

## Happy Birthday!

- 6 Frances James
- 9 Tom Chambliss
- 9 Chris Winstead
- 10 Marie Williams
- 22 Bo Seibert
- 23 Nell Garner
- 24 Stacy Nam
- 25 Irene Nam
- 25 Brenda Whichard
- 27 Jim Harris
- 29 Stella Chambliss
- 29 J.D. Joyner



### Prayer Requests from two CBF Personnel (missionaries) who our church has helped in their ministries

#### Anna Anderson—Rural Ministry in eastern NC:

Pray for J., recently released from prison, after 18 months. He recently obtained a part time job and has received help from the First Baptist Church of Ahoskie. With deposit and first month's rent on a place to live. He says "one step at a time". He is most grateful.

#### Km and Marc Wyatt, Welcome House for Refugees, Raleigh:

Pray for the 50+ refugee and immigrant families that will receive Christmas bags with a Christmas card with CD of the Life of Jesus.

### Immanuel Baptist Church

1101 South Elm Street  
Greenville, NC 27858  
Phone (252) 758-1240  
[www.ibcg.org](http://www.ibcg.org)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Greenville, NC 27834

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Women's Ministry: Hurry up and...wait?

New Year greetings to all the ladies and friends of the Immanuel Baptist Church Women's Ministry. The Covid-19 virus has certainly changed how we think about welcoming a new year. Many of us thought that the end of 2020 would surely bring us brighter horizons, less restrictions, and more possibilities of being together. Alas, despite the development of a promising vaccine, we just aren't there yet. We are still waiting. Often in the Bible, God calls on His people to wait on Him. The people cry out to Him; they don't understand why they have to wait. Sometimes, they put their trust in other "gods" or idols or leaders or money. But if they wait, the rewards are many. David, the Psalmist, said it best in Psalm 40:1-3:

"I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry.  
He lifted me out of the slimy pit, Out of the mud and mire.  
He set my feet on a rock, And gave me a firm place to stand.  
He put a new song in my mouth, A hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear And put their trust in the Lord."

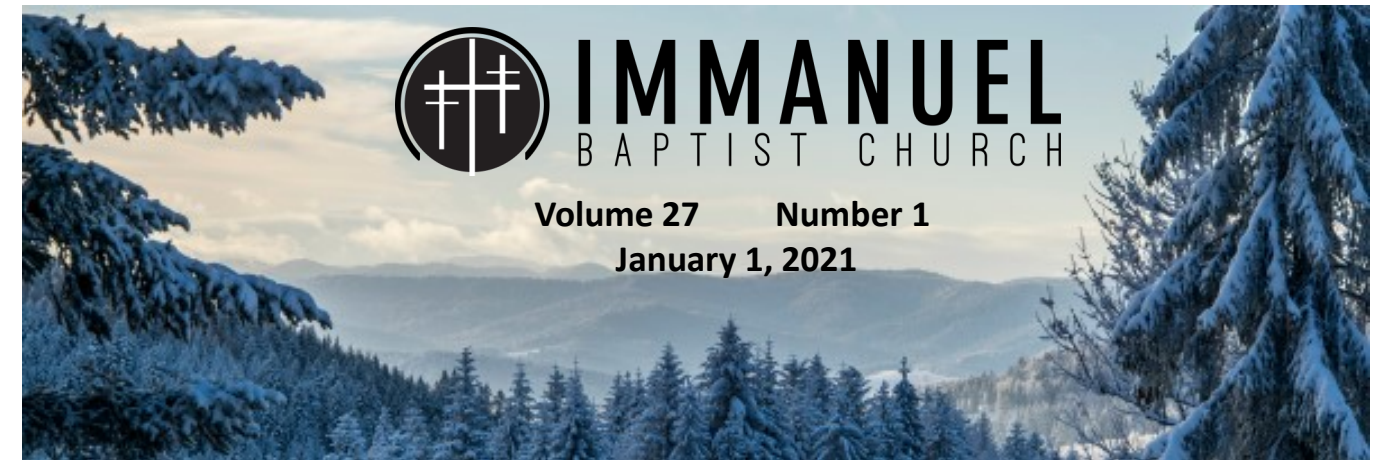
Here are a few things you need to know about:

Tea Time Tuesday Bible Study will resume in mid-January (start date to be announced). The title of this study will be What Happens When Women Say Yes To God by Lysa Turkeurst. *This Bible study will remain a daytime study.*

Some of you have been asking about the possibility of an *evening Bible study* for those who are working or have other responsibilities during the day. I would be willing to lead it starting in January. We could use a Zoom format or even be creative with a read-it-yourself format with periodic thought questions sent out via email OR snail mail and shared among ourselves. It might be fun to think outside the box a little. If you are interested in this idea, contact Jane Archer via email ([janellen955@yahoo.com](mailto:janellen955@yahoo.com)), phone or text (919-602-9606).

