

JULY 13, 2022

THE MESSENGER

Official Newsletter of First Baptist Church



Summer Breeze: Vacation Time!

Dear Church Family:

The Hughes family hit the road this week and headed out. Vacation time is here! We are so excited to head to the coast and be with family for a week. Packing and preparation began weeks ago. Rebecca has worked furiously to ensure that we will not go wanting for anything on our beach trip. She was even nice enough to ask me to write out a list for any of my favorite snacks that I would like to have. I requested only the most basic staples of nutrition and wellness: Skittles, Diet Coke, and Crunch n' Munch. Please don't tell my doctor!

This week includes early morning walks, forcing screaming children to put on sunscreen, games on the beach, afternoons in the pool, and evening meals around the table with the family. I love this week and always look forward to it, but there is always something that I struggle with in weeks like these...they will soon be over. I mourn the end of vacation before its truly even started. I struggle to enjoy the present and instead fear the eventual end. What's wrong with me!? Is anyone else like this? Don't be afraid to admit it! There is room on the struggle bus for all!

I'll go so far to say that living in the present is a challenge for you too. Some are like me. They always see the regressive countdown in motion and fear the eventual stopping point of 0:00. Others can't be still long enough to enjoy the present. They feel like they must be doing something "productive" so they multi task their way into a frenzy. Still others are just far too distracted. The source is typically a small 4x6 inch device called an iPhone that connects you to a million things at once. Ever try talking to someone while they're looking at something on their phone? They can't engage in meaningful dialogue because they are too distracted! Hoping I'm not stepping on too many toes here, but I probably am so...let's move on!

How about we instead focus on why being present matters at all? First, there's a beauty to being present in the moment. We observe and appreciate people in ways that we would otherwise miss. They are transformed from the ordinary to the extraordinary as the handprints of our creator are revealed to us in their faces, voices, and smiles. Next, people (often those that we call wife, children, parents, etc.) feel validated by our presence. We really hear them, and they really need that. What an incredible gift to give someone we love, and it doesn't cost you a dime! Lastly, only in being present can we truly worship God. Jesus said it like this in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:33-34, "But seek first the Kingdom of God and all its righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble on its own."

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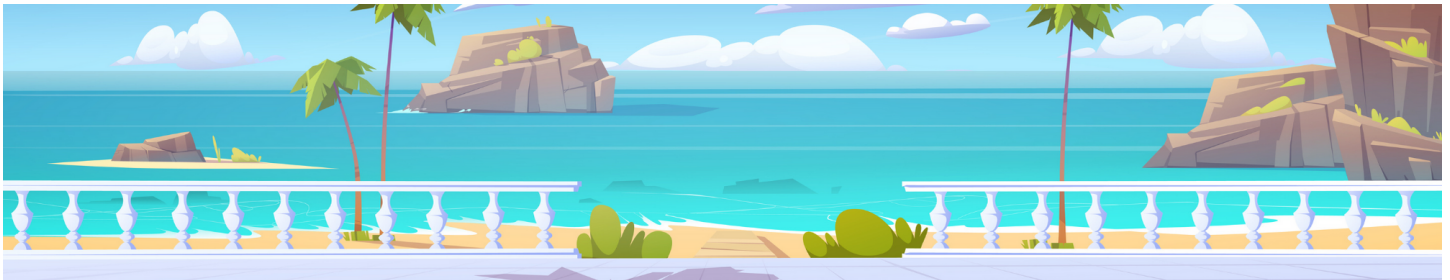
The David Hughes translation of this scripture is the following, “The Kingdom of God is the most extraordinary thing a human being can encounter in this life. It’s crammed everywhere in our world. Once you take time to see it, you’ll never want to lose it again. It’ll be everything you’ll ever need. Don’t lose this present and powerful gift by the “what ifs” of life.”

Thanks for allowing me to talk my vacation conundrum out with you. I really needed it and hope that it helped you too. I’ll ask for one other thing. When you see me again in a week’s time, don’t ask me where did we go or about what did we do. Ask me instead if I was present or not. I’ll give you an honest answer, but under one condition. I get to ask the same question of you in return. Deal? May the summer breeze continue to blow in our hearts, minds, and souls.

Sincerely,

Pastor David

P.S. Though written in the present tense, I wrote this article the week before I went on vacation for obvious reasons. :)



OPEN HANDS NEEDS DONATIONS

- Bath Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Grocery Bags*

DELIVER TO OPEN HANDS TUE / THUR 1-4 OR DROP OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE

*PLEASE DOUBLE BAG + FLATTEN GROCERY BAGS IF POSSIBLE

SUMMER YOUTH SUMMIT

JULY 30TH
10-NOON

CARROLLTON UPPER
ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT

MISSION TEAM NEEDS HELP
PACKING MEALS IN THE
MORNING + HANDING OUT MEALS

IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER, PLEASE
CONTACT MELANIE BROOKS :
MELANIE.BROOKS0517@GMAIL.COM
OR THE CHURCH OFFICE



FBC WILL BE HANDING OUT SACK LUNCHES TO FAMILIES

LOAD *the* **TRUCK**
FOR THE GEORGIA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Thank You To Everyone
Who Donated Items this year!
It was a HUGE success!



Giving UPDATE

Date
July 10, 2022

WEEKLY GIVING

BUDGET
REQUIRED

\$19,745.25

BUDGET
RECEIVED

\$21,107.00

YTD BUDGET
REQUIRED

\$552,867.00

YTD BUDGET
RECEIVED

\$556,722.00

WMU

WILL MEET
AUGUST 17TH

THE HOME OF SALLY CARDEN
451 SUNSET BLVD



Monday, July 18th

7:00a - Prayer Breakfast: Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 24

11:00a - Worship