

Happy Birthday!

13 Will Ploehn
 13 Beth Winstead
 14 Margie Cannon
 17 Laurie Lietz
 21 Jane Archer

Thank You!

Thank you for all the cards, calls, texts and, most of all, the prayers during Jerry's illness and at his passing. I treasure each prayer as well as your loving support.

In Christian Love,
 Evelyn Spangler Brothers



Happy Anniversary!

20 Pete & Judy Perry

Immanuel Baptist Church
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Prayer Requests

Jesus has called us to go into all the world and share his love. Jesus also reminded us that when we welcome a stranger we welcome him. Sometimes the world comes to us and that is the case with the ministry of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Field Personnel Kim and Marc Wyatt who assist refugees/immigrants coming to the Raleigh area to begin a new life. These have all been vetted by the US Office of immigration. The mission is to assist these families to be able to move out on their own and become self sufficient. When first arriving, they stay in the WELCOME HOUSE while getting a job and housing. Kim and Marc work with local churches, businesses and apartment complexes to assist/guide them.

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 252-758-1240
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Rev. Asher Panton, Senior Pastor
 Rev. David Archer, Associate Pastor
 Mrs. Holly Hilliker, Children & Youth Director
 Mr. Ishmael Strickland, Worship Leader
 Mrs. Bettie Jungers, Administrative Assistant

IMMANUEL
 BAPTIST CHURCH

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A Letter From The Pastor:

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.
 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” – **Ephesians 4:1-6**

On Wednesday, January 20th Amanda Gorman made history by becoming the youngest known inaugural poet when she performed at the 59th Presidential Inauguration. She delivered her powerful composition, "The Hill We Climb," at the Capitol in front of the entire nation. In it, she shared these wise words.

*We close the divide because we know, to put our future first,
 we must first put our differences aside.
 We lay down our arms
 so we can reach out our arms to one another.
 We seek harm to none and harmony for all.
 Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true,
 that even as we grieved, we grew,
 that even as we hurt, we hoped,
 that even as we tired, we tried,
 that we'll forever be tied together, victorious.
 Not because we will never again know defeat,
 but because we will never again sow division.*

As I re-read this poem in its entirety, this excerpt spoke more loudly in my mind than the rest. I know Amanda Gorman was referring to the state of our country, but I couldn't help but to think how important this philosophy is within every part of our lives, including our lives as Christ followers.

Immanuel is a church that too has experienced many hurts, tired seasons, and failures. We are an imperfect people who come from different denominational backgrounds, theological perspectives, political affiliations, and life experiences. However, I'm beginning to see that It is really in our frailties and differences that we actually have the greatest ability to reach a wider group of people for the cause of Christ. If we together learn how to love, serve, and humbly listen and obey the Spirit of the Lord, we will have done what the Lord has called us to do as his church.

As this verse in Ephesians references, he has called us, through the bond of peace, to be unified for his purpose first and foremost. When we together see the light of Christ's purpose in the life of our church, this light will shine brighter than any difference we have had, or any difference that we may have in our future. If as a church we can learn to grow together, hope together, and be united together by the Spirit of God, there is nothing to fear in our future. May we all seek to find this divinely unified purpose in our church body, both now and forevermore.

Grace and Peace,
 Asher

A Note From Pastor Lee

We need earnest prayer.

Almost an entire year has passed since the start of the pandemic. We continue to experience isolation, loneliness, depression, anxiety, and stress in times that are further complicated by the fact that we can not congregate with our extended family and friends. Much of our daily life and religious life have changed. The number of confirmed cases continue to rise and a new chain of the virus has been discovered, challenging us even further in our schools, work places, and church. It is a new era. We didn't ask for it, but we've been thrust into this new age, and there's no going back. In the beginning, the general trend across news reports and editorials was "How to Beat Covid-19?" Now, the mindset has shifted to "How to live with Covid-19?"

We need the sincerest of prayers to overcome the troubles of these times, to triumph spiritually. The church of Jerusalem, the first Christian church, was brought up in the presence of the Holy Spirit through prayer, and overcame many difficulties by praying in unity. Prayer shifted their center of attention from self to God. Commitment to prayer was the core of the ministry for the church of Jerusalem.

Now, it is our turn to follow suit. As we pray together, we will overcome these difficult times through the righteous and almighty power of Heaven. Now is the time for us to hold on to God more fervently than ever before and pray. Only then will God show us an open door to the path of life. Please pray for Immanuel Church, Korean Mission Church, fellow believers, ministers, and pastors.

I hope that you and I will overcome these difficult times with prayer and petition, joined together in the work of God, and prepare for this new era with earnest prayer.

FOOD DELIVERED! GREAT RESPONSE! THANK YOU!

We had a great response to the request for the food the pantry of United Salem Methodist Church in Simpson. They extend their gratitude and let us know how much this has helped with the food they provide for dozens of families each week. Let us always review the words of Jesus: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." When asked when did they see him hungry and give him something to eat he pointed out that when we give food to others it is the same as giving him food. Remember serve Jesus by serving others.



Ministry Opportunity For Refugees/Immigrants--Locating in Raleigh Area

The Missions Council invites the church to provide assistance to refugee/immigrant families locating to the Raleigh/Triangle area. Jesus called us to go into all the world and show his love and the world is all around us—near and far. We have an opportunity to help with the refugee/immigrant ministry headed by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Personnel Kim and Marc Wyatt. They assist refugee/immigrant families, who have been vetted by the US Office of Immigration, to successfully begin a new life in our country.

When these families arrive In the U.S. they have nothing except their personal belongings and a small stipend so need help in getting established to become self sufficient. This is where Kim and Marc assist. They are the face of Jesus in welcoming these new arrivals.

Our students went on a week-end mission trip a couple of years ago and worked with them. Kim spoke to our women's group last year about their ministry.

Specifically, Kim and Marc assist these new arrivals in finding JOBS, HOUSING and HOUSEHOLD ITEMS to set up a new home to begin a new life of hope in America as they locate in the Triangle area. They call on churches and local businesses to help these families start their new life.

Refugees don't have families to call on as most of us had when we started out. What they have is the family of God. So, we as the family of God, have an opportunity to assist and WELCOME STRANGERS into our state. Jesus said when we welcome a stranger we welcome him.

During the month of February we are collecting household items for these families. Listed below are items we are collecting. Please bring new or used items in good condition to the church. Leave them in the foyer of the church office.

KITCHEN ITEMS:

Pots with lids
Frying pans
Mixing/serving bowls
Sets of kitchen utensils (such as spatula, wooden spoon, knife, serving utensils, etc.)
Can opener

CLEANING SUPPLIES:

Dish soap
Bathroom/kitchen cleanser
Sponges, cleaning rags
Laundry detergent
Waste baskets
Paper towels
Mop
Broom
Trash bags

TOLIETRIES:

Toilet paper
Shampoo
Soap
Toothbrush
Toothpaste

