



Hope Valley
BAPTIST CHURCH

Loving, Serving and Reaching out in Christ's name.

Illuminator

VOLUME 47 NO. 2

JANUARY 28, 2022

UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Sermon Series: Gifts and Glory

January 30

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Title: ***Face to Face***

February 6

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Title: ***I Am What I Am***

February 13

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Title: ***All in All***

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Benjamin J. Wines
Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy Herring
Minister to Children & Families

Kathryn Bunch
Director of Music Ministries

Barbara Rowley
Organist

Sean Timmons
Youth Ministry Intern

Robin Wimberley
Administrative Assistant

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Brothers and sisters,

I know that I've mentioned this before, but I love video games. I have loved them for as long as I can remember. I distinctly remember the overwhelming joy and excitement my brother and I felt when we got our first game console and our first two games—a Sega Genesis with *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* & *The Lion King*. Since then, I've spent countless nights with friends playing round after round after round of *Super Smash Bros*, *Phantasy Star Online*, and *Mario Kart*. Games like those are wonderful because, well, they're fun! But there is one series of video games that is my favorite. No contest.

The Legend of Zelda is a series of video games dating back to 1986 that, basically, tell stories of a hero, Link, and a princess, Zelda, who work together to defeat an evil sorcerer, Ganon, who threatens their homeland. As the player, you control Link, moving him through the world, fighting enemies, and solving puzzles. And each game in the series offers twists on the basic plot—sometimes Link has to travel through time, sometimes Link has to travel to a mirrored version of his homeland, sometimes the whole adventure was just a dream—but at the end of the game, Link has some kind of showdown with Ganon to save his homeland, with Zelda helping him take on Ganon. The story of each *Zelda* game is simple (good vs. evil) but each version of that story is told beautifully. *Zelda* games are consistently considered some of the greatest games ever made and they add one level of nuance that I love, that helps make them my favorite games. I want to write about that nuance as we continue with the pandemic.

One thing that I particularly love about the *Zelda* games is that they never ignore the other people in Link and Zelda's world. In other words, while the main plot has to do with defeating Ganon, the player is encouraged to stop along the way and help the other characters you meet. The player is encouraged to commit small acts of kindness to help other people in the game. Sometimes that means finding a lost dog. Other times you'll be encouraged help an overworked soldier find a gift for his son's birthday. In one instance, you're asked to simply listen as an older character tells you about their life. Though these things seem small and random, particularly when you consider the main plot, the *Zelda* series does a good job of communicating that fighting evil and holding on to hope are done with everyday actions. There is no act of kindness too small to make a difference. And it is always good to do the right thing.

(Continued on page 3)

PRAYER CONCERNS
(new additions/updates in bold)

Sympathy is extended to:
The family & friends of Charter Member Fadine Harris upon her death.
Sam Beasley & family in the death of his sister, Christine Thaxton.

Valle De Esperanza Iglesia Bautista
COVID Pandemic

Church family with Health Concerns:

Irene Barnes - heart issues
Karen Bolton - recovery from surgery
Joan Burke
Rachel Dossett - endocarditis
Phyllis Edwards - surgery recovery
Heidi Hall - spinal muscular atrophy (daughter of Sandra & Rick Hall)

Woody Harton - recovering from fall

Elizabeth Herring - COVID

Kaye Jenkins - recovery from knee surgery
Bonnie Lyon - recovery from fall
Linda Marshall
Nancy Michal - health concerns
Brenda Morton - recovery from fall
Keith Packer - dialysis
Frank Pokorny - recovery from surgeries
Carol Rigsbee
Barbara Sanders - family members
Faye Shelton - blood cancer
Chris & Mary Summerlin - COVID
Jerry Tew - Parkinson's
Sean Timmons - COVID
Carolyn Tippet - leukemia
Emmett Ward - hurt right hip

Expectant Families:

Kaylee & Daniel Kuzbary (daughter of Leigh Bigger)
Hannah & Chase Thompson (daughter of Julie & Dave Stoops)

Senior Living Centers:

Durham Regent: Marcella Jerdon
Emerald Pond: Lee Schevill, Sam & Pat Beasley
Universal Health Care: Marie Thompson

HVBC friends and family:

