

***The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church.
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“And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17

Jonah sat in the dark, the walls of the great fish pressing in around him. The sound of water sloshed and gurgled beneath him, and the air was thick with the salty stench of the deep. His heart hammered in his chest as he sat hunched, knees pulled to his chest, the wetness of his clothes clinging to his skin. He couldn't tell how long it had been — an hour? A day? His sense of time was swallowed up just as he had been.

Jonah had never felt so alone. His mind raced back to that moment on the ship, when the storm had raged so fiercely, and he knew it was his fault. He had tried to run from God — as if such a thing were even possible. He had boarded that ship to Tarshish thinking he could outrun the call of God and hide. But God had found him. He always does. And now Jonah found himself in the greatest of all challenges to his faith... Waiting to see what would happen next...

Join Us This Sunday As We Continue Our Series On Jonah And Learn How To Grow Closer To God During Those Waiting Times.



“In the Belly of Waiting...”

The sailors’ terrified faces flashed through his mind as they cast lots and realized Jonah was the reason for the raging storm they were in. He had told them to throw him into the sea, convinced that it was better to die than to continue running from God. But instead of drowning, he found himself swallowed — not by death, but by a second chance.

Now here he was — suspended in darkness, in a place no one had ever been before. He was alive, but not yet free. Waiting. Wondering how long he would be here. Wondering if this was a punishment or a gift. Wondering if God was listening — or if he had finally been left alone. And so Jonah did the only thing he could do: he prayed...

*"I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction,
And He answered me. Out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
And You heard my voice." Jonah 2:2*

Tears welled in his eyes as the words tumbled out of his heart. He told God how scared he was, how ashamed he felt. He confessed how he had run, how he had doubted, how he had resisted. He didn’t know if he deserved to be saved — but he hoped that mercy was bigger than his failure. He sat there, breathing in the dark, wondering if God would answer.

The walls of the fish moved with each slow breath of the creature. The waiting was harder than the running had ever been. But as he sat there, a strange peace began to settle over him. He wasn't in control — he never had been. But God was. And if God had chased him down this far, then maybe He wasn't done with him yet.

Jonah began to realize that the waiting was not the punishment — it was the mercy. God wasn't finished with him. The belly of the fish was not the end; it was the beginning of surrender. *“Salvation is of the Lord.”* (Jonah 2:9) And with that whispered confession, the great fish turned. Jonah felt it shift and dive and then rise again. Light pierced through the darkness as Jonah was thrown onto the shore. He lay there, trembling and breathless, the sand beneath him rough and real. He was alive.

Jonah stood slowly, saltwater dripping from his hair, his legs shaky beneath him. He turned toward Nineveh, knowing that obedience lay ahead. But now he walked with a new heart — one that had learned to trust the God who hears even from the depths.

Waiting had not been a punishment - It had been the mercy of God. What “waiting times” are you facing? Could they be God’s mercy toward you?

On the grace journey together with you, Pastor Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

March 25, 2025

Budget \$725.00

Budget– Use of Building \$125.00

Annie Armstrong \$125.00

Cash in Cash out– Love offering Dreama \$50.00

Cash in Cash out– Sonshine Kids in memory of Lloyd Ware \$25.00

Cash in Cash out– Sonshine Kids in Memory of Joyce Spiers \$25.00

Coffee Fund \$4.00

Total Deposit \$1079.00

Happy Birthday in March

3/25 Lana Ntumngia

3/25 Billy Surber

3/31 Kirk Crippen

Happy Birthday in April

4/3 Charles Vassar

4/13 Tara Borton

4/17 Pat Painter

4/20 Nicholas Gibson

4/22 Dot Cook

4/26 Lillian Clopton

4/29 Wayne Tawney

Trash Can Key

If you had a trash can key, you need to check with Dreama in the office. We had to change the lock and the key you have now will not work! She has a new key for you.

Schedules

Lock up/ Hall Monitor

3/30 Joe Caskie

4/6 Roger Cooke

Counter

3/31 Kathy Caskie

4/7 Joe Wircenske

Kids Church

3/30 Tori Holt

4/6 Kathy Caskie

Grass Cutting

3/30 Jon and Barbara Michie

4/13 Stan Langdon

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Collected to Date \$ 1005.00



Kids Easter Celebration-

Saturday, April 12th 1am-2pm ages 4-12

Looking for volunteers to help- Please let Dreama know if you can help!

Plans are already being made!

Also, we are collecting candy for plastic eggs. It can be any kind of candy it just needs to fit inside a plastic egg. You can place your donations in the Mission Outreach Corner or in the office.

Projects with a Purpose- Anyone that would like to come out and help stuff the eggs we will be meeting Wednesday, April 9th at 1pm to get ready for the egg hunt.

There are invites in the Connection Center. Invite kids, its going to be a fun time. If you have any questions, please see Dreama .

Missions Outreach

If you have any questions on Missions Outreach Activities

call Pam Cooke 757-660-4226

Pray for our Missionaries

Ann Boyter, Ronda Massey, Tammy Richardson, (American People) RM, SR (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) John Cuentas Graces (GA) Deanna Corbett (LA) Jeramy McDaniel (OH) Judy Hansard (TN)

March Community Dinner is Friday, March 28th

The Dinner for March is the last Friday of the month. We can use your help! If you can help with clean up or the dinner see Pam Cooke. If you can help with the Food Giveaway, see Tara.

