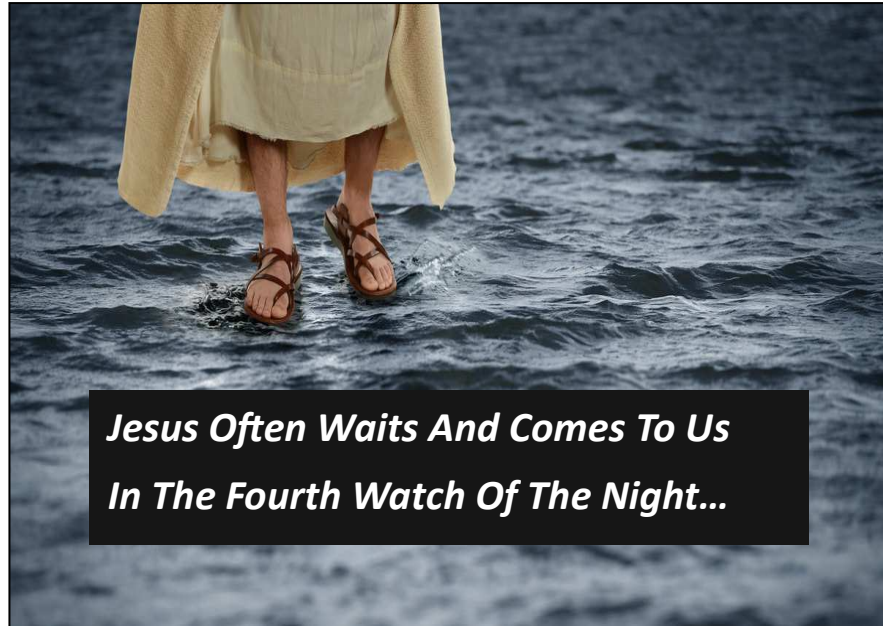


The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church.
101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601
HiltonBaptistChurch.org / (757)595-3300



Imagine the disciples, exhausted and battling the stormy sea, suddenly seeing Jesus approach them effortlessly walking on the water. His timing was not arbitrary; it was purposeful. In their moment of greatest fear and distress, Jesus appeared.

Just as Jesus waited and came to the disciples later in the raging storm, He often waits and comes to us in our darkest hours. His presence brings reassurance and peace, reminding us that He is with us always, even in the most turbulent times of life.

The fourth watch of the night symbolizes the last moments before dawn—often the darkest and most challenging time of the night. Jesus appeared precisely at this time, showing us that God's timing is perfect. He knows the right moment to intervene in our lives and bring about His purposes.

As we navigate our own storms—whether they be literal storms, challenges in relationships, health struggles, or uncertainties in life—may we find comfort and strength in knowing that Jesus walks with us. He meets us in our struggles, calms our fears, and calls us to step out in faith, trusting in His presence and perfect timing.

Join us this Sunday as we learn important lessons of faith from Jesus walking on the water in the raging storm.

Plan to be there and bring your family and friends!



The 4th Watch... Jesus Walks on Water

In the stillness of the night, when the waters were turbulent and the disciples' hearts filled with fear, Jesus approached them walking on the sea. This miraculous event, recorded in Matthew 14:22-33, offers profound insights into faith, courage, and the nature of Christ.

The fourth watch, between 3:00-6:00 AM, was the darkest hour just before dawn. The disciples, experienced fishermen, found themselves battling a fierce storm, straining against the winds. It is in this desperate moment that Jesus comes to them, defying natural laws by walking on water.

Just as Jesus came to the disciples in their time of need, He meets us in the midst of our storms today. Life's challenges—be they physical, emotional, or spiritual—can overwhelm us. Yet, Jesus reassures us through His Word: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b).

Impulsively, Peter seeks confirmation of Jesus' identity, "*Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water*" (Matthew 14:28). Jesus invites him, and Peter steps out onto the water, walking toward Jesus. However, when Peter takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses on the storm, fear grips him, and he begins to sink.

Peter's experience teaches us the importance of keeping our focus on Christ amid life's challenges. When we fixate on our problems, doubts, or fears, we risk losing sight of His presence and power. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."

Through this miracle, Jesus demonstrates His authority over the natural world and invites us to trust Him completely. He calls us to step out in faith, even when circumstances seem impossible. As we obey His voice and keep our eyes on Him, our faith grows stronger, enabling us to weather life's storms with courage and peace.

The story of Jesus walking on water to His disciples in the fourth watch of the night is a powerful reminder of His divine presence, power, and faithfulness. It challenges us to trust Him fully, step out in faith, and keep our focus on Him amid life's storms. May we draw courage and strength from this account, knowing that Jesus is always near, ready to guide us through every challenge we face.

"Lord Jesus, thank You for Your presence and power in our lives. Help us to trust You more deeply and to keep our eyes fixed on You, especially when we face difficult times. Strengthen our faith and give us courage to step out in obedience to Your voice. In Your precious name, Amen."

