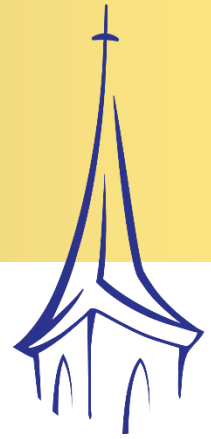


August
2020

WEST SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

UPDATE



From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

I hung out with the youth mission team each evening last week and joined them for evening worship. It was a fantastic time, as we heard from Doug Hill, Maryke Clark, Charlie Bihl and Pastor Greg. On night one Pastor Greg used an image that has stopped me in my tracks and caused me to look hard at how I live out my surrender to Jesus for several years now.

He told us that many, many Christians live like ‘practical atheists.’ You know what he means. Atheists say that there is no God who creates and sustains, orders and upholds. To an atheist, the idea of a God who is both infinitely holy and intimately near is nonsense. From that perspective, it is impossible and irrelevant to fathom a God who cares deeply about every detail of your life, even the nitty gritty of this day.

So a practical atheist is a Christian who professes with his or her mouth that the King of kings has adopted he/she as His dearly loved, perfectly known child and appointed His heir to serve in His kingdom, yet lives like God is nowhere near when faced with the decision to cut corners at work, turn a blind eye to injustice, or simply act as if they are utterly alone when life hurts. Practical atheists live in such a way as to indicate that they actually don’t believe what they say about our God.

He challenged the kids to evaluate their work days in simple, practical ways. How do they speak to one another? Like someone who believes that when they serve someone else they speak to, care for, and honor Christ in that person? Or someone who sees other people as little more than cogs in a machine? How will they actually do the day’s tasks? As ambassadors of the God who says He appointed them for good works and calls them to do *everything* – even measure a 2x4 or paint a cinder block shed – like they’re doing it for Him, so with joy and excellence? Or like they’re doing this work just go “get it done,” grumbling all the way?

You get the picture. And, I wonder, as you pray and ask the Lord to reveal His heart toward you, where He might show you your own ‘practical atheist’ tendencies. Are there sin patterns you simply excuse as one unwilling to yield to a holy, almighty King and, instead, act as if God is simply a consultant in your life whose advice you can take or leave? Is He inviting you to live every moment aware of His presence, rather than relegating Him to an hour on Sundays?

You’re a beloved child of the King, friend. May that truth continue to both challenge and comfort us, as we move from ‘practical atheists’ to those who believe God at His word.

Love ya,
Pastor Kelly

P. S. I will be on vacation August 8 – 22, 2020. Please contact Pastor Greg if you have a need.

[From Pastor Greg](#)

This past week was quite the week for the youth here at WSBC! Last week was our annual Youth Group Mission Trip. Unlike usual, however, we did not travel out of state with Group Missions. This year, we stayed at the church. We spent the week working for a woman in Steelton whose shed roof was badly damaged. We stripped off the old roof, leaving nothing but the cinderblock, and built a new one. The youth scraped, painted, poured concrete, cut joists, laid shingles, and much more! Overall, it was an incredible week and we saw God do some amazing things. Here are a few pictures of the shed to give you an idea of what we worked on:

Before



After



Thank you so much for praying for our team as we worked! We have quite a few stories from the week – some funny, some serious. Please don't hesitate to ask us about them! We would love to share what God has done.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Associate Pastor Greg Kabakjian

Uncertainty Is Certain

Trusting God for Every Tomorrow

As the sun brightens with every new dawn, our view of what the day will bring can dim. We often cannot see what the coming hours hold for us. Sure, we can fill our calendar down to every quarter hour, and our own intuition may sneak glimpses of what lies ahead. But when we strain to look beyond our immediate next few steps, the view never quite comes into focus as clear as we would like. No flashlight fires enough lumens to light up the future. The sun's rays stop just short of what's hidden on our path ahead.

Try as we might, we simply cannot predict what tomorrow will bring — let alone the next few moments. *Uncertainty is certain*. Or at least, so it seems to creatures like us.

'Relax, Eat, Drink, Be Merry'

The Bible speaks some brutally honest words for the surety of our uncertainty. When Jesus addresses covetousness and greed in Luke 12:13–21, he directs our attention to the insecurity of our lives. In our Savior's parable, the rich man firmly believes he knows what's best for his future. He fools himself into thinking he has his act together and that he has only clear sailing ahead: "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry" (Luke 12:19). In other words, "I've made it. I can do what I want. I've got nothing to worry about."

