

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

May 5, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 5

Pastor's Word

The word for May is "weary".

I know... you were hoping for a more uplifting word like "spring" or "bloom" or "sunshine". Those are good words and they do lift our spirit. But I think there are some of us who are feeling a bit "weary".

If you were to look up weary in the dictionary you would find this definition "exhausted in strength, endurance, vigor, or freshness." Having to deal with the stress of the Covid-19 pandemic required a lot of strength and endurance. We have had to make major adjustments and adaptations in our home life, work life, social life and church life. All of which have contributed to our becoming weary. Add to this the bumps of life, those unexpected difficulties and challenges we face. And what about unexpected losses we experienced? All of this has, at times, overwhelmed us and weighed us down. They drained us emotionally. We are weary. **What do we do?**

1. **Find a way to turn off the noise.**

2. **Find a place to rest.**

3. **Read the Word of God**

"¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives..." Colossians 3:16^a NLT

4. **Listen to and sing uplifting music.**

"¹⁶ ...Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father." Colossians 3:16^b-17 NLT

5. **Pray in the Spirit.** (see Eph. 6:18)

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

6. **Rest in Jesus.**

Come to Jesus. ²⁸ *"Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Matthew 11:28-30 NLT*

Pastor Jerry



You are invited to the Bridal Shower for Taylor White:

Saturday, June 26th at 10:30 a.m.
here at the church in the Fellowship Hall.

The couple is registered at Target



May Verses of the Month

Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.
Do not banish me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.

Psalm 51:10-12 NLT

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Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

North American Mission Board

Prayer Calendar – May 2021

Tyrell and Chelsea Brown
Church Planter
The Gathering Church
Dundalk, MD



Pray that God will use The Gathering Church to be a light in darkness by sharing and living out the gospel in Baltimore. Pray our church and family will have wisdom and endurance to fight the good fight while building up and sending out disciples.

Brian and Sandy Styer
Chaplain
Mason Fire Department, Mason, TN
Atoka, TN



Pray for the safety of my firefighters who face challenges of having the needed resources to cover a town of about 600 people while also providing emergency medical services to a federal correction facility of 800 inmates and staff.

Amer Yonthan and Intissar (Vicky) Safadi
Church Planter
Arabic Church in Cincinnati
Mason, OH



Pray for our ministry among the Arab and Muslim communities in Cincinnati and for our first Arabic church in Cincinnati's history. Pray that God will provide for our needs so I will have more time to minister to the Arab and Muslim community.

Ryan and Kierstin Ivy
Church Planter
Image Church
Las Vegas, NV



Pray for Southwest Las Vegas to be a better place to live because the gospel is radically changing lives.

Mike and Amy Smith
Chaplain
Command Chaplain – Carrier Air Wing ONE
Oceana, VA



Pray I will have the boldness to clearly share the gospel with the most junior sailors and Marines as well as the most senior officers in my circle of influence. Pray that I will do what is right and be professional as a military officer and a chaplain.

**A Pinned Note
from the
Pastor's Wife**



⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Have you ever spent time thinking about what it is like to be "God's masterpiece?" I love thinking about that. Pastor Jerry, when we were dating, sparked my interest in art by taking me to museums and sharing with me about art history. And there are some paintings that I look at and just see 'masterpiece.'

And I know they were not created in a moment – they took time, they took failures, they took restarts, and they finally came to completion.

But not this masterpiece - me. I was created in a moment – just read Psalm 139. And I know that completion of this masterpiece (me) won't happen until I am in God's holy presence in heaven – just read Revelation 21.

I am a work in progress but praise God that He is the artist! How about you? Is God the artist of your life?



God bless you with His grace which is sufficient for all!

Janice

Follow us on the church's Facebook page at **First Southern Baptist Church**:

- "Worship and Word" broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays by Pastor Jerry; upon viewing you are encouraged to **Share** and **Like** so that it will be available to your friends on FB

Livestreaming of Wednesday's Bible study at 6:00 p.m. led by Pastor Jerry and Janice Lanford.

The church family is encouraged to continue to mail in their tithes and offerings, drop them off at the church office during the hours listed, or bring them on Sundays when you come for worship! Thank you so much for your faithfulness in giving.

