Vol. 10, Issue 3, March 2021

connect

HE HAS
MADE
EVERYTHING

JIN ITS TIME.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11



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 highrisk and elderly, that you keep a mask on while in the church buildings.





Bottle Campaign '21

The Crisis Pregnancy Center is hosting their "Baby Bottle Campaign". The Center's hope is to give their clients an alternative solution to abortion, and we want to support them in this mission. This year, there will be no baby bottles going out and none collected. Instead you can give in one of the following ways:

- · You can give directly online at Imbc.org/give just select 'baby bottles' under the give tab.
- If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Can't be here in person?

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



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.

Have You Claimed Your Rooted Bible Reading Gift?

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.

REEFUEL

Middle - High School Grades 6-12

In the SMB! Wednesdays @ 6:45pm

youtube.com/c/refuelstudents Read more on pg. 7

Upcoming:

26th

Refuel Cookout 7 pm

TBA

D-Now

It's still happening! Watch for details in the coming days.



2021

Jesus, the Religious Scholar

1st Mark 2:23-3:6; Luke 6:1-11

2nd Mark 7:1-23

3rd John 3:1-21

4th Matt. 16:1-12: Mark 8:11-15

5th Mk. 12:28-34; Lk. 10:25-37

6th Matthew 23:1-36

7th OFF

8th Genesis 37:1-36

9th Gen.39:1-23; Acts 7:9-10

10th Genesis 40:1-23

11th Genesis 41:1-36

12th Gen. 41:37-57; Acts 7:11-12

13th Genesis 42:1-28

14th OFF

15th Genesis 42:29-43:14

16th Genesis 43:15-34

17th Gen. 44:1-33; Acts 7:13

18th Gen. 45:1-28; Acts 7:14-15

19th Genesis 46:1-27

20th Genesis 46:28-47:12

21st OFF

22nd Genesis 47:13-31

23rd Genesis 48:1-22

24th Genesis 49:1-28

25th Gen. 49:29-50:13: Acts 7:16

26th Genesis 50:14-26

27th Exodus 1:1-12; Acts 7:17

28th OFF

29th Matthew 21:1-22

30th Luke 20:1-21:4

31st Luke 13:1-37; 21:37-22:2



t would have been impossible for Simon and his brother Andrew to fully understand the implications of the brief invitation Jesus extended to them while they were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Upon accepting Jesus' invitation, they would be whisked away to an intense three years of itinerant ministry with Jesus, and a lifetime of serving Him through his church. To say that these two simple words from Jesus, "Follow Me," would change their lives, would be a great understatement!

The gospels refer to these first followers of Jesus as "disciples." When the word "disciple" appears in the Bible, it is derived from the Greek word mathetes, which means "One who follows one's teaching," "a learner," or "a pupil." In short, being a disciple of Jesus means being His student. During Jesus' time on earth in the first century, students did not simply attend class with their teacher once per week. Think of it as more of an intense apprenticeship. Many disciples spent the entire day with their teacher, or, "Rabbi," not only listening to their words, but watching their lives and behaviors closely. Some disciples even moved in to live with their Rabbis! Such was often the case with Jesus' disciples, as they followed their itinerant Rabbi from town to town. The manner by which Jesus called His first disciples may seem anticlimactic, but those two little words, "Follow Me," had a big meaning back then! Still today, Jesus' call to follow Him still

has a BIG meaning to us as twenty-first century believers.

Following Jesus means leaving things behind.

And immediately they left their nets and followed Him (Mark 1:18).

The first disciples were vocational fishermen. To these Galileans, fishing wasn't a hobby, but their very lives depended on it! If they did not catch fish to sell, they would have no money with which to meet their financial obligations and provide for themselves, or their families. Many of Jesus' disciples were working the "family business" of fishing, leaving their personal identity to be wrapped up in the fishing industry. Jesus' call to discipleship was so compelling, they immediately left their livelihood and family identity to follow Him. This call is just as compelling today, as following Jesus means leaving behind the comfortable, familiar, and safe in order to follow our Rabbi, Savior, and King. Disciples put their obedient relationship with Jesus first, above everything and anything else.

