

connect

HIS
LOVE
HAS
BEEN
POURED
OUT
FOR
YOU

FEBRUARY



Due to the ongoing battle of Covid-19, we are still observing the socially-distanced seating of every other pew and 4-6 ft between each 'family' unit. We are also asking all who attend any of our services, out of consideration for the high-risk and elderly, that you keep a mask on while in the church buildings.

Our office is fully staffed Monday - Friday from 9 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm. In case of emergency you can reach us on the emergency pager at 304-691-0633.



Can't be here in person?

Continue to join us live Sundays at 9 and 10:45 am on Facebook, Imbc.tv, or our LMBC app.

D Life Groups

If you would like to know more about what groups are meeting and how to get connected, please contact the church office at 304-736-7676.





In the FLC Gym!
Sundays @ 9 am

Wednesdays @ 7pm

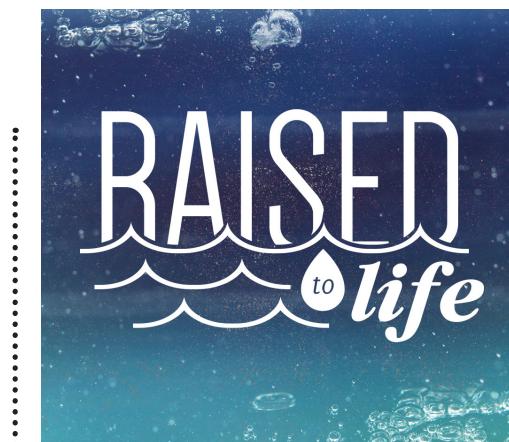
Read more on pg. 12



Middle - High School Grades 6-12

In the SMB! Wednesdays @ 6:45pm

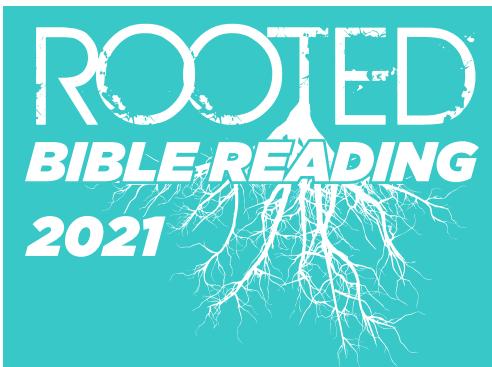
youtube.com/c/refuelstudents
Read more on pg. 12



Need to be Baptized?
We are beginning to take reservations for baptisms. If you are interested in our safety procedures and availability call the church office at 304-736-7676.

It's Time to Claim Your Rooted Bible Reading Gift

Bible Gifts for 2020 have arrived! If you participated in and completed the 2020 Bible Reading Plan We have a special gift for you. You can choose from eight different options by visiting imbc.org/rooted or by calling the church office, 304-736-7676.



Jesus, the Teacher

- 1st** Matthew 5:1-16
- 2nd** Matthew 5:21-26,38-42
- 3rd** Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36
- 4th** Matt. 6:19-34; Luke 12:2-33
- 5th** Matt. 7:1-6; Luke 6:37-42
- 6th** Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:1-13
- 7th** OFF
- 8th** Deut. 4:32-40; 6:4-5
- 9th** Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 10th** Psalms 13:1-6; 59:1-17
- 11th** Psalm 107:1-9
- 12th** Psalm 136:1-26
- 13th** Psalm 139:1-18
- 14th** OFF
- 15th** Micah 7:14-20
- 16th** Romans 8:31-39
- 17th** Rom. 12:9-10; 13:8-10
- 18th** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- 19th** 2 Corinthians 5:11-21
- 20th** Gal. 5:13-15; Eph. 2:1-10
- 21st** OFF
- 22nd** Eph. 3:14-21; Col. 3:12-15
- 23rd** John 15:9-17
- 24th** 1 John 3:11-24
- 25th** 1 John 4:7-21
- 26th** 2 John
- 27th** Heb. 13:1-3; Jude 17-21
- 28th** OFF

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

The scene has been played out multiple times in recent years: unruly mobs taking to the streets of our cities, bent on riotous destruction, even invading the capitol in Washington, DC, with each side of the spectrum attempting to stand up for their perception of the truth.