Desserts are needed! Cupcakes, brownies or any kind of dessert. If you can make something, sign up on the Mission Outreach Table or let Pam know. Olive Garden is supplying the meal.

WMU Mission Project for March- Food Pantry

These are the items needed: Bread, jelly, canned tuna, canned chicken, ketchup, mustard, mayo, hot sauce pancake mix and syrup. We really need plastic bags that do not have holes in them.

Calendar

Tuesday, March 25th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

Thursday, March 27th

12pm– 1pm Food Distribution

Friday, March 28th

5:30pm-6:30pm
Community Dinner

Food Distribution after dinner.
Free and open to the public

Sunday, March 30th

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, April 1st

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Thursday, April 3rd

12pm-1pm Food Distribution

Sunday, April 6th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Online and Live

Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids

Produce Giveaway after Worship



April Easter Celebrations

Friday, April 18– 7pm Good Friday
Service

Saturday, April 20th 10am Worship
Celebration– Jeus is Alive!

What a great time to invite your friends
and family to come to church!
We can celebrate we serve a risen Savior!



You Can't "Make" Me Feel The Way I Do...

Your feelings aren't necessarily true and you DO have control over them.

It's hard to ignore the power of your feelings. Modern media encourages this thinking with phrases like, "follow your heart," but God advises to be mindful of what your heart tells you.

Not all emotions are harmful. The Bible tells of at least 20 emotions Jesus felt including affection, anguish, anger, compassion, distress, grief, gladness, indignation, joy, love, peace, sadness, sympathy, and weariness.

But Jesus didn't allow others to control His emotions. No one can MAKE you angry; no one can MAKE you love them; no one can MAKE you worry, and no one can MAKE you happy. Guard your heart and let only God influence your feelings.

Make the decision to react or respond in ways that bring honor to God. Choose the fruits of the spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

When you let God drive your decisions and reactions, peace begins to blossom. You become more grounded, the negative turns positive, and joy fills your heart. Compare your emotions to the Word of God. If the two don't agree, your heart is deceiving you just as the Bible warns.

When God Answers Prayer

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery.

I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of chocolates, donuts, and cheesecakes.



I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to You. If You want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was! God is so good!



When It Seems God Is Silent

I absolutely love it when God speaks to me. Sometimes it's through His Word. Other times it is through another person. And on other occasions it is through the direct quiet voice of His Spirit into my spirit.

But recently I have taken another step along in my spiritual development. I am also learning to love it when it seems God is silent.

When Lazarus was dying, his sisters urgently called for Jesus. Imagine how their grief must have compounded when He didn't instantly respond.. God's silence is difficult to accept. Why is He silent at times?

Silence delays His action. We want Him to leap into action when we call, particularly if we are hurting or afraid. But since He promises to meet our needs, we can be sure that a silence from heaven has purpose.

Silence draws our attention. The disciples knew that Jesus could heal, so they must have wondered why He delayed instead of rushing to His friend's bedside. But the Lord wanted them to witness something even greater: His power over death! They had been confused by His statements about conquering death, and they needed to understand that He could fulfill His own resurrection prophecies. (Mark 9:31-32) The miracle at Lazarus' tomb was part of their preparation.

Silence deepens our assurance. Mary and Martha sent word of Lazarus' illness because they anticipated that the Lord would heal him. But would their faith waver if that expectation was not met?

Martha answered the question by stating, *"I believe that you are the Christ."* (John 11:21-27) The Lord rewarded the women's trust with a stunning miracle: their brother's return to life.

At times, the only thing we can hear when we pray is our own breathing. That can be frustrating and frightening. But Scripture says God is always with us. The Sovereign silence will not last forever.

In Job 23:8-10 we read *"But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold."*

According to Hebrews 13:5, God says *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."* When you pray and it seems God is silent in His reply, cling those promises as you seek the purpose behind His silence.



Giving In Joy

“We . . . offer our sacrifice of praise to God by telling others of the glory of his name.” Hebrews 13:15

Jesus knew that one of the real test of our yieldedness to God is our willingness to share with others. If we have no mercy toward others, that is one proof that we have never experienced God’s mercy.

Ralph Waldo Emerson must have been reading the gauge of human mercy when he said, *“What you are speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say.”* Satan does not care how much you theorize about Christianity, or how much you profess to know Christ. What he opposes vigorously is the way you live Christ.

Some time ago I heard of a a lady who wrote and said, “I am 65 years old. My children are all married, my husband is dead, and I am one of the loneliest people in all the world.” It was suggested to her that she find a way of sharing her religious faith and her material goods with those around her.

She wrote a few weeks later and said, “I am the happiest woman in town. I have found a new joy and happiness in sharing with others.”

That’s exactly what Jesus promised!

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

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

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Thanks to Charles Dunleavy

07-30-2010

LUCI-FER, YOU GOTTA LOTTA 'SPLAININ' TO DO