Following Jesus means connecting with other disciples.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of Him, two by two, into every town and place where He Himself was

And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17 ESV)

about to go (Luke 10:1).

Jesus' posse - originally twelve disciples - was rapidly growing, apparently reaching over seventy-two followers! After sitting under Jesus' teaching, it was time for a "field trip" of sorts, as Jesus prepared to launch them into a short ministry mission. Think of the impact that could have been made by sending each of these seventy-two followers out individually. Seventy-two people preparing the way for Jesus would have certainly been impactful. However, Jesus was teaching His first disciples something that we so quickly forget in our individualistic, twenty-first century Western culture: There is no such thing as a "lone ranger" disciple. We were created by God to grow closer to each other as we grow closer to Jesus. This is precisely why Jesus established His church: To live on mission with God together. To live the Jesus life, we are dependent on Him, and the person-to-person relationships He has brought into our lives for our encouragement, accountability, protection, and growth.

Following Jesus means making new disciples.

And He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2).

Jesus' ministry on earth, leading up to the cross, was a teaching ministry. As He went from town to town, He demonstrated to His disciples what it meant to work in His "harvest field." Later, Jesus told His disciples, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). Every disciple is a sent disciple. Our mission, given by Jesus, is to make disciples of all nations. Our success as disciples of Christ is not only measured by how much we know about Jesus and His teaching, but by how well we are sharing the teachings of Jesus with others. Disciples share the gospel with lost people. Disciples seek out young believers to mentor. This does not just apply to older adults. Many scholars believe that, other than Peter, the first disciples could have very well been under the age of 17 when Jesus gave the Great Commission

(see Matthew 17)! Jesus calls followers of all ages to be disciples who make disciples.

Following Jesus means following through on commitments.

Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.(Philippians 3:13-14).

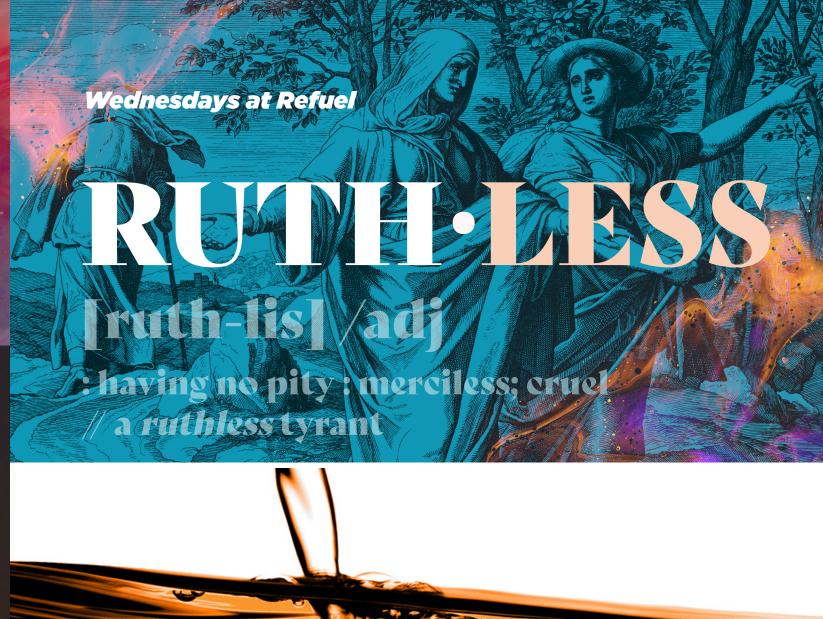
Discipleship is a lifelong commitment, involving a million little decisions made every day to press on toward Jesus. Will there be times when we fail? Absolutely. Will there be times when we get discouraged? For sure. Will we go through "dry" seasons when we're bored, unmotivated, and apathetic? You bet. These are the times when disciples are made! Let's not give up. Let's not look back. Let's keep leaning into our relationship with Jesus! Just as Jesus' little phrase, "Follow Me," made a big impact on Simon and Andrew, the little decisions we make today - connecting with God through Bible study and prayer, connecting with other disciples, and connecting with God's mission by sharing the gospel - will make a big impact in our lives, and the lives of those around us as we follow our Rabbi - our Savior - Jesus.



