

Vol. 9, Issue 6, June 2020

connect

*Welcome
Home*

JUNE

Due to the continued National State of Emergency ...

all in-person calendar events, with the exception of Sunday morning services, have been postponed or canceled until further notice. We are working hard to keep Imbc.org and our LMBC app updated with any current information available.



Lessons Every Day!

You can find them on our LKC Facebook page, [lmbc.org/lkc](https://www.facebook.com/lmbc.org/lkc), and our LMBC app.

REFUEL

Join us Live
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat @ 11:30am
and
Wednesday @ 9pm
at
[youtube.com/c/refuelstudents](https://www.youtube.com/c/refuelstudents)

20/20 BIBLE READING

Follow this month's daily Bible reading plan below to refocus in 2020.

1st Job 9-12

2nd Job 13-15

3rd Job 16-19

4th Job 20-22

5th Job 23-27

6th Job 28-30

7th Job 31-33

8th Job 34-36

9th Job 37-39

10th Job 40-42

11th Psalm 1-8

12th Psalm 9-16

13th Psalm 17-20

14th Psalm 21-25

15th Psalm 26-32

16th Psalm 33-36

17th Psalm 37-40

18th Psalm 41-47

19th Psalm 48-52

20th Psalm 53-59

21st Psalm 60-66

22nd Psalm 67-70

23rd Psalm 71-73

24th Psalm 74-77

25th Psalm 78-79

26th Psalm 80-86

27th Psalm 87-90

28th Psalm 91-97

29th Psalm 98-103

30th Psalm 104-105



TOGETHER AGAIN ON
PENTECOST
SUNDAY, MAY 31

After much prayer, guidance, and preparation, we are thrilled to be returning to worship at LMBC and we pray you'll be able to join us! While we are excited about gathering again as a church family, we are also being very cautious about making this a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

If you have experienced any COVID-19-related symptoms in the last two weeks, if you have compromising health issues, or if you're not quite ready to venture out, please join us for worship from the comfort of your home. (see "Continue to join us live" on pg. 3) Keep in mind that we love you and we want to protect you!

For the safety and well-being of those joining us on campus, please visit [lmbc.org/pentecost](https://www.lmbc.org/pentecost) to read about our plans and precautions as we navigate our new normal.

Sunday evening service schedule:

7th: Missionary Check-In

Pastor Lemming chats with missionary Phil Smith about the Coronavirus and missionary work in Papua New Guinea.

14th: Ask the Pastor

*See pg 3

21st: Father's Day

There will be no evening service to give you an opportunity to spend time with your fathers.

28th: Missionary "Check-Up"

Pastor Lemming chats with missionary Tom Kendall who is a medical doctor in Togo, Africa.

Continue to join us live ...

Sundays at 9:30 & 11 am, 6 pm, and Wednesdays at 7 pm on Facebook, [lmbc.tv](https://www.lmbc.tv), or our LMBC app.

If you need to contact us ...

We are back and working at full capacity. (Monday-Friday from 9 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm)



Daily Devotions ...

by our pastoral staff are posted Monday - Saturday on Facebook, [lmbc.org](https://www.lmbc.org)/devotions, and on our LMBC app. Be sure to take advantage of this daily wisdom from God's Word.

14th

"Ask the Pastor" night is your chance to have any question you may have about the Bible and the faith discussed and answered by our pastoral staff. You can send your questions to ask@lmbc.org or visit [lmbc.org/ask-the-pastor](https://www.lmbc.org/ask-the-pastor) and fill out the available form.

ASK THE PASTOR

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE

REMEMBERING PENTECOST SUNDAY

“... we can be encouraged in knowing that what was true for those first Christians thousands of years ago is still true today!”

While many of our day to day activities have been significantly curtailed over the last two months, it has been difficult not to become fatigued by the rapid onslaught of information dealing with the changes taking place in our society in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost daily, residents tune in to press conferences to learn what businesses and activities have closed and which ones will be reopening in the coming days. The blistering rate of change that has, up to this point, come to define the year 2020, leaves many wondering what the future holds. Will our favorite summer events and festivals go on as planned? What will school look like in the fall? Will a “second wave” of the virus emerge? Will we have to modify our holiday traditions at the end of the year?