"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'" (Luke 12:20). This rich man's surplus of cash lured him into a deadly complacency. And that self-satisfaction caused him to forget that God never guarantees tomorrow. In the end, his nest egg amounted to nothing because he was "not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21).

Wealth may foot the bill for a mountain of toys and treats, but even the fattest portfolio can never buy more time. *Uncertainty is certain*, even when you think you have enough to cover life's contingencies.

'If the Lord Wills'

Echoing the wisdom of Proverbs 27:1, James insists that our very lives measure up to about the durability of a vapor:

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. (James 4:13–14)

Comparing the endurance of my life to particles that the gentlest breeze can obliterate doesn't inspire much confidence in me. But that's exactly the point. James continues,

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:15)

If the Lord wills. If the God who numbers the hairs on our heads so desires (Matthew 10:30), then he will cause our hearts to pulse and our lungs to draw in breath as the next few seconds tick away. If the God who gives lift to each bird and who infuses every blade of grass with verdant hue so wishes (Matthew 6:26, 28–30), then he will give us sustenance for tomorrow. If the God who "has made his light to shine upon us" so wills (Psalm 118:27), then he will extend success to us as we endeavor to honor Jesus (Psalm 118:25).

But only *if the Lord wills*. Our lives resemble puffs of smoke that blow at the whims of the wind. Our very being in this world could vanish in an instant. James's point, however, is not that we drift aimlessly and disappear, but that God himself undergirds everything we do. God governs every tomorrow. His plans stand with certainty (Proverbs 19:21). His purposes endure (Psalm 33:11). His counsel abides (Isaiah 46:10).

Uncertainty is certain — at least from our limited vantage point. But the durability of our Father's plans, impenetrable as granite, is more than enough to allay whatever worries or fears our uncertainties dredge up.

Stability in Turbulent Times

Even in desperate times, our God proves stable. During Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, and his merciless army threatened to wipe out the people of Judah. Sennacherib taunted Hezekiah and the people, asking through his messengers, "On what are you trusting, that you endure the siege in Jerusalem?" (2 Chronicles 32:10). He continued to deride, "Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? . . . Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?" (2 Kings 18:33, 35).

Assyria posed a dire threat. The military superpower had already decimated the northern kingdom (2 Kings 17:6–23). But no matter how desperate, no matter how woeful, no matter how distressing our circumstances appear, the Lord still reigns, and with him, we have a sure foundation. During the skirmish with Assyria, Isaiah proclaims,

The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high;
he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness,
and he will be the stability of your times,
abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge;
the fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure. (Isaiah 33:5–6)

God himself is our stability. When the unknown twists and turns of life prove turbulent and shaky, God has promised to be your sure foundation.

To Hezekiah and Judah's enemy, Assyria, God says,

Have you not heard
that I determined it long ago?
I planned from days of old
what now I bring to pass,
that you should turn fortified cities
into heaps of ruins . . . (2 Kings 19:25)

However near the enemies of God's people approach, they draw only as close as our sovereign Lord allows. He determines all that comes to pass, and *nothing is uncertain with him*.

Your Father's Good Pleasure

Of course, whatever victory Judah had didn't last forever; they too were overtaken. But the fall of that temporary kingdom only advanced God's plan for his eternal kingdom to break into our world through Jesus Christ. Now, we who know redemption and forgiveness in him stand surefooted in the "kingdom of [God's] beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13).

We may never have the ability to see past our present moment, but we now belong in the kingdom whose Lord designs every second and stands with us at every step. From one perspective, uncertainty may still seem certain. But for all who lay their lives before King Jesus, *uncertainty is just an illusion*, a vapor that can cloud our vision for a little while, but then vanishes.

And so we can face every twist and turn in life, every foe and every failure, knowing that Jesus's kingdom is unshakable. We can find hope in the seeming instability of our lives and know that our Father is well pleased to give us that very kingdom, in all its durability and permanence. We can find joy in whatever tumult this day brings because Jesus Christ is the stability of our times, today and every day.