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.





Wednesdays

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.

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 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.





Tim & Kathy Laughlin

Ireland



Rick & Jen Peace



Doug & Amber Staley



Joshua & Denise Steward

Ireland



David & Annalisa
Wilson
England



Nahum & Arin O'Brien Norway



Jason & Adele Rice Slovakia

For more missionary updates, go to Imbc.org/missionary-updates These past number of months have seen ups and downs, but we are looking forward to walking through the light that seems to be at the end of this lockdown tunnel. Even though we've experienced grief in various forms, our congregation has had much protection for which to thank the Lord. For this coming year, 2021, we chose a theme for our church that comes from Psalm 1 — "Blessed is the one whose delight is in the Law of the Lord and meditates on it day and night." This mindset of finding delight in the Lord, meditating on Him and His word, will shape how we approach this year and Lord-willing our perspective on life.

Since our last update letter, we've continued to gather as a church mostly via Zoom but with an occasional meeting in the chapel. Our main focus has been to encourage our people through the scriptures, gathering online to pray for each other, and one-on-one meetings in the only form we can - a takeaway coffee and a walk outside! In our online church gatherings, we spent the end of 2020 studying the book of Hebrews, with a few Psalms on occasion. In the new year, we have begun a study of the attributes of God. It is our prayer that as we deepen our understanding of who God is it will capture our hearts and minds and give us a sense of majesty and awe of our loving and faithful God and cause us to revel in Him.

Two recent highlights for us have been our Christmas service and a live online Q&A which we conducted. At Christmas, it was enormously refreshing to meet in the chapel and gather physically, hear the scriptures read, listen to songs sung, and have a message proclaiming the good news. We are extremely thankful for all who attended this service. As 2020 came to an end, we wanted to take the opportunity to provide

answers to anyone in our community who might be asking "Where is God?" in the midst of the pandemic. We teamed up with another local gospel preaching church and hosted a live Q & A on Zoom. We were very encouraged by the number of people who provided questions and logged in to watch the session. We pray it was a tool to plant the seed of the gospel into the hearts of people. Coming off of these two events we were looking to keep the momentum going with our online presence to reach out to our local community, so we planned an online Christianity Explored course to start at the end of January. Sadly, there was no interest from our local community, so we have put this on hold for now, but pray that we might be able to do it in the future.

With news coming out that schools will be opening up soon and community events starting back up, we are hoping that we will soon have some stability. Though things might seem to be moving in that direction we are still a bit hesitant to make any set plans for events. Please do pray for wisdom in how we lead people back into life after the pandemic has settled down.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. We know these past number of months have been difficult in so many ways and we greatly appreciate your continued interest in the

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

David & Annalisa Wilson 609 High Road London N12 ODZ United Kingdom dawilson@abwe.cc

Staying In Slovakia Directing a Region

Let's start with this

On April 12th, we will begin our new role of Regional Director for a region that covers Eastern Europe & Central Asia. Besides our family, there are 34 adults and 27 children, living in five countries.

So how did we get here?

You know the emotions that surface when you are presented with crucial decisions. You piece together factors from all areas of life, imagine trajectories, and ask for counsel, all while earnestly praying to God that He grants you wisdom beyond yourself. This has been our process for several months.