While many of these questions may lack definitive answers in the coming weeks and months, we can look to the birth of Jesus’ church, which occurred just over 2,000 years ago, to learn that, in the face of unprecedented circumstances, some things never change. While there are many cultural and situational differences between the first Christians and us, the first two chapters of Acts share some interesting parallels with our time.

We learn in 1 Corinthians 15 that, following His death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples, along with over five hundred other believers, proving His victory over sin and death. Imagine being one of those first witnesses who, with their very own eyes, saw the risen Savior. Their hearts were, no doubt, filled with awe, joy, courage, and passion for telling the world about what they had seen!

However, Jesus, before ascending back to Heaven, gives His disciples what amounts to a “stay at home order.” Acts 1:4 reads, “While staying with them He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father.”¹ After waiting, Jesus promised, His disciples would be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, and become gospel witnesses across the world.

So, why did Jesus command them to wait? God could have sent the Holy Spirit upon these believers the very day Jesus returned to Heaven. Instead, He instructed them to wait for what would amount to ten days in an upper room in Jerusalem. During their time of waiting, they had the opportunity to think about and process all they had witnessed, from Jesus’ teaching ministry to His death on the cross, to His triumphal resurrection. They had the opportunity to coalesce around their identity as brothers and sisters in Christ. They had the opportunity to pray together. The divinely-ordained, ten day “stay at home order” prepared the hearts of the disciples for a great move of God that was yet to come.

Then, on Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, they emerged from the upper room and, quite literally, changed the world through their proclamation of the gospel of Jesus. As we regather as a church on Pentecost Sunday 2020, we can be encouraged in knowing that what was true for those first Christians thousands of years ago is still true today!

#1 - The Holy Spirit still uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

“And suddenly there came from Heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:2-4).

Acts chapter 2 describes an important day in history. The church was born into existence. Thousands of people were saved and baptized. The Spirit of God moved in a new, fresh way during that time. Who did God choose to usher in this new era? These first apostles had no religious or academic pedigree. Conversely, several were fishermen, while others were converts saved from markedly public failures and sinful lifestyles. They were, in short, very ordinary in relation to their cultural

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural passages referenced are in the English Standard Version.

surroundings. When Holy Spirit rushed into the room on Pentecost Sunday, taking residence in those ordinary people, they began to do some very extraordinary things, namely, preaching the gospel of Jesus in languages of those who were gathered in Jerusalem from surrounding nations.

The quarantine life, for many of us, has felt very ordinary. Even now, as restrictions have begun to ease, we realize that opportunities to share the gospel with others appear to be few and far between. However, just as he did in that upper room thousands of years ago, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in the life of every believer from the moment they put their faith in Jesus. We may feel unimportant and ordinary, and, in the eyes of the world, we may be, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, God will do extraordinary things to us when we yield to His will and His mission, even during a pandemic.

#2 - The gospel still has the power to change hearts.

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:37-38).

Barely a month ago, a crowd in Jerusalem,

dead set on killing Jesus, cried out, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” On Pentecost Sunday, we, once again, find a crowd in Jerusalem talking about Jesus. However, this time, their hearts are broken over His death, and they are ready to confess Him as Lord of their lives.

To what can we attribute this sudden, drastic change in attitudes and thinking? Scripture leaves no ambiguity here. The proclamation of the gospel, the “good news” about Jesus, was the driving force behind the crowd’s repentance. The Apostle Peter, one of those ordinary men, did an extraordinary thing as he proclaimed to the crowd the news of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Upon hearing the gospel, the crowd was “Cut to the heart”. Further reading of Acts chapter 2 reveals that over 3,000 people were saved and baptized that day!

Why was Peter’s message so successful? Peter did not wax eloquent with oratory skills but quoted extensively from the Hebrew Scriptures, word for word. Peter was not a prominent influencer of the day, but rather a Galilean fisherman who held little to no social standing. The power of Peter’s sermon had nothing to do with the skill or status of the messenger and everything to do with the message. There is power in the name of Jesus.

In our times, we face new barriers in communicating the gospel. How can we reach the world with the gospel in the age of social distancing? How can we persuade others to

trust in Jesus from behind a mask? While we may need to be innovative in the method by which we communicate the gospel, the message will always be the same, and it is just as powerful to change hearts today as it was 2,000 years ago.