Candy Arnold - brain tumor, chemo (niece of Carol Atkins)
Phil Atkins (friend of Carl & Carol Atkins)
Britt Bentley - waiting for heart and kidney transplant (son of Susan Bentley)
Rebecca Bidy - seizures (daughter-in-law of Peggy Bidy)
Clara Bigger - COVID (granddaughter of Leigh Bigger)
Claire - COVID (granddaughter of Linda Ward)
Jimmy Bolick - stroke (uncle of Amy Herring)
Hayley Brady - blood clots in lungs (sister of Ginger Rose)
Nancy Byrd - health concerns (sister of Linda Hall)
Ruby Chumney - heart & lung problems (mother of the Dossett's neighbor)
Ray Clayton - at memory care facility (brother of Linda Kyles)
Joan Cozart - brain tumor (friend of Joan Burke)
Fulton de La Morton - back issues (friend of Dossett's)
Betty Ann Dickerson - feet & leg problems (friend of Carol Atkins)
Carolyn Draper - COVID (friend of Susan Bentley)
JaQuavion Ervin - young boy in foster care with no family (from Scott Rose)
Amy Eubanks - back problems (former member)
Grayson Evans - health issues (grandson of Ron & Gail Templeton)
Paul Fain - stomach cancer (friend of Steve & Karen Bolton)

PRAYER CONCERNS (continued)

Greg - blood clots (son-in-law of Linda Marshall)
Phyllis Griffiths - lupus (sister-in-law of Terry & Betty Griffiths)
Jackie Harris - dementia (aunt of Julie Stoops, sister of Tommie Calhoun)
Ann Hayes - cancer treatments, recovery from fall (sister of Julie Hayes)
David Hayes - pacemaker (brother of Julie Hayes)
Alphus & Sherri Herndon - he has cancer & she has Alzheimer's (cousin of Brenda Morton & Irene Barnes)
Tom Jackson - health problems (former interim Pastor)
Dana Kelly - heart issues (father of Don Kelly)
Mike Layne - heart attack & surgery (family member of the Dossett's)
Paul Lemay - cancer (uncle of Kevin Simone)
Lindsey - anorexia (friend of Jonathan Herring)
Bill & Nadine Loftis - he has cancer (friends of the Bowen's)
Doris Lynch - health issues (stepmother of Rick Lynch)
Junior Martin - cancer (friend of Joan Burke)
Judah Mathis - kidney & bladder problems (great grandson of HVBC first pastor, Bill Pearson)
Mark May - autoimmune disease (nephew of Linda Kyles)
Lauren Minotti - recovery from surgery (granddaughter of Barbara Sanders)
Hallie Moore (friend of Sean Timmons)
Eddie Netzlof - cancer (friend of Scott Rose)
Hazel Norman - recovery from back surgery (friend of the Dossett's)
Juliet Atieno Otieno - 15-year-old with Lupus (friend of Scott Rose)
John Pierce (grandson of Carl & Carol Atkins)
Sheri Rasberry - cancer (sister-in-law of Michelle Hunt)
Weston Rasberry - health issues (nephew of Michelle Hunt)
Payton & Brittany Rigsbee - both have health concerns (granddaughters of Carol Rigsbee)
Ashley Robbins - cancer (granddaughter of Brenda Morton)
Bill Roberson (friend of Scott Rose)
Joe Rollins - recovery from fall (cousin of Carol Atkins)
Robbie Sanders - kidney stones (son of Barbara Sanders)
Andy Sikes - health issues (grandson of Dawn Sikes, former member)
Susan Smileowicz - COVID & stroke (friend of Steve & Karen Bolton); daughter, Amy also has COVID
Charlotte Soltes (mother of Jessie Lynch)
Karen Stewart - stem cell procedure (friend of Cindy Horton)
Adam Stoops - Hodgkins Lymphoma (nephew of Dave Stoops)
Irene Taylor - heart & bladder issues (mother of Rachel Dossett)
Matthew Taylor - salvation & direction (request by the Dossetts)
Heath Tuttle - 13-year-old with cancer (friend of Linda Ward)
Elaine & Tom vanDalen - health concerns (sister & brother-in-law of Karen Bolton)
Clifton Walker - COVID (friend of Linda Kyles)
Jeff Webb - brain tumor (friend of Scott Rose)
Tommy Wilson - heart issues (brother of Linda Ward)
Yvonne - cancer (sister of Barbara Sanders' neighbor)

Military Service Personnel:

Amos (son of Hector Corchado)
Chris Buchanan (nephew of Barbara Rowley)
Clayton Davis (grandson of Linda Marshall)
Travis Hayes (nephew of Ginger Hayes)
Blake Smith (son-in-law of John & Mary Myers)