We have a nation that is severely divided by left and right, with media outlets eager to feed one-sided narratives of the issues at hand. It seems like civility has gone by the wayside, and constructive debate is almost non-existent.

As I reflect on what has become of our nation, I am reminded of what Paul wrote to the Ephesians in the fourth chapter of his epistle to them, "speaking the truth in love." The two main ingredients of this phrase, truth, and love, are sorely missing in our nation's discourse.

You may recall that it was an angry crowd, fueled by the rage of religious

leaders, that delivered our Lord to Pontius Pilate to try, condemn and crucify the Savior of the world. This mob had their list of grievances too, or in other words, their idea of what they thought was the truth. When Jesus spoke to Pilate on the subject of truth, Pilate asked the question that echoes down the corridor of time, "What is truth?"

When debating, addressing, teaching, counseling, or consoling, we must be sure that we are armed with the truth. We read in John 17 when Jesus was praying for His disciples, and ultimately all believers down through the ages, one of His requests of the Father was, "Sanctify them by Thy truth. Thy Word is truth."

As followers of Christ, we are to be set apart from the world (or sanctified) by God's Word. Being set apart from the world lines up well with the context of Paul's words, "speaking the truth in love," as recorded in Eph. 4. Paul was



writing to the Ephesians concerning Christ giving gifts to His church. The purpose of giving gifts to the church was so that the church would be mature, and not like children "being driven by every wind of doctrine."

As Christians, our primary source of truth for edifying ourselves and others, as well as reaching the lost, is the Holy Bible, the Word of God. Remember Paul said that it (the scripture) "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." It should be, as the Psalmist put it, "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path."

It is not just enough to be ready to give out and stand up for the truth. We must be poised to do so with the right attitude. In that great love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, Paul details the many qualities of love. All of the descriptive phrases can be seen in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails ..." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

The one phrase that stands out to me as a key in our relationship with one another is that "love seeks not its own." In Philippians 2, we see when Christ came into this world as a man, that "He made Himself of no reputation." John Walvoord put it this way, "Love was when God became a man, locked in time and space without rank or place.....to reach and love one such as I." In our interactions with one another, we should always seek not what is in the best interest of ourselves but what is most beneficial to others. Sometimes that will involve not being concerned with ourselves being the seat of knowledge but being concerned with being loving, truthful, and helpful in our conversations and actions - both with believers and unbelievers alike.

May God give us the inclination in our conversations to always speak the truth in love.



by Nathan McClay

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 been married for 28 years and have 4 children and two grandchildren.

A LOVE THAT SAYS ...

*There is therefore now
No Condemnation ...*



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).

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Romans 8:1-2

I love the absolute TRUTH of this passage! Seriously! It excites me that there is **now** NO condemnation of my sin ... **because** I am In Christ Jesus ... and the law of the Life-giving Spirit has set me FREE from the law of sin and death. Yet, sin will always be a real and present struggle for the believer. This struggle can and should raise conviction from the Holy Spirit to turn away from that sin - but it can also raise 'emotions' or internal charges of guilt and condemnation. This is where grace comes in - for we no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, we live under the freedom of God's grace - not just that we have been saved by grace - but that in **LOVE** and mercy God accepted Christ's blood as payment for our sin, and we are no longer charged with the debt!