#3 - We still need each other.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47).

After the “big day” on Pentecost, the quickly-growing church was a very exciting place to be. Their first gatherings were defined by teaching, prayer, friendship, and, apparently, food! Of all the characteristics that marked the new, exciting movement, this group of believers was ultimately marked by love. They loved doctrine, sitting under the teaching of the Apostles, who recounted the life and teaching of Jesus. They loved to pray, devoting themselves to holding

powerful prayer meetings that shook buildings (Acts 4:31)! They loved the lost, refusing to allow the nascent group to become a “holy huddle,” but rather adding new believers to their gathering on a daily basis. They loved to gather, meeting together in the temple courts in one large group, and also in small groups at homes.

Finally, they loved each other. While this early church represented a diverse group of people from literally, all over the world, they demonstrated a remarkable, unshakeable love for one another. They shared meals together. They prayed together. They sold property and possessions to meet each other’s financial needs. Tertullian, an early Christian leader and author, remarked of this new group of believers, “See they say, how they love one another...how they are ready to die for one another.”

Gathering as a church looks a little different these days. Is it really worth the extra guidelines, constantly adjusting uncomfortable masks, and acclimating to new service times? Acts chapter 2 is one of many portions of Scripture that answers our question with a big, resounding “YES!” We need each other now more than ever.



by Matt McClay

Matt McClay oversees the student ministry at Lewis. He was raised locally in Huntington, and married his wife April in March of 2011. In May of 2012, Matt and April welcomed their daughter, Addison, into the world. Matt has a heart for student ministry, the outdoors, and redeeming technology for God’s glory.



in June

we'll learn from the **life of Christ.**

School's out and church is in! For the month of June we will be worshipping as families but the kids will still have weekly lessons, continuing through the earthly ministry of Jesus. Located on our website and app, be sure to tune in with your kids.



LESSONS EVERY DAY!

In June we invite you and your kids to spend every day with Jesus. These short devotionals will be available online and on the app. We will walk alongside Jesus and look at each of His miracles.

WELCOME BACK TO



PHASE ONE
begins June 1

In-Person Meetings at LMBC!

HIGH SCHOOL
Mondays @ 1 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tuesdays @ 1 pm

Sign-up at lmbc.org/refuel

REFUEL
Late Nite

Wednesdays @ 9 pm

Live at youtube.com/c/refuelstudents



Here is the latest from missionaries...

BRENT & TAMMY LOWE

EUROPE

Dear Praying Friends,

*But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed
you, O Israel:
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine. When
you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm
you; when you walk through fire you shall not be
burned,
and the flame shall not consume you. For I am
the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your
Savior. (Is. 43:1-3)*

I am sure that many of you are facing difficulties in light of the corona virus and the uncertainty that it has brought to our lives. I am thankful that as believers we can be confident in our God who created us and who has called us by name! As we work with missionaries who are serving across the world, we are reminded of the great needs of people both physically and spiritually.

We have had the privilege of talking with and encouraging missionaries who have had to evacuate the countries that they are serving in due to the virus. As you can imagine, many of them are struggling with the thought of leaving behind those they love and those who need to know Christ!

The missionaries that we have been meeting with by way of video calls have had to return from the countries of Togo, Ghana, South Africa and Tanzania in Africa, from the Asian countries of Thailand and Bangladesh, from Spain, Portugal and Romania in Europe and from Peru in South America. Others remain on the field in some difficult situations where they have stay at home orders. Please pray for these servants of God

who are facing unprecedented times!

We also have tried to be an encouragement to those missionaries who are in the process of raising partners to get to their field of service. As you can imagine, humanly speaking this is a terrible time to be raising financial support, but we know that God is faithful and he will continue to provide. Pray that they will not get discouraged and give up!

On a personal note, we are thankful for continued health and safety. We have had all four kids at home since the middle of March. Tori and Keegan finished up their college year online last Friday. Emma and Olivia are finishing up their school year in a couple of weeks. Olivia will be finishing up her high school years as she graduates at the end of the month!

