

FORT WAYNE BAPTIST
Church



May 2021
Newsletter

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Baptist Church**

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Sunday:

Bible Study—9:00 AM
Worship—10:00 AM

Wednesday Eve:

Cancelled until further notice.

Privileged Justice

On April 20, 2021, I breathed a sigh of relief at the conviction of Derek Chauvin on all counts. Many others did as well. The verdict was widely lauded as just. We need to realize that it is an exception and not the norm in this country. In dozens of cases in the last few years,



many of them very high profile, law enforcement officers were not held accountable for violence committed while on duty. A 2019 study by the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America found some disturbing results. Police violence is a leading cause of death for young men in the United States. Over the life course, about 1 in every 1,000 black men can expect to be killed by police. Risk of being killed by police peaks between the ages of 20 and 35 for men and women, and for all racial and ethnic groups. Black, Native American, and Alaska Native women and men are significantly more likely than white women and men to be killed by police. Latino men are also more likely to be killed by police than are white men. With Derek Chauvin being a notable exception, the police involved almost never face consequences of violent acts.

There is no corresponding statistics that show these ethnic groups are somehow more likely to commit crimes than whites. Having a gun is not a reason to be shot. Americans have the right to bear arms, correct? Being on drugs or mentally ill is not a reason to be shot. Failure to comply with a lawful order is not a reason to be shot. There are very few reasons to justify killing another human being, perhaps only to prevent the immediate death of other people. Police are not supposed to be executioners even if someone is engaged in a crime that warrants the death penalty. Police are trained to de-escalate and are just as responsible for the safety of a criminal as they are any other citizen.

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I am male, and between the ages of 20 and 35, I had a few interactions with police. I never once felt like they were going to shoot at me. This is where privilege comes into play. I, as a white man, have the privilege of interacting with police and not thinking that they might kill me. I have the privilege to not fear that my daughters will be shot and killed by police or have to see one of their friends shot and killed. I have the privilege to know that if police make assumptions about me based on my skin color, those assumptions will likely not lead them to take actions against me.

This is not a privilege afforded to my brothers and sisters of color.

I am a privileged recipient of a system that, more often than not, works for me. I am a beneficiary of a system that does not work for my brothers and sisters. I participate in and benefit from a system that does not protect the least of these. If I participate and do not question the system, then I am giving my approval, tacit approval at least, of that system. In doing so, I become involved in the abuses of the system against the least of these, my brothers and sisters.

Based on that, how would I be judged according to Matthew 25?

This is only a single example in a multitude of sins, sins committed by systems that benefit some while directly harming others. I could add to this the entire justice system, prisons, red-lining, Tuskegee experiments, profiling, white-washing, gerrymandering, and the lack of representation. I could go on.

In the end, I may not think I'm racist, or at least I am actively trying not to be, but until I acknowledge how a system that supports me harms others, I am part of the problem. We are part of the problem. The system's sins are our sins.

Why is the world the way it is today? Because we fail to repent, to seek God, to turn from our sins, and to grow into wholeness.

Because we fail to take responsibility for privileged justice.

—Pastor Scott





PRAYER REQUESTS

- The country and world during the corona virus pandemic
- Shooting in Indianapolis
- Burma
- Les Roberson—continued prayers, cataracts surgery May 6th and 13th
- Dick Plumb—cirrhosis of the liver
- Susan Elsar—shoulder surgery June 7th
- Joan Morgan—anemia
- Don Schaab—continued prayers
- Brenda Edwards—continued prayers
- Howard Rusk (Randy's brother)—cancer, surgery on the 17th
- Timothy Renner—MS flair, new lesions
- Kathy Cooper—organ failure
- June Smith (Scott's brother's mother-in-law)—starting more radiation soon
- Sandra (Susan Elser's mother-in-law)
- Siegrid Belden (Joyce's friend)—possible neural issues
- Hti Mu—continued prayers
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson)—continued prayers
- John Trammel—continued prayers

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 12:00-5:00

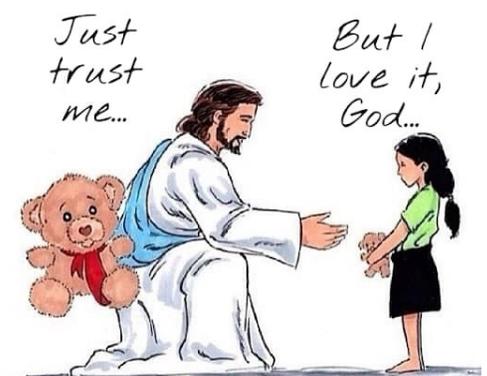
Tuesdays 9:00-5:00

Wednesdays 12:00-5:00

Thursdays 9:00-5:00

Fridays 9:00-5:00

Burmese Christian Fellowship is having a fund raiser on our lawn on Sunday May 16th at noon. They are raising funds to assist the Burmese refugees on the Burma border. There will be lots of good food available for purchase.



The season for the promotion of One Great Hour of Sharing has begun! The theme of this year's annual offering is Let Love Flow. Despite the many ways in which life has been restricted in the past year, I think you will be encouraged to learn how your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing did indeed Let Love Flow.



The year 2020 was unlike any year we have witnessed in our lifetime. Record-breaking fires on the west coast of the U.S. devastated communities and burned millions of acres. An extremely active hurricane season brought destruction to the Gulf Coast. A massive explosion in Beirut displaced thousands of individuals. All these events happened during the prolonged COVID-19 global pandemic. We are living in a time of uncertainty greater than that with which we are familiar. And yet, even with so much that is unclear about the future, one thing is certain: through this ministry of One Great Hour of Sharing, you continue to Let Love Flow.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every area of our personal and communal lives. In the same way, it also touched every area of the work of One Great Hour of Sharing: sustainable development, disaster relief, and refugee support. With so many in need, your compassion is more important than ever.

Our reality is that we have carried into 2021 many of the same challenges. Disasters will continue to occur. Displaced populations remain vulnerable. And hundreds of millions of people around the world struggle under the weight of poverty. Thanks to your faithfulness and generosity, One Great Hour of Sharing will continue to respond.

Events of the past year have shown us that even in times when we cannot be physically together in one place, our offerings to support One Great Hour of Sharing continue to strengthen our church's presence all over the world: providing water to the thirsty, food for the hungry, and hope for the weary. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you "Let Love Flow." Your generosity ensures that, even during uncertainty, the transforming power of love continues to change the world.

In grateful partnership,
Lisa Rothenberger-Winter, World Relief Officer

Source: <https://www.abc-usa.org/2021/04/one-great-hour-of-sharing-announces-2021-theme-let-love-flow/>

Fort Wayne Baptist Church

May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. COMMUNION HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRIAN BLAIR!!	3	4	5	6 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY DAVE & CHERI VINSON!!	7	8 HAPPY BIRTHDAY BECKY MEDSKER!!
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Noisy Offering Mother's Day	10	11 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JENNIFER GABRIEL!!	12	13	14	15 HAPPY BIRTHDAY LINDA FRITZ, SHARON RUSK, & JOHN
16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. 12:00 PM BCF Fund Raiser	17	18 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVE VINSON!!	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	24	25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY BECKY BROWN!!	26	27	28 HAPPY BIRTHDAY LARRY BAILEY!!	29
30 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	31					