

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



Lots of people identify as Christians—about one-third of the world, in fact. But calling ourselves Christians and actually following Jesus can be two different things. Without even realizing it, we can slip into a faith that’s more about appearances than about a life-changing relationship with Christ.

Our new series, “Christian-*ish*” challenges people to confront how they may be practicing a compromised version of Christianity: one in which comfort, convenience, or cultural norms overshadow true faith, obedience, and transformation. Each week, we’ll tackle a different way this can show up in our lives. We will explore what it is like to go from shallow faith to a deeper, more committed relationship with Jesus.



The Cost of True Discipleship vs. Comfortable Christianity

It's easy to become comfortable in the world we live in. We've been taught that life is about success, security, and stability. As a result, it's tempting to accept a version of Christianity that doesn't challenge us too deeply, a faith that fits neatly into our comfortable lives without demanding too much. But as I reflect on what it truly means to follow Christ; I realize that the call to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus requires so much more.

A fully devoted follower of Christ doesn't just follow when it's convenient or easy. Jesus never promised a life of ease for His followers. Instead, He spoke of carrying a cross, of losing one's life to gain it, of loving one's enemies, and of serving the least of these. He didn't call us to a comfortable existence but to a radical, self-sacrificial way of life that reflects His heart.

I think about the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-22, who came to Jesus asking what he must do to have eternal life. He challenged the ruler to give up what he held most dear—his wealth—and to follow Him. This challenge was not about money itself, but about the heart. Jesus knew that the ruler's possessions had become the focus of his life's priorities.

Experiencing "comfortable Christianity" is to have a substitute religion that avoids sacrifice, and change. It's a false version of the gospel that allows us to maintain our status quo, a faith that feels good but doesn't require transformation. But that's not the faith Jesus calls us to.

On the other hand, being a fully devoted follower of Christ is about more than just attending church or saying the right things. It's about surrendering our lives to Him daily, seeking His will above our own, and being willing to live radically for His kingdom. It means loving when it's hard, serving when it's inconvenient, forgiving when it's impossible, and giving when we feel we have nothing left to give.

It's about trusting Jesus enough to step into the unknown and walk in obedience, even when the world around us tells us to pursue comfort and personal success. It's about choosing His way over our own, even when that means making sacrifices. The call to follow Christ is not a call to a life of ease—it's a call to a life of purpose, of surrender, and of faithfulness, no matter the cost.

Today, let's be reminded that being a follower of Christ is not about being comfortable; it's about being transformed. It's about living in a way that reflects His love, His grace, and His sacrifice. And though it may be challenging, we know that the reward of following Him—both in this life and the next—is worth every step of the journey.

*On the grace journey together with you, Pastor Lynwood **Grace!***

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

January 28, 2025

Budget \$1589.00

Budget Designated– Initial Offering \$25.00

Total Deposit \$1614.00

Calendar

Tuesday, January 28th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

Thursday, January 30th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

Friday, January 31st

5:30pm– 6:30pm Community
Dinner

Sunday, February 2nd

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids

Full Food Distribution after church.

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, February 4th

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, February 5th

PORT Ends this morning.

Thursday, February 6th

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Sunday, February 9th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids– Super
Cereal Bowl Sunday—Bring a box
of cereal for the Food Pantry and
wear your favorite team!



Have you invited someone to church recently? It has been said that people would come to church if they are asked.

HBC is a great church. God has blessed us and we are working in the community. Let's not keep our church a secret. Invite someone to come this week!

Happy Birthday in January

1/23 Barbara Michie

1/30 Carolyn Schaubach

Happy Birthday in February

2/2 Tammy Ortery

2/4 Bob Spiers

2/10 Margaret Upole

2/14 Curtis Whiting

2/17 Debbie Marfa

Schedules

Lock up/ Hall Monitor

2/2 Robbie Ayscue

2/9 Joe Caskie

Counter

2/2 Joe Wircenske

2/10 Margaret Upole

Kids Church

2/2 Kathy Caskie

2/9 Tracy Venable

Mennowood Retirement Community invites everyone to attend the following FREE Events

Thursday, February 6th 12pm– 1pm Broken Heart Syndrome Workshop

Presented by Marcella Williams, Community Outreach for Altmeyer Funeral Home.

All events are free and open to the public but you need to make reservations.

RSVP to Michele at the Mennowood 757-249-0355 or mryba@mennowood.com

Food Pantry Ministry

In 2024 our Food Pantry Ministry went through a lot of changes. We are blessed to be able to be a part of the Food Bank and we have been able to help so many. Please pray for those who work tirelessly in this ministry. We have volunteers that attend HBC and we have many that do not attend church here to help. We have been blessed to have them and thank God for them .