I had been a Christian for 21 years before I knew or fully understood this life-changing truth. I still remember the relief the day a pastor friend of mine helped me understand that I don't have to, nor can I, repay God for my sins. It's important to know that I firmly believed I was saved by grace through faith in Christ, that it was not by works that I had done, but rather a gift from God. However, while I knew I couldn't lose my salvation even if I sinned, somewhere along the way, I had begun to live as though I needed to repay God whenever I did sin. I lived a life of trying to be better, trying to live up to His standards, knowing that I hadn't, and looking for more "good things" to do to garner His pleasure and maintain His love. As you can imagine, and perhaps have experienced, that lifestyle gets exhausting and does not accomplish its purpose. What I mean is this, if He loved me enough to send His son to die for me, even when I was His enemy, why would I think there was anything I could do to cause Him to love me more than that? His only 'begotten' Son gave His life for my sins. Did I seriously think there was anything I could give - or do for that matter - that would amount to more than that? The answer to both of these questions, of course, is an emphatic NO! What I had to learn was that just as my sin would

never cost me my salvation, it would also never change His love for me.

Now, some may think that this means we can go on sinning. However, Paul addressed this question at least two different times - and both were a resounding no! In Romans 6:1-2 He said, "Of course not," or in the more stringent King James translation - "God Forbid!" In Romans 6:1-2 Paul's reply to the same question was, "By no means!". He went on to explain to his audience, as my friend explained to me, that as followers of Christ they were no longer living under the law of sin and death. They had been set free, as he said in Romans 8:1-2, by "the law of the life-giving Spirit," a reiteration of his teaching from chapter 6 that believers live under the "freedom of God's grace."

However, living under the freedom of God's grace doesn't mean we won't be tempted with sin. Paul spoke of this struggle with sin in chapters 6 and 7, but here in Roman's 8:1-2, he takes it a step further by proclaiming the wonderful TRUTH that those who are in Christ Jesus are no longer subject to the condemnation that comes from the law of sin and death. Why? Because of this one simplistic, yet profoundly intricate, answer -

"For this is how God **LOVED** the world: He **GAVE** His one and only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but **TO SAVE** the world through Him -"

To be clear, I know that growing in wisdom and knowledge of the Lord is a worthy goal. I know that working on living the Holy life He has called me to, loving God and others better, and keeping in step with the Spirit more today than I did yesterday are all worthy goals. The difference between now and then - I no longer do it to maintain His Love but rather because I want to honor Him for His love - a love that says - "**There is therefore now no condemnation**".

JASON LOVINS BAND



COMING FEB. 2!

A VIRTUAL CONCERT WITH
JASON LOVINS BAND

Tune in at 7 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 2 for a Livestream Concert with The Jason Lovins Band!

Watch on Facebook (you don't need an account. Just follow the links):

<https://www.facebook.com/LewisMemorial>

<https://www.facebook.com/Jewel-City-Sessions-101165395210786>

We've partnered with Jewel City Sessions to bring you this evening full of foot-tapping gospel music we know you'll love! You don't want to miss out on this special event - and neither will your friends so be sure and share the news.



What is D-Now Weekend?

A D-Now Weekend (short for “Discipleship Now”) is a youth retreat designed to be “at home.” Many youth trips involve traveling and doing mission work at another location. What makes the D-Now Weekend different is that we will stay in our own hometown and focus on our own church family and local community! We are so thankful that God has given us the opportunity, in light of the circumstances we’re all facing, to host our 9th annual D-Now Weekend at Refuel!

What will we be doing this year?

This year's D-Now Weekend will be centered on growing closer to Jesus and serving him together. We'll spend time at the church studying the Bible together, eating together, and enjoying being together. Then, on Saturday afternoon, we'll serve Jesus together. We have several projects around the community set up, including putting appreciation packages together for first responders and frontline workers. For the “fun” element of the weekend, we have booked a private movie theater at Cinemark for each TAG/Small group!

How will COVID-19 effect this year's D-Now Weekend?

Our Refuel leaders have put together a plan to incorporate many of our students' favorite D-Now Weekend components (Bible study, service projects, food, fun) in keeping with responsible COVID-19 guidelines. Be on the

lookout in our upcoming email for a detailed itinerary and outline of the precautions we are planning to observe.