On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

July 9, 2024

Budget \$7881.00

Cashin Cash out– Sonshine Kids \$25.00

Cashin Cash out– A/C Repair \$1000.00

Food Pantry \$75.00

PORT \$300.00

Pure Water Pure Love \$75.00

Total Deposit \$9356.00

Baptismal Service

We will be having a Baptismal Service on Sunday, July 21st. If you have not been baptized and would like to be, please contact the church office.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

We are going to be taking a break from the Wednesday Night Bible Study through the summer months. We will start again the first Wednesday of September. Please join us Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for Online Bible Study on Pastor Lynwood's personal Facebook page or the church Facebook page.

Lock up/ Hall Monitor 7/14 Charles Vassar 7/21 Robbie Ayscue

Counter 7/15 Kathy Caskie 7/22 Margaret Upole

Kids Church 7/14 Tracy Venable 7/21 Lisa York

Grass Cutting– 7/13 Pam and Roger Cooke 7/27 Stan Langdon

Happy Birthday in July

7/12 Emma Beard

7/21 Tracy Venable

/7/23 Sue Monfalcone

7/27 Wayne Tawney

7/27 Wayne Tawney

7/31 Cindy Gibson

7/31 Lisa York





Invite Kids to come and be a part! There are fliers in the Connection Center.

Kids are already registering!

Help is still needed!

*Bathroom attendant is needed

*Friday Night Help at 8:30pm We need several people who are willing to help clean up and get the church back in order for church Sunday.

Its gonna be a great time for Kids and Workers

See Dreama for more information!

Calendar

Tuesday, July 9th

12pm—1pm Food Distribution

6:30pm Vision Team Meeting

Thursday, July 11th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

Sunday, July 14th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live
Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids

Food Distribution after
morning worship

Tuesday, July 15th

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Thursday, July 18th

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Friday, July 19th

Produce Bagging— See Tara Borton for
more information

6:30pm Karaoke

Sunday, July 21st

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live
Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids

Baptismal Service

Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

Aluminum Cans Recycle your cans at HBC and help Support missions! Bring them to HBC and place them in the gym or the church office. All money collected goes to missions.

Pray for our Missionaries

Amanda Wells (American People) PP (Asian Pacific Rim People) Jacob Boss (European People) WH, BT (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) JL, Staci Powers (Sub-Saharan African People) Kathryn Caudell (KY) Hector Ahumnada (TX) John Scudder (WY)

WMU Project for July— Pure Water Pure Love

Item's needed for the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in real need of the following: Hamburger Helper, Pancake Syrup, cereal and Pasta. We do take monetary donations for the items that we need to purchase. Just mark your envelope or check. Thank you to all who support this important ministry.

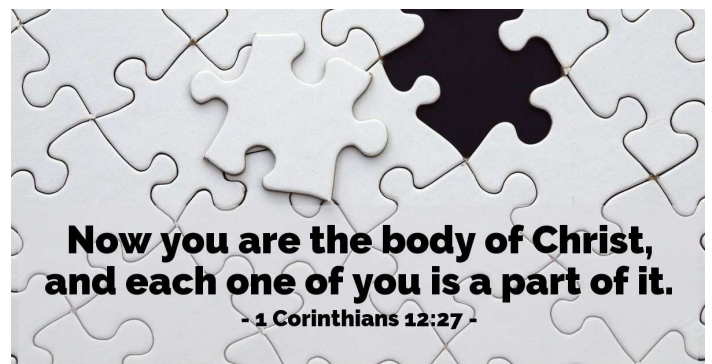
Food Pantry /Food Bank Help

If you can help with the Food Pantry /Bank on Tuesday and Thursdays for Food Distribution or on Fridays to bag Veggies, please let the church office know. We also need people to help every Sunday after Food Distribution in the gym to get everything put up. WE CAN USE YOU! We need to add people to our team. No experience is necessary! Come and see if you would like to work with us!

Community Dinner, Friday, July 26th

We have been given the opportunity to be able to provide a meal for people of our community that would like to have one and possibly those who really need a meal. Along with that, we have recently been blessed to partner with the Peninsula Food Bank and become an agency for them. On the community dinner nights, we have been able to give food to those who need it. Last month was a great success in serving our community with a meal and also with food to take home. We had a lot of people from our church family serving last month and we need you again this month!

If you can help in anyway with serving the meal, contact Pam Cooke. If you can help with the Food Bank giveaway contact Tara Borton, or you can contact the church office and we will get you plugged in to serve!





Guard Your Heart

The Bible says, *“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Pro 4:23)*

You are the overseer of your heart. Each day you must monitor what goes on there. You can't blame your bad attitude, resentment and unforgiveness on others. You are responsible! When somebody offends you, it's up to you whether or not you let bitterness take root. You can't control what other people do, but it's the “inside” part – the part you can control – that God holds us accountable for. You get to decide whether or not irritation turns into anger, anger into resentment, and resentment into retaliation.