**This article was written by Marco Silva and can be found at <https://www.desiringgod.org/>.*

From the Diaconate Board – cont'd

Online Giving

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving! Your generous obedience in this area allows our church to continue to engage in ministry and mission even in this season. You may give online through our secure portal by visiting www.wsbc.org/give.

Please note that the church incurs a fee for each transaction. If you give using your checking account (rather than a credit or debit card), the fee is significantly lower and preferable. Those who prefer to do so can continue to mail their tithes & offerings to 2025 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

From the Mission Board

Dawne Strock

Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet ministry will resume on Saturday, August 8, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Gently used clothes may be dropped off in Room G-2 Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. or any Sunday.



To help sort clothes in advance on Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or to volunteer that day, please connect with Dawne Strock at: dawne1954@aol.com.

CCU Welcome Home

New Apartment Welcome Home Kit August Donation List

Christian Churches United (CCU) of Harrisburg gives welcome home kits to the individuals and families they help to secure housing after being homeless. Most come with *nothing*, so the kits provide a fresh start.

Below, please find a list of **half** of the items needed in each kit. Use the kitchen trash can to hold all of your other items and place the filled trash can in the back of Fellowship Hall. Then please label your trash can, so you can find it again in September when we collect the remaining items needed for the completed welcome home kit.

Kitchen items:

- Kitchen trash can (approx. 11-13 gallon)
- One plastic dish pan
- One box of kitchen trash bags (13 gallon bags, 20 bags)
- One bottle of dishwashing liquid
- Kitchen paper towels (2 rolls)
- Two kitchen hand towels/two kitchen dishcloths

Approx. Cost of Above: \$40

General Cleaning:

- One laundry basket
- One cleaning bucket
- One spray bottle all-purpose cleaner
- One spray bottle bathroom cleaner

Approx. cost of above: \$18

From the Christian Education Board

Community Groups

Community groups are welcome to gather in our building (utilizing Fellowship Hall, the sanctuary, or Davidson Chapel post-construction) to meet. Groups must reserve use of the building in advance by contacting the church office, observe social distance rules including the use of masks, limit their movement within the building, and sanitize the area before leaving. Groups may also make use of the WSBC Zoom account. To do so, connect with Pastors Kelly or Greg to reserve a time slot and receive the log-in information.

August Meetings

All meetings will be Zoom meetings unless otherwise notified.

Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council will meet on *Tuesday, August 4*, at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on *Monday, August 10*, at 6:30 p.m.

Diaconate Board Meeting

The Diaconate Board will meet on *Tuesday, August 11*, at 7:00 p.m.

Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet on *Tuesday, August 18*, at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

The Board of Christian Education will meet on *Tuesday, August 18*, at 7:00 p.m.

Special Dates



Birthdays:

- 2 – Charles Bihl
- 3 – Judy Maurer
- 6 – Robert Phillips
- 9 – Becky Gentzler
- 11 – Carol Sweigard
- 14 – Beth Ice
- 18 – Rev. Betty Norford
Deena Kennedy
- 19 – CJ Wright
- 20 – Odette Hoffman
Fred Lebo
- 21 – Gary Dambach
- 25 – Cal Stevens
- 28 – Emily Foster
- 29 – Sheri Conner



Anniversaries:

- 3 – Dick & Brenda Webb
- 6 – Charlie & Bridgid Alford
- 14 – Steven & Jayne Metz
- 16 – Craig & Jorrie Gentzler
- 19 – Milan & Cheryl Vulich
- 22 – Ken & Carol Saltzer
- 23 – Fred & Dottie Lebo
- 27 – Al & Carol Sweigard
- 31 – H. Art & Suzanne Nixon



WEST SHORE

BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES DURING GREEN PHASE:

Worship Service— 10:30 AM

Live streaming online and at church

Staff:

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Kelly Legg	Cell: (610) 755-8203	Email: pastorkdl@gmail.com
Associate Pastor:	Greg Kabakjian	Church: (717) 761-0942 Cell: (717) 877-6055	Email: gkabakjian@gmail.com
Choir Director:	Carol Saltzer	Cell: (717) 383-9740	Email: carolsaltzer@hotmail.com
Office Manager:	Janet Spriggs	Church: (717) 761-0942	Email: j.spriggs@wsbc.org
Organist:	Gary Stefanic	Home: (717) 635-9602	Email: garystefanic1@comcast.net
Church Sextons:	Rimma & Vladimir Torchilo	Church: (717) 761-0942	