Our D-Now Weekends usually include an overnight element, where students stay in host homes. Unfortunately, we have determined that the overnight portion is not feasible this year in light of the pandemic. However, we will extend the duration of the event during the day on Saturday to give students more opportunities to serve, play, and grow together during these challenging times!

What's the food like?

We eat at D-Now weekend...a lot. We serve dinner on Friday, and breakfast/lunch/dinner on Saturday. This year, we will be bringing in outside vendors including Waffle House and Husson's Pizza!

If your student has special dietary needs, you will have the opportunity to let us know on the online registration form.

How much does it cost?

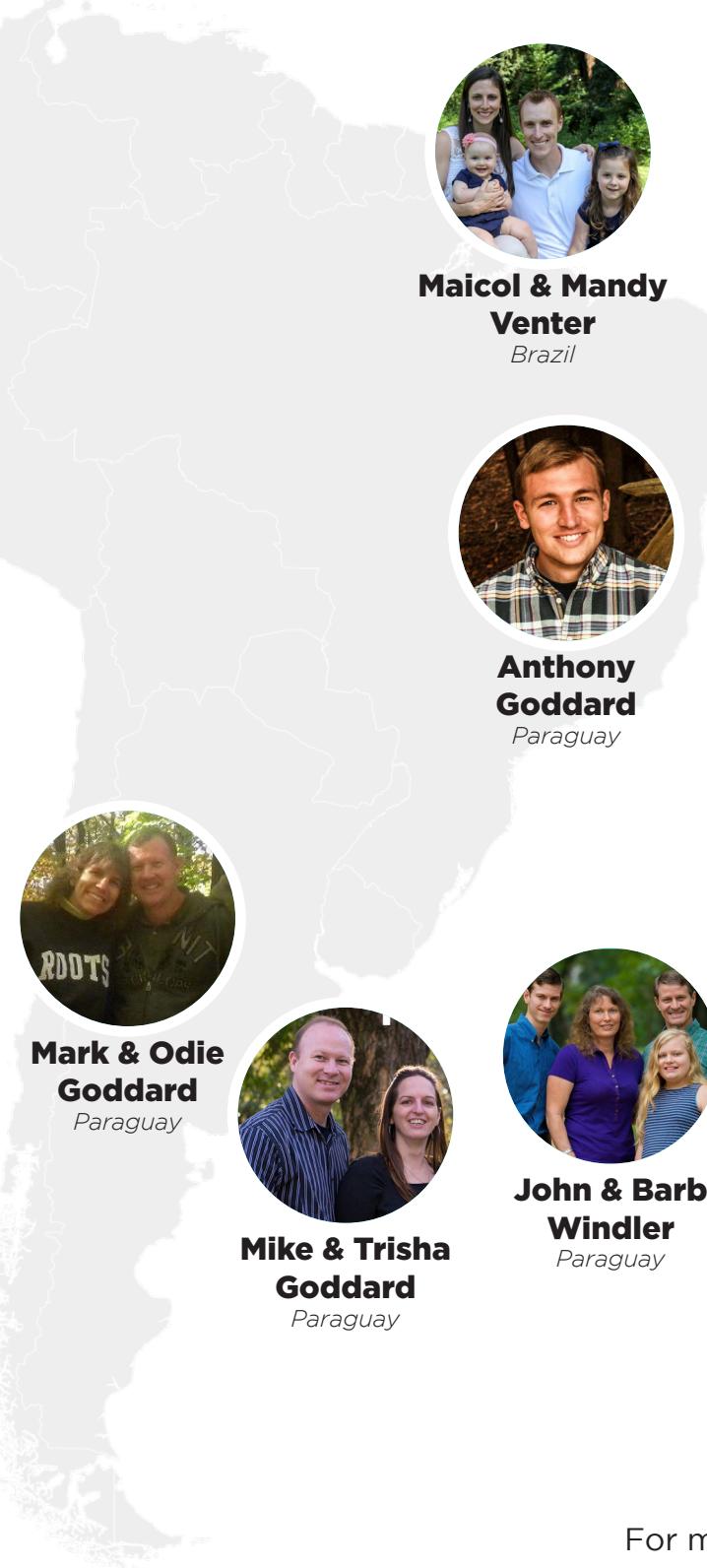
The cost for the weekend is \$35, which covers food, curriculum, service projects, and D-Now t-shirt.