Around Our World:

Leena Lavanya - missionary with ServeTrust working in India;
Pastor Koteswarao & Chowtu Palem Church (our partner church in India)

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I say all that because as the church enters another month of virtual services (see the announcement on page 3), it can feel like the pandemic is overwhelming. It can feel like there's nothing that can be done in the face of Covid and its variants. But I would encourage you, throughout this week, to find small acts of kindness you can offer to someone else. Send someone a card telling them you're thinking of them. Pay for someone else's coffee in the Starbucks drive-thru. Tell an essential worker—doctor, nurse, cashier, server—that you appreciate them. No act of kindness is too small to make a difference. Everyone you meet is a child of God, fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image, deserving of love, respect, and dignity. Everyone you meet is your neighbor (Luke 10:25-37). In the face of the pandemic, may we always love our neighbors. May we seek out chances to help others and do the right thing.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ben

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

We are planning for our updated Year in Review to focus on how Hope Valley Baptist Church managed to show God's love to our community during 2021. If you have pictures you want to share, please text to Rhonda Welfare (919-599-7367) or mail or drop off original photos at the church. Photos will be returned. Any photos that were taken at a church activity are fine, even if they show only your family. We may not be able to use all the photos submitted, but we will include as many as possible.

Submitting photographs will assume permission is granted to use in print or web-based publications or streaming. People in the photographs will not be identified by name without requesting individual permission.



Hey everyone,

I wanted to take this space to inform you of a decision made by the Regathering Team and Church Council. The Regathering Team met Tuesday, January 25th to discuss whether or not to reopen the church for in-person services. After looking at the same metrics we've been using since we resumed in-person services last year, the Regathering Team recommended to the Church Council that services remain virtual through the month of February. The Church Council accepted our recommendation.

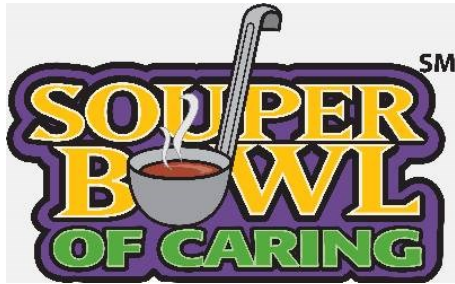
There is a caveat to this decision. The Regathering Team will meet again in two weeks and look at Covid numbers, particularly case positivity rates. If there is a consistent, downward trend in Covid numbers and case positivity rates drop down to where they were back in December 2021, we will consider reopening for in-person services before the end of February.

This was not an easy decision. All of us agreed that we want to get back to seeing each other in person. But we also all agreed that it is not safe to do so right now. Omicron has run rampant and so we want to do what we can to protect ourselves and our neighbors. We are all praying for our church, our city, and our state as the pandemic drags on.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ben



March 2, 2022



Sunday, February 13, is the date for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. **Since we will not be meeting in person on this date, we will let you know how or when we plan on collecting these canned goods.**

More than 25 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Coinciding with the day of a fairly significant football game during which many people will snack and eat more than plenty, this emphasis invites us to bring canned goods and some loose change to church to support hunger ministries and those who don't have enough to eat.

All food and money collected will go to support the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. To learn more about this nationwide emphasis, you can go to their website:
www.souperbowl.org.



HVBC Reads

Connect with other readers through **HVBC Reads**, which launches in February. HVBC Reads is modeled on the CBF Book Club, where readers discuss a fiction or non-fiction book that allows us to examine important issues through a different perspective.

The first book we will read is *Sooley* by John Grisham. *Sooley* is a novel about a young man from Sudan who plays basketball at a university in Durham. The book touches on issues such as immigration, racism, and (after all, it's Durham) BASKETBALL! This book was published in April 2021 and is available in print, ebook and audio formats at the Durham Public Library and new and used from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and other booksellers.

The book discussion for *Sooley* will take place via Zoom at 7:00 pm on February 24. Future discussions may include both online and face-to-face components.

Contact Rhonda Welfare (919-599-7367 or rwelfare1445@gmail.com) for more information.



- 2—Hector Corchado
- 2—Ray Fritsch
- 4—Randy Younts
- 6—David Stoops
- 7—Doris Story
- 7—Emmett Ward
- 8—Brenda Doyle
- 9—Wendy Ash
- 10—Sam Beasley
- 10—Julie Hayes
- 20—Tiffany Batog
- 25—David May
- 27—Linda Ellis