The journey began nearly two years ago. It became apparent that our region was, for several reasons, too large. As regional leaders, we began the multiplication process to allow for enhanced care and future growth. So, in the fall, we were asked to be one of the two new directors - for the eastern region! As you are probably aware, Slovakia is in Central Europe.

The angst. What about Slovakia? What about all of the time we have invested into learning Slovak? What about the ministries that we have poured our hearts into? What about learning a new language and moving again to a new location? These were the questions running through our minds, among others. We committed to being open to new changes as we sought advice and gathered input from our boys, our family, our sending church, partner churches, and others within the organization. It became clear that we could take on this new role while remaining in Slovakia.

The opportunity. What led to our decision? As we comtemplated who we are, and how God has led us to this stage of life, several important factors (among aothers) surfaced.

1. We see this role as **an opportunity to greater utilize our gifts**. It stood out to us, that by

taking on these additional responsibilities, our gifts would be further maximized. Arriving in Slovakia, we had expectations of being involved in certain ministries, some of which closed not long before we moved there. As we learned even during our missions internships, flexibility is key, and we adapted. However, this new role will allow us to better use our gifting and abilities.

2. We also view this regional director role as a means to expand our impact as it relates to God's mission to the nations. We love Slovakia and will continue our efforts here, but our reach can now be broadened to include up to fourteen countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. I am particularly burdened as I hear of the great need and relatively untapped potential of missions efforts in Central Asia.

3. An additional factor for us was experiencing several obstacles in regard to our dream of church planting here. Our desire for the future is to still be part of a church planting team, so please pray for us in this matter.

What does that mean for us?

- We are staying in Slovakia. We will continue to minister here, although we realize that our first priority is the new region.
- We have new responsibilies. Team development, planning, mobilization, vision casting, member care, fundraising, etc.
- We have new needs. Our goal is to raise \$400/ month to cover increases to our travel fund and ministry fund accounts.

Would you please be in prayer for us as we transition to this new role? We are excited about the future as we expand our vision as Regional Director.

Evangelistic Small Group

We would like to request special concentrated prayer for a couple who we and a national partner are witnessing to. It would greatly encourage us to hear from you if you decide to embark on this prayer journey with us.



We have spent weeks with these friends, making our way through an evangelistic booklet. We are walking through the major events in Scripture, tying together major themes such as creation, purpose, sin, sacrifice, redemption, eternity, etc.

While there is a willingness to learn and progress in understanding, we also see obstacles and barriers. Their previous worldview, among other factors, is one of these obstacles.

As is always the case, we realize that God must do a work in them. Only He can soften their hearts, and draw them to Himself. We are earnestly praying, but would request that you join us. There is a spiritual battle at work, and this is a crucial moment as we approach the end of our study together.

COVID-19 update

What our lock-down looks like.

We remain confined to our house most days.

We can go to the closest grocery store, doctor, or pharmacy. A negative test grants a little more freedom, to exercise outdoors or go to the bank, for example. We are forbidden to gather or meet with others. Our ministry efforts have been moved online.

Church services.

We are streaming services online. We cannot meet in-person, but one exception to the prohibition on movement is that we are allowed to have a "streaming team" of up to six people to make our services available online. So I go to the church on Sundays to stream and record the services.

Prayer

- Pray for our new region that covers Eastern
 Europe and Central Asia (name still TBD), for
 the gospel to be preached and for people to
 come to Christ.
- Prayer for our regional teammates, living in five different countries in our new region, that we will be serving. These countries are Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and Bulgaria. Pray also for other regional teammates that serve Greece and countries within Central Asia.
- We request special prayer as we transition into this new role. We need God's wisdom and grace for each step along the way.
- SPECIAL: Pray for the couple we are witnessing to in our town, for salvation.

Praise

- We accepted the position of Regional Director and are excited as we look towards future opportunities!
- We are grateful to the many people we consulted with and talked to about this potential role change. A special thank you to the pastors we communicated with. Your insight and advice was invaluable!