How do I sign up?

Online registration for this year's D-Now Weekend will open on Wednesday, Feb. 3.



MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH



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

Dear Ministry Partners,

If there was one word to describe how we feel about 2020, it would be “Surprised”.

We moved to Southern Brazil on February 4th, 2020 to launch into what we expected to be a full year of ministry opportunities with the Southern Cone Initiative. Just like everyone else in the world, we were surprised when all of our plans for the year were canceled due to COVID-19.

Once we pivoted into what God was doing in our city, we were surprised at how many opportunities He gave us. God connected us to many people in our new community. This led to many gospel conversations. We saw dozens of discipleship groups launched, and when the church did regather for Sunday worship, it had grown from 120 to 210!

Lastly, we were surprised at how many church-planters, pastors, and ministry leaders we were able to connect with throughout Southern Brazil even after our plans had been canceled. We connected with 168 pastors, partnered with 21 of those pastors, and launched 3 Strategic Projects in 3 major cities in Southern Brazil.

All of these “surprises” serve to remind us of the fact that missions is providential. The determining factor is always God. Visit us online at thesoutherncone.org/2020 to read our Annual Report.

Helping People Meet, Know, and Follow Jesus

Connect: In 2020, we connected with 174 Planters, Pastors, and Ministry Leaders through 7 learning experiences with 3 of our Global Ministry Partners. In 2021, we aim for 500 New Connections.

Catalyze: In 2020, we launched The Criciuma Project to help catalyze gospel movements in Southern Santa Catarina. In 2021, The Floripa & Gaucho Projects as well as 10 New Leadership Cohorts.

Coach: We are coaching 21 ministry leaders in gospel movement best practices for maximum ministry effectiveness in least-reached contexts in the Southern Cone. In 2021, we expect to expand our training efforts.

Proclaim - Multiply - Engage - Plant

We are asking God for a gospel movement in every metropolitan region with over a million people in Argentina, Uruguay, and Southern Brazil in our generation.

We define the Southern Cone as a geographic region in South America located east of the Andes Mountains and south of the Tropic of Capricorn that encompasses Argentina, Uruguay, and Southern Brazil, whose people are primarily of European descent and who are considered to be mostly least-reached.

We characterize a Gospel Movement as the Spirit-led progression of Gospel Proclamation, Disciple Multiplication, Community Engagement, and Church Planting. (thesoutherncone.org)

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

Jonathan & Erin Mathews
Caixa Postal, 07
Vianópolis-GO
75265-000
Brazil
dailygrace@outlook.com

Lewis Kids Connection

Sundays @ 9 am (only)
Preschool - 5th grade meet in the Gym
(Drop off at the FLC)
Sanitized and safe!

Wednesday, Feb. 10
Love One Another
We're showing love to our shut-ins by making cards!

Wednesday, Feb. 24
Board Game Night
Games for all ages!

Visit Imbc.org/lkc for more info or ask to join our Facebook group.

REFUEL

Connect

To learn more about upcoming events, watch Refuel-related videos, or learn more about our student ministry, download the Refuel Students app from the App Store, or follow our Instagram account @refuelstudents.

Wednesdays

Refuel, our student ministry meets every Wednesday night from 6:45-8:15pm in the Student Ministry Building. Students grades 6-12 are invited to join us weekly for an evening of friends, music, small groups, and Bible teaching. To read more about our COVID-19 precautions, please visit our website at Imbc.org.

