlotte Gillispie, Emma Lee Browning's sister
- William Morrison, Steve Morrison's father
- Mary Faye Spurlock, Barbara Hampton's mother
- Barbara Starcher, Mike Starcher's grandmother
- Tara Vosler, Bill Jones' sister

New Members/Baptisms

- Jim and Cheryl Adkins
- Bailey Baker
- Harrison Bergmann (baptism)
- Erin Bias
- Zeke Daniel (baptism)
- Steve and Charity Kelley
- Karen Koerner
- Terry Nichols
- Cindy Raines
- Debbie Smith
- Shawn Tackett
- Abby Wendell
- Ben Whitmore

Pastoral Staff Birthdays

- April McClay (8th)
- Audrey McClay (14th)
- Myra Yates (23rd)

Ways to Give:



Offering Boxes
in the Auditorium



Imbc.org
or our App



By mail

LOOKING FOR A STARTING POINT?

How to join our community of faith

*Are you looking for a church home?
Would you prayerfully consider whether God
may be leading you to our family of believers?
If you are ready, follow these simple steps:*

**1st
Baptism**



Trust in Christ and
follow Him in believer's
baptism.

**2nd
Register
(pick 1)**



In Service: scan the QR
code on the pew in front
of you and let us know
you would like to join.
Online: imbc.org/register
Call: 304-736-7676

**3rd
Discover**



Check out the
information in the
visitor packet you
received when you
registered with us or
visit imbc.org/what-we-believe to learn
about our core beliefs
and more.

**4th
Experience**



Come to the next
Starting Point on
Sunday, April 14, 2024
at 4:30 pm in the HIS
Way Cafe (SMB), where
you'll meet with our
Pastors to begin your
membership experience.
Call: 304-736-7676
Pre-register: imbc.org/starting-point

WANT TO JOIN A LIFEGROUP?

Come grow with us

SUNDAYS @ 10:30 am

Believing, Belonging, & Becoming (L114) Thurman Lowder

@ 10:45 am

College Group (S101) Wyatt & Emily McCabe

Through the Bible (S104) Jared Blankenship

Wall Builders (S100) Steve Bragg

Cornerstone (S102) Tim Koletka

Maranatha (Renaissance Room) Chuck Daniel

TUESDAYS @ 1 pm

Fearless (S100) Estep/Wyrick

@ 6 pm

Life Together (S100) Tim Yates

@ 6:30 pm

Pickle Ball & Jesus (Gym) Chuck Daniel

WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Encouraging Friends Ministry (L110) Kate McMullen

@ 6:30 pm

At Home with the Word (Tardy Home) Steve & Vicky Tardy

It's Always Something (S100) Chuck Daniel

@ 6:45 pm

Abundant Life (L108) Chelcie Gibson

College Group (S101) Deanna Brammer

@ 7 pm

Selah (L114) Nathan McClay

Friends of God (Renaissance Room) David & Mary Lemming

The House (Northside House) Sargent/Ball

Rooted in Christ (F207) Jonah & MaKayla Howerton

Whosoever (L112) Sargent/Fry

SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am

Journey with Him (L110) Hale/Tritz

MONDAYS @ 6 pm

Daughters of the King (S100) Rebekah Shaffer

TUESDAYS @ 9:30 am

Kingdom Seekers (Tardy Home) Tardy/McMullen

@ 10 am

At His Feet (S100) Beth Jenkins

Sewing for God's Children (S104) Barbara Keaton

WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm

4Ever His (LKC) Leah Adkins

Women of God (F205) Hager/Bashore

Starting Feb. 21 *Embrace Grace (F206) *for single pregnant ladies Angela Cantley

THURSDAYS @ 10 am

Women of Strength (HIS Way Cafe) Mullens/Foreman

WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Westridge Wisdom (S100) Jeremy Shaffer

@ 7 pm

Men of Truth (HIS Way Cafe) Steve Bragg

Iron Sharpeners (L110) Matheny/Miller

Sons of Thunder (L109) Dan Thompson

SUNDAYS @ 9 am

Young at Heart (L114) Bill Blankenship

FRIDAYS @ 11 am

Life Group (Victory Place Apartments) Charles Logan

Connect is the monthly news and
informational publication from



*Making disciples who
live and love like Jesus*

**5385 W. Pea Ridge Rd.
Huntington, WV 25705
304-736-7676
imbc.org**

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 & 10:45 am (watch live
at imbc.tv)

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE
STUDY**
7 pm

CONNECT STAFF:
Senior Editor,
David Lemming
Executive Editor,
Angie O'Dell
Content Editor,
Mary Ellen Black
Graphic Designer,
Matt Waller

*Read previous editions
of Connect at
imbc.org/connect*

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NIV

DO EVERYTHING IN

Love