The reason weeds take over a garden is because the gardener doesn't pull them up fast enough. When your garden is choked by weeds you can't say, “I don't know how it happened!” “Look diligently,” you will see them moving in. The only way to stay free of the weeds the enemy wants to sow in your life is to be attentive to the condition of your heart.

When you're faced with a hurtful, offensive situation, refuse to let a wrong attitude take root and produce bad fruit. Instead, ask God to help you replace those destructive thoughts with mercy and forgiveness towards the people who hurt you.

The Last Impression

The pastor enjoyed sharing a special “children's message” each Sunday morning. He'd bring all the children up, and they'd sit on the floor, and he'd tell them a story. One day he said, “Boys and girls, I want to tell you a story about someone who likes to live in the woods, but sometimes we can see him in our yards. Anybody have any idea who I am talking about?”

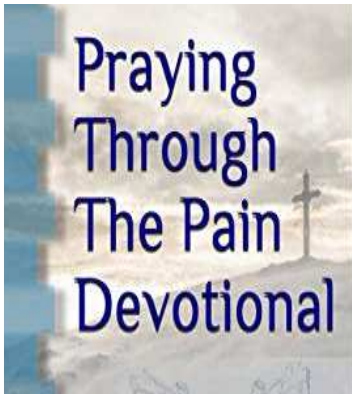


No takers. He said, “I want to tell you about a creature that lives in the woods and sometimes in our yards, has a big bushy tail, likes to eat nuts. Anybody have any idea what I'm talking about?”

No takers. He said, “I'm talking about a creature that lives in the woods, sometimes in our yards, big bushy tail, eats nuts, likes to climb trees, jumps from tree to tree—now, does anybody know what I'm talking about?”

One kid raised his hand to take him out of his misery. The pastor said, “Do you know what I'm thinking about?”

The kid said, “Yeah. I know the answer should be Jesus, but it sure sounds like a squirrel to me.”



Praying Through The Pain

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." James 4:8a

Does it ever feel like the heartbreak in your life is trying to break you? I understand. I really do. I've been in that place where the pain of heartbreak hits with such sudden and sharp force that it feels like it cuts through skin and bone. It's the kind of pain that leaves us wondering if we'll ever be able to function like a normal person again.

But God has been gently reminding me that pain itself is not the enemy. Pain is the indicator that brokenness exists. Pain is the reminder that the real enemy is trying to take us out and bring us down by keeping us stuck in broken places. Pain is the gift that motivates us to fight with braveness and fierce determination, knowing there's healing on the other side.

And in the in-between? In that desperate place where we aren't quite on the other side of it all yet, and our heart still feels quite raw? Pain is the invitation for God to move in and replace our faltering strength with His. I'm not writing that to throw out spiritual words that sound good; I write it from the depth of a heart that knows it's the only way.

We must invite God into our pain to help us survive the desperate in-between.

The only other choice is to run from the pain by using some method of numbing. But numbing the pain — with food, achievements, drugs, alcohol or sex — never goes to the source of the real issue to make us healthier. It only silences our screaming need for help.

We think we are freeing ourselves from the pain when, in reality, what numbs us imprisons us. If we avoid the hurt, the hurt creates a void in us. It slowly kills the potential for our hearts to fully feel, fully connect, fully love again. It even steals the best in our relationship with God.

So how do we get this new strength? How do we stop ourselves from chasing what will numb us when the deepest parts of us scream for some relief? How do we stop the piercing pain of this minute, this hour?

We invite God's closeness. For me, this means praying. No matter how vast our pit, prayer is big enough to fill us with the realization of His presence like nothing else.

Our key verse (James 4:8a) reminds us that when we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. What a wonderful revelation... When we invite Him close, He always accepts our invitation!

Radiant Certainty

" You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

– John 16:20-22



There are some days when, frankly, I don't feel much like worshipping God. There are probably more days like that than I'd care to admit. But usually those are days are when I'm staring at my circumstances and making faithless judgments about what I see around me. And I struggle with the God-truth that he is in the circumstances that surround my life – all the circumstances.

Have you ever considered that heartbreak is part of God's plans for you, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future*"? (Jeremiah 29:11) We put so much energy into avoiding the hurt when God would have us embrace it. He wants us to know that he can heal our hurts, even use our hurts for his benefit, and for us to faithfully believe that sometimes the circumstances we think are harming us are actually positive situations God is engineering.

As always, Jesus shows us the way – because he is the Way. Jesus embraced the pain of God's plan for his life, and he did it with full faith that God was still working the plan to bring a "*hope and a future*" to your life and mine. (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV) Christ was so sure that his grief would turn to joy that he showed a radiant certainty in God's faithfulness.

And we, too, can have this radiant certainty about God's hand in our lives. We can say, when it comes to God's faithfulness, "*I know because I know that I know.*" That's radiant certainty. The Cross was Christ's glory, not His penalty – and the same is true of difficult circumstances in our lives!



A Final Laugh... "Tainted Money "

Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him. "You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"

Horrified, the little boy obeyed. After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?"

"Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."