Totals for 2024 Number of Households served 2203, Number of people served 5832 and 128,990 pounds of food received to help share the love of Jesus with others.

Attention Vision Team!

Please remember we have a Vision Team Meeting on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30pm. All team members are asked to be a part of this meeting as we reflect back on 2024 and look ahead to 2025.

Missions Outreach

If you have any questions on Missions Outreach Activities

call Pam Cooke 757-660-4226

Pray for our Missionaries

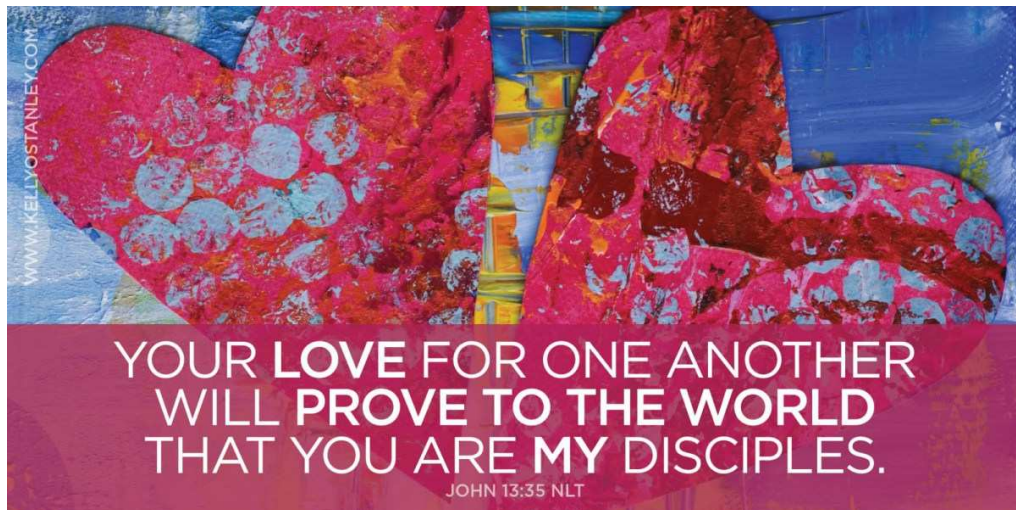
Kimberly Burns, Nathan McBroom (Asian Pacific Rim People) CK (Central Asian People) Emily Ely (European People) JL (Global Strategic Advance) KH (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) Eric Lockhart (Sub-Saharan African People) German Portillo (FL) Jason Dees (GA) Javier Herrera Cervantes (NC) Stephen Ward (WA)

January's Community Dinner is Friday, January 31st

We need your help! We need help with preparation, serving and clean up. Please see Pam Cooke if you can help. If you want to help with the food bank giveaway, contact Tara. We need you to come and love and help with our Community.

Sedgefield Elementary School Outreach

We will be collecting valentine treats and writing cards to the staff and teachers of Sedgefield Elementary School for Valentines Day. Please check the Mission Outreach Table to find the cards to write. They will need to be returned by Sunday, February 9th



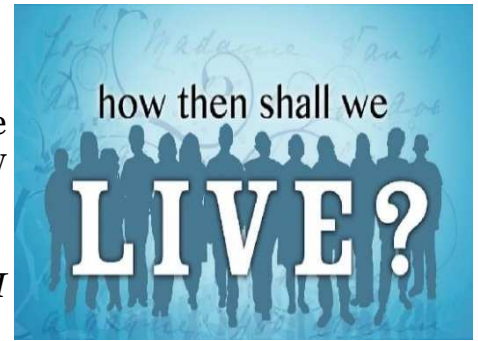
We have received a nice note from Marilyn Hargrove's daughter. Marilyn, as many of you know, is in an assisted living in Matthews and she is unable to travel. She does love getting mail from her church family. From time to time, it would so nice if you would be able to send her a card letting her know you are praying for her and thinking of her. Below is her mailing address.

Marilyn Hargrove
603 Main Street Room 32A
Matthews, VA 23109

A Special Grace In Love

That special “someone” came up and embraced you. They gave you a kiss on the cheek unexpectedly. You remember how exceptional the feeling was.

You asked them why. And they simply replied..., “*Because I love you...*”



We can dress it up with theological terms, clothe it with religious dogma, explain it in foreign Greek words such as “*agape*” for love, and “*charis*” for grace, or romantic Latin phrases such as, “*Amor in perpetuum vivit dei gratia*” meaning, “*Love lives forever by the grace of God...*” (I know that last one had to impress you!)