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

Jason & Adele Rice rices@ricesfortheharvest.com 543 Randolph St. Meadville, PA 16335





One of the blessings that has come from a year of hardship is the return to the simple things. This year, for the first time in many years of our church's history, we are going to have an old fashioned Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday on the church grounds! Immediately following our *9:30 service we invite parents to park at the Family Life Center, pick up your children, and go egg hunting on the grassy hill beside the building. Eggs will be exchanged for prizes following the hunt. Social distancing and Covid-19 precautions will be observed. Join us as we celebrate our risen Savior!

*Parents, please note that the 9:30 service is the only one with nurseries and children's services. Please consider attending this service if your child will be attending the egg hunt.

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?

HELP REACH PEOPLE ...

WHERE THEY ARE

Our Daily Walk Broadcast is a vital part of our outreach ministry. It takes a great number of people to keep it running efficiently and effectively. We are currently looking for Screen Operators. Please check out the details in the next column and contact Andrew Steele, 304-736-7676, if you are interested or have questions.

BE AN EXAMPLE FOR THE

NEXT GENERATION

Lewis Kids Connection could use some extra hands! Here's where we need help:

- We are looking for two weekly workers to assist in our Pre-K room during the 9 am Sunday service. (teachers are already covered)
- We can use two more weekly workers for our Wednesday evening gathering at 7 pm. (again, teachers are already covered)



Screen Op:

- One Sunday per Month (9 or 10:45 am)
- *Additional service opportunities available, but not to exceed 2 worship services per month*

Responsibilities Include:

- Efficiently operate ProPresenter7 for our worship service(s). This includes all content shown on screen in the sanctuary (video, lyrics, scripture, images, sermon notes, IMAG).
- Ready to assist the worship leader and technical director as needs change in real-time.

Qualifications:

- A growing follower of Jesus Christ
- Ability to follow verbal instruction and stay focused during the service
- *Knowledge of Apple/Mac Products Preferred but not necessary*
- *Knowledge of Renewed Vision ProPresenter 6 and 7 Preferred but not necessary*

Time Requirements:

- Arrival at least 15min prior to service start for service run through
- Expectation that once you make a commitment to the team that you make every effort to be there when scheduled.

Physical Demands:

- The screen operator must frequently use hands to type and utilize a mouse.
- Specific vision abilities required by this job include vision to see a video monitor, color vision; hearing and speech to communicate in person.



TAKE AT LOOK AT THE LATEST **FAMILY NEWS**

Bereavements

- Ed and Vicky Blankenship, Kate McMullen's grandparents
- Carlos Cisco, Teddy Blankenship's stepfather
- Greg Greer, Kelli Mullen's brother
- Jack Loan, Jr, Tina Hendry's father
- Jenny Maier, Erica Cheetham's mother
- Linda Montroso, Sarah Blankenship's mother
- Betty Ramey, Robert Ramey's wife

New Members

- Charles & Peggy Cantley
- Mason Hadden
- Samantha Hadden
- John and Ami Mandt
- Briana Mandt
- John Mandt III

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.

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:

Baptism



Trust in Christ and follow Him in believer's baptism.



In Service: scan the QR code on the pew in front of you and let us know you would like to join. Online: Imbc.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 Imbc.org/whatwe-believe to learn about our core beliefs and more.

Experience



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

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 vour 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,



live and love like Jesus

5385 W. Pea Ridge Rd. Huntington, WV 25705 304-736-7676 Imbc.org **Emergency pager:** 304-691-0633

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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE **STUDY** 7 pm

CONNECT STAFF: Senior Editor. **David Lemming Executive Editor. Angie O'Dell** Content Editor. **Mary Ellen Black** Graphic Designer, **Matt Waller**

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

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,

HE HAS

MADE

EVERYTHING

GRANING

IN ITS TIME

ECCLESIASTES 3:11



connect