Thank you for your prayers and support!
Brent, Tammy, Tori, Keegan, Olivia and Emma

Be an encouragement! Here's how you can contact this missionary family:

Brent & Tammy Lowe
brentammylowe@abwe.cc
304-785-8501

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



Doug & Kathy McClain
Germany



Jason & Adele Rice
Slovakia



Wendy Hinzman
France



Brent & Tammy Lowe
Portugal



Mark & Hillary Stipp
Spain



Andy & Mimi Bonikowsky
Spain



Joel & Debbie Dicks
Hungary

A FATHER'S PROPELLING LOVE

In Amos chapter 4, we read over and over, “Yet you have not returned to me,” declares the LORD”.

Amos delivers startling judgment from the LORD - reminding Israel, His children, of how they had gone from city to city sinning more and more - of their oppression of the poor and needy - of their meaningless sacrifices and tithes - and their boastings about it all... and then - of all He had brought down upon them because of these things, and “YET” how they had not returned to Him.

The love of the LORD, as a Father, propels Him to go to great lengths to have His children return to a right relationship with Him.

In Exodus 19-20, God went to great lengths in order to proclaim the commandments to Moses before the people at Mount Sinai - which included in part “Do not have any other gods before Me ... Do not make for yourself an idol ...for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God ...” And lest we think for a minute that this same love does not apply to us let us refresh our minds with John 3:14-17.

God made a way where there was no way for us to approach Him - not because He had to but because He desired to save us and - not just to save us but to dwell with us forever and to love us as His own - John 14:15-21.

While chapter four leaves us wondering what God is going to do - the one thing we know for sure is His Glory will be seen ... Because we know that God's glory is always seen in His dealings with His children - whether it is in the triumph He gives them over their enemies or in the display of His mercy and grace toward them.

I know this deep pursuing love of God in a very personal way. He has pursued me more than once when I veered to the right or left. His pursuit of me from the ‘pit’ when, like Israel, I liked to ‘boast’ of worshiping rather than truly and faithfully worshiping God alone, is what led me back to Him and how He taught me of His grace. The Father's pursuit of me is what saved me from myself then - and it is what prepared me for everything in between then and now. Grace revealed His mercy and love - and these continually pointed me back to His grace - and together they developed a relationship of reciprocal love and devotion that strengthened me to weather storms of life that would have otherwise destroyed me. This life-giving, father-daughter relationship continues to fill me daily with strength and peace, courage and comfort, and wisdom that teaches me to totally rely on Him. He picks me up when I fall and turns me around when I get off track. He is my life and the lover of my soul - and I am forever and profoundly thankful for His faithfulness as a Father to pursue and love me.



by Mary Ellen Black

Mary Ellen is a member of the LMBC office staff and the copy and content editor for Connect Magazine. She is the leader of both the Joy and Insideout Life Groups, and she seeks to encourage, equip, and empower women to have a full and vibrant relationship with God and a passion for His Word. She is the mother of two grown daughters and the writer and creator of the blog “Me from the Insideout” (mefromthensideout.com).

JOIN OTHERS WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE DIFFERENCE MAKERS

God called us to be salt and light to the world. This page is dedicated to efforts that help illuminate the darkness by shining the light of Christ. Will you be a difference maker?

WE WANT TO SAY ... THANK YOU!

- Thank you to everyone who has so generously made and contributed masks to be used for the protection of our staff and of all who attend during this time. We are beyond grateful for your time and generosity.



We want to thank everyone who faithfully donates to the LifeBridge, however, due to the Coronavirus we are unable to receive donations at this time. We will alert you here and online when we are able to resume this process of the ministry.



HELP THOSE WHO ARE LONELY WITH A ... SIMPLE ACT OF KINDESS

The social distancing requirements of recent months have impacted us all in one way or another, but perhaps none more than our shut-ins. Some of them are in homes and others are confined to a nursing home - where they haven't even been allowed visits from their families. You can bring a smile to their face and make a difference in their day by something as simple as sending them a card. Contact our office at 304-736-7676 for a mailing address and be sure and let them know you are from Lewis Memorial.

Our Missionaries have been impacted as well. Available updates have been posted on lmbc.org/missionary-updates. You can also hear from two of our missionaries this month via our Sunday evening livestream. Join us on June 7 to hear from Phil Smith in Papua New Guinea and on June 28 to hear from Tom Kendall in Togo. The live stream can be found on lmbc.tv, the LMBC App, and Facebook Live.