But when all is said and done, it all boils down to, “*Because I love you...*” That’s *GRACE... pure and simple.*

And I am feeling these days that in our pursuit of deeper revelations, more meaningful experiences with God, deeper relationship connection with the divine persona above us and the human community around us, we might most fundamentally be best served by returning to step one – *GRACE!*

And we ask “*Why?*”... “*Because, I love you!*” God responds.

That is what God said to humanity when he entered our flesh though an infant presence in Bethlehem’s manger and exited through the agony of Calvary’s cruel cross. The divinity so majestically restrained in the physical body of Jesus was ravishly released in the resurrection and then poured out from heaven upon all flesh at Pentecost to splash upon the human timeline this era we call grace!

And how will respond today – in such a time as this? Perhaps resonating with the words penned by songwriter Gloria Gaither:

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven. I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.

I know my name is clear before my Father; I am His child and I am not afraid.

So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;

The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion. I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.

I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;

I'll dare to see another's point of view.

And when relationships demand commitment,

Then I'll be there to care and follow through!



The Way to Pray

There is a story I once heard about three pastors who were standing outside one day, discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the one pastor said.

"No," said the next minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." "You're both wrong," the oldest pastor said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor." The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole!"

I think that the repairman was probably the closest to the truth! But, perhaps if you were in prison, rather than hanging from a telephone pole, you may have an even better understanding of just how to pray! In fact, that is exactly what we see in Acts 4.

Peter and John were put in prison for preaching about Jesus. After they were released from the prison, they head back to the church, where they all begin to pray. And, their prayer, as recorded in Acts 4:23-30, provides a fantastic understanding of the best way to pray!

One Last Laugh...

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother. The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat.



You remember how mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the Church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."

Soon thereafter, mom sent out her letters of thanks: "David," she wrote one son, "The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have travel. I stay home most of the time, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude

Dearest Jeffrey," she wrote to her third son, "You really know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious!"



Welcome to Online Giving

"The Benefits To You & HBC!"

Online donations to HBC may be made at any time from the comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and each user can change his or her preferences or desired donation amounts at any time. You can make a one-time gift or a recurring donation.

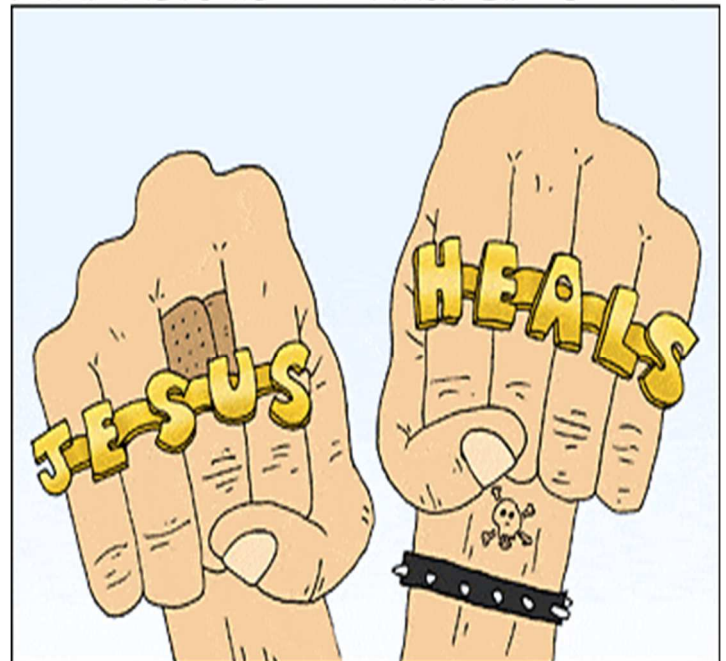
1. No need to hassle with checks or cash
 2. Totally secure encrypted 24/7 web-based access
 3. Easily schedule recurring donations to fit your pay periods
 4. Debit / Credit card option allows you to take advantage of rewards such as air miles or cash bonuses. Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted
 5. No need to share bank account information as you enter it directly into the Online Giving 100 % secure site
 6. Allows you to give even if you are unable to attend services
 7. Contribution amount is easily adjusted as desired or needed
- Option to remain anonymous

***Try it today at
[www.HiltonBaptist
Church.com!](http://www.HiltonBaptistChurch.com)***

***God is doing some exciting new
and powerful things through the
faithful people of God at HBC!***

***Please remember your tithing
commitments and giving and be
part of the ongoing miracle!***

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Josh Farmer

02-15-2008

AFTER SPIKE FOUND RELIGION