Parents

Sign-up to receive our weekly "ParentConnect" email! Our bi-weekly email to parents contains notes from each week's lesson, along with information about upcoming activities and events. Sign-up to receive ParentConnect emails at Imbc.org.

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 AGAIN!

- To all who gave to our 2020 Gifts for Jesus. The total keeps climbing and is now at **\$89,530!** Many people will be blessed both physically and spiritually by your generosity.



KEEP SOMEONE WARM WITH OUR ...

COAT DRIVE

- The cold winter months are here and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** LifeBridge, our food and clothing pantry, is collecting new or gently used COATS to distribute to those who are in need. If you would like to donate a coat, you can leave it in one of the bins behind the LifeBridge house, beside the SMB.



If you've watched the news lately, you've probably seen the long lines of cars at food banks around **our country**. Will you help us make a difference in the lives of people right here in **our community**? When you go to the store for your groceries or add your items to a click-list please consider adding items from the following list:

- Pinto Beans (15oz.) & Cut Green Beans (14.5oz)
- Whole Kernel Corn (15.25oz)
- Sliced Peaches (15.25oz)
- Beef Stew (20oz) & Whitney's Pink Salmon (14.25oz)
- Applesauce (24oz JAR)
- Hunt's Spaghetti Meat Sauce (24oz)
- Mueller's Spaghetti Noodle (16oz)
- Au Gratin or Scalloped Potatoes (4.7oz)
- Creamy Peanut Butter (16.3oz)
- Smuckers Grape Jelly (32oz)
- Jiffy Cornbread Mix (8.5oz)
- Frosted Flakes/any Sugar Coated Cereal (15oz)
- Mac & Cheese (7.5oz)
- Ramen Noodles (Chicken or Beef)
- Tuna Helper (5.3oz) & Can Tuna in Water (5oz)
- Toilet Paper (4 roll packages)
- Toiletries & Laundry and Dishwashing Liquid

Then, simply place them in a separate bag and drop them on the front porch or in the bin on the lower level of the LifeBridge House. If you prefer, we can do the shopping for you - simply make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry and we will take it from there. Donations can be made online at Imbc.org or by cash/check, designated "Food Pantry".



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

Bereavements

- Jennings Adkins, Joyce Adkins' husband
- William Asbury, Crystal Long's brother
- Joe Ball, Bryan Ball's father
- Sally Bratton, Susan Fraser's sister
- Apollo Dennis Chukweumeka, Royale Brown's father
- Charlee Dobey, Clyde Dobey's wife
- Nettie Duling, Diann Clark's mother
- Rick Hager, Ruford Hager's brother
- Don Henderson, Sally Henderson's husband
- Ed Hetzer, Mark Hetzer's father
- Irene Mynes

Curb-side service

The following items are 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)
- Printed copies of Connect Magazine

To receive your items, visit the appropriate link, or call the church office at 304-736-7676.

A NEW STARTING POINT

How to join our community of faith

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 Register (pick 1)



In Service: scan the QR code on the pew in front of you and let us know you would like to join.
Online: lmbc.org/register
Call: 304-736-7676

3rd Discover



Check out the information in the visitor packet you received when you registered with us or visit lmbc.org/what-we-believe to learn about our core beliefs and more.