If you would like to make a difference in the lives of these two missionary families you can email:

Phil & Jan Smith at phismithpng@abwe.cc

Tom & Melissa Kendall at kendall@abwe.cc



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

Bereavements

- Sandra Harris, Beverly Hinchman's mother
- Madge Lusk, Justin Lusk's grandmother
- Kenneth Wagoner, Pam Carter's father

Salvations & Spiritual Decisions

A total of 4 salvations or spiritual decisions were reported via social media during our live streams during the month of May!

Staff Birthdays

- Nathan McClay (19th)

Curb-side service

In our current and ever-increasing need for touchless service the following items are now available online or for curb-side pick-up:

- Our Daily Bread Magazine (also available online at ourdailybread.org/read/)
- Word For You Today Devotional Book (also available on mobile devices)
- Printed copies of the Connect Magazine

To receive your items visit the appropriate link, call the church office at 304-736-7676, or simply stop by M-F, 9 am-noon or 1-4 pm.

HOW TO JOIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

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 Contact



Complete an information card during a service or contact us so we can ask you a few simple questions.

3rd Meet



Meet the pastors for **Starting Point** in L112 (WC) and find out what is expected of a member of LMBC.



Life Groups are vital to a believer's spiritual growth. That's why groups are still meeting as they are able even during this crisis. For help getting connected, contact Tim Yates at 304-736-7676 *209 or t.yates@lmbc.org

OUR PASTORS

¹⁷ Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. **Hebrews 13:17 NIV**

David Lemming *Senior Pastor*

Dr. David Lemming has been the Senior Pastor of Lewis Memorial Baptist Church in Huntington, West Virginia, since December 1982. He was saved as a teenager and early on became actively involved in various phases of Christian ministry. He has a heart for people and actively seeks new ways of extending Christ's love to those in Huntington and around the world. He and his wife, Mary, have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Tim Yates *Life Group & Outreach Pastor*

Tim Yates is an assistant pastor who oversees the Life Groups at Lewis Memorial. Tim and his wife Myra grew up locally and graduated from Barboursville High School. Both Tim and Myra are multiplying small group leaders and thoroughly enjoy their role as trainers and equippers for the glory of God. They have a passion for making disciples and mentoring small group apprentices.

Nathan McClay *Worship Pastor*

Nathan McClay is an assistant pastor and oversees the music and worship ministry of LMBC. He has been serving God at Lewis since 1991. Nathan and his wife, Audrey, have four children and two grandchildren.

Jeremy Shaffer *Executive Pastor*

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 Lewis since 2004. He and Rebekah have two children, Grace and Luke.

Matt McClay *Student Pastor*

Matt McClay oversees the student ministry at Lewis. He was raised locally in Huntington and married his wife April in March of 2011. In May of 2012, Matt and April welcomed their daughter, Addison, into the world. Matt has a heart for student ministry, the outdoors, and redeeming technology for God's glory.

Phil Newberry *Membership Pastor*

Phil and Ann Newberry have been faithfully serving the Lord at Lewis Memorial Baptist Church since 1972. They prepared for service at Tennessee Temple University. Over the years, their service has focused on reaching the young people of the area. Phil and Ann have served as the youth leaders for junior high and high school students, directed the children's church ministries and led the college department. Phil has also been active in the music ministry and is an ordained deacon.

Bill Blankenship *Hospital Visitation Pastor*

Bill Blankenship oversees the hospital and nursing home visitation program at Lewis Memorial. Bill and his wife, Debbie, have a loving and caring heart for the sick, shut-ins, widows and widowers. Bill and Debbie married in 1974 and have two grown children and are proud grandparents of Grace, Olivia, Jaxon, and Christian.

Connect is the monthly news and informational publication from



Making disciples who live and love like Jesus

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304-691-0633

***TEMPORARY
SUNDAY WORSHIP
(via Live Stream)
9 am & 6 pm**

***WEDNESDAY BIBLE
STUDY
(via Live Stream)
7 pm**

**for as long as the stay-at-home order persists*

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Read previous editions of Connect at Imbc.org.

WELCOME HOME