Immanuel Baptist Church  
1101 South Elm Street  
Greenville, NC 27858  
252-758-1240  
[www.ibcg.org](http://www.ibcg.org)

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



## A Letter From The Pastor

### New Perspectives

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18*

This past week, Raychel, Jack, and myself were waiting in the Chick-Fil-A parking lot for a curbside pickup order. As we were waiting for the employee to come out, I heard Jack's little voice from the backseat - "Daddy, look a smiley face." I looked back to see what he was looking at, and to my surprise he was looking up at the iHop marquee hanging high above our heads in the adjacent parking lot. I said, "Yeah buddy, that is a smiley face!". To be honest, I don't think I've ever once noticed a face with a smile on the iHop logo. I've probably seen that familiar blue, white font, and red accent stripe over 1,000 times, and I missed something that my son noticed instantly.

I think our lives are often like this. We get so focused on the everyday norms of life, that we fail to see the beauty of the unseen in our midst. We so easily see the problems - we instantly notice the frustrations, the stresses, the people driving too slow in front of us as we rush to get to our next appointments. Perhaps this has been amplified even more during this historic year of 2020. It has been so hard to see the beauty of God in the midst of the mask wearing, social distancing, family losses, and many sicknesses.

This year, I hope we take the opportunity to slow down even more. I pray we see the beauty of the eternal all around us. I pray we begin to see the joys in the midst of the sorrows, the blessings of God's provision in the midst of the wanting. God's Spirit has never left us. Let us not focus so intently on our troubles that we miss the beauty of God's grace filled world being proclaimed all around us. Perhaps this means slowing down to enjoy the beauty of sunrise or sunset, or perhaps simply taking a full breath of fresh air into our lungs. For some, this may mean we need to approach our faith differently than ways we are accustomed. Maybe this even means approaching our faith much like that of a small child - a childlike faith that suddenly allows our souls to see the unseen for the very first time.

Grace and Peace,

Asher



## A Note From Pastor Lee

Let's go out with faith in the new year!

2020 was special for us. The world has changed greatly due to the coronavirus, and, along with it, our daily lives and religious lives. I'm sure it must have been exhausting and difficult due to many unexpected events, but everyone has endured well.

I don't believe our situation will change drastically in the new year of 2021. The shift that we've experienced in our normalcy during this season in our lives will be difficult to reverse, and our new habits created by this will undoubtedly affect our faith. Furthermore, in the new year, anxieties and fears will continue to shadow over us. But we must continue to be strong in our faith and overcome this difficult time.

Above all else, I pray that you will stand firm in faith and not be shaken. It is obviously a difficult time for all churches and believers, but I hope that this season will be a time of spiritual awakening. And I hope that we will all receive peace in God, relying on his loving and righteous hand, which holds onto us, through the Word and prayer.

In 2021, I hope you will go further in your relationship with Christ. Let us stand triumphant through these difficult times, together, as encouragers and comforters of faith to each other. I earnestly pray that 2021 will be a year where the works of repentance, recovery, and revival will take place within Immanuel Baptist Church and Korea Mission Church.

MAY YOU SHINE  
THE LIGHT OF  
CHRIST IN THE  
NEW YEAR!



To all who participated in adopting 50 Salvation Army Christmas Angels, ringing the kettle bells, supporting the Belvoir Fund to purchase books, and supporting the Back Pack Program...a huge hug and thank you! COVID-19 did not stop your caring and sharing for people in our community.

*Give generously to those in need, always  
being ready to share with others.*

*1 Timothy 6:18*

## 2021 Offering Envelopes

2021 Offering  
Envelopes are  
available for pickup  
now. Envelope boxes  
are located on the  
table inside the  
church by the  
parlor.



### Our Church has not Shut down during the Pandemic

The church has continued to worship and study during the Pandemic and minister to groups in the community.

We can be grateful for technology that has enabled us to continue to meet and connect. Below are the opportunities for worship and study that have been available throughout the pandemic.

- Weekly worship services
- Lena Jackson Sunday School class has Bible study every Sunday
- Students and Career class have Bible study every week
- We have Prayer meeting every Wednesday night
- There has been a Tuesday Tea Time for women's Bible Study each week with women from our church and the community
- Deacons have had their regular monthly meetings

As a church we have continued to be the face of Jesus in the community through ministry:

- Eppes school has used our facility while their classrooms are being renovated from damage from the hurricane
- The annual Welcome Dinner for ECU international students had to be cancelled but we gave each one a \$5 Krispy Kreme gift card to welcome them (Memorial and Oakmont helped to finance these). The Advisor distributed them for us.
- The Back Pack program at Belvoir has continued
- We have continued the tradition of giving a book for each child at Belvoir at Christmas. We gave 440 books this year.
- We had the Angel Tree---Fifty angels were taken and items purchased for 50 children
- The Missions Council provided games for two group homes of foster children
- Food donations have been made to Salem Methodist Church. They have a food pantry and distribute food weekly to over 100 families. If anyone wants to donate food—you can drop it off at the church.