4th Experience



Meet with our Pastors to begin your membership experience.
Call: 304-736-7676

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 NLT**

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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Huntington, WV 25705
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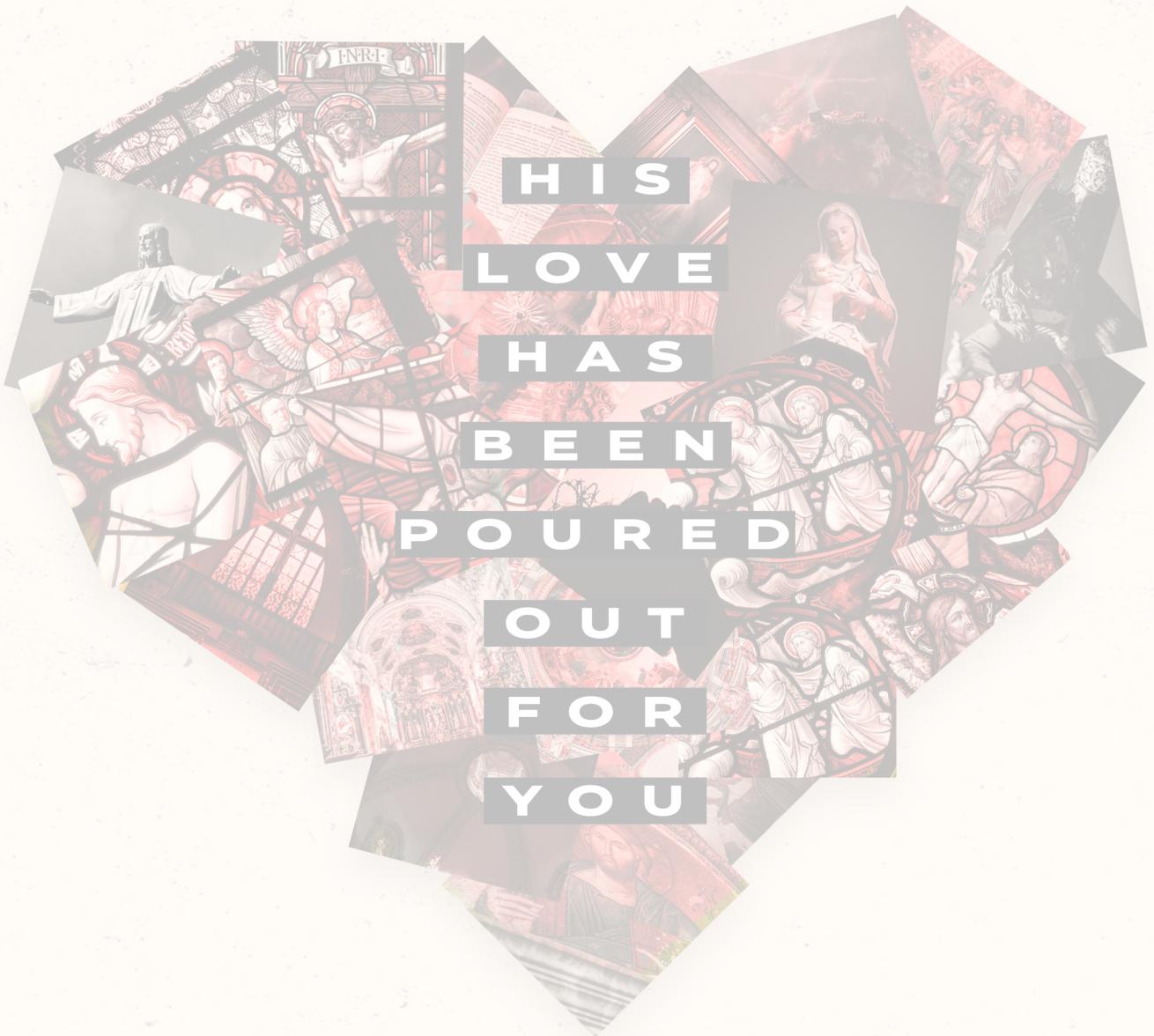
lmbc.org
Emergency pager:
304-691-0633

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 & 10:45 am (watch live at lmbc.tv)
6 pm (live stream, 2nd Sunday of the month)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
7 pm

CONNECT STAFF:
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Executive Editor,
Angie O'Dell
Content Editor,
Mary Ellen Black
Graphic Designer,
Matt Waller

Read previous editions of Connect at lmbc.org/connect-magazine



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