

THE

# MESSENGER

201 SOUTH BROADWAY  
FOREST CITY, NC 28043  
828-245-5411

No In person  
Worship Services  
August 9, 2020!

Sunday Worship,  
August 9, 2020

Live Stream at  
11:00 a.m.



[www.florencechurch.net](http://www.florencechurch.net)  
[Facebook.com/FlorenceForestCity](https://Facebook.com/FlorenceForestCity)

## Church Staff

<b>Dr. Bobby Gantt</b>	<b>Pastor</b>
Home Phone: 828-429-3893 pastor@florencechurch.net	
<b>Rev. Scott Haynes</b>	<b>Minister of Music</b>
Home Phone: 828-289-8362 music@florencechurch.net	
<b>Tonya Garrison</b>	<b>Minister of Children &amp; Christian Education</b>
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<b>Tommy Wilson</b>	<b>Custodian</b>
Home Phone: 828-429-2639	
<b>Carrol Calhoun</b>	<b>Custodial Assistant</b>

## HOMEBOUND MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Janice Songster  
Delmar Gardens  
Room 107-B  
404 King Springs Village Parkway  
Smyrna, GA 30082

CAST ALL YOUR  
ANXIETY  
ON HIM,  
BECAUSE HE  
CARES FOR YOU.

1 PETER 5:7

## PREACHER B'S BE-ATTITUDES

Sunday School! A little boy! At my home church, the Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby! This was before the days of the Internet, computers, cell phones and all the technology we have available to us today! There was such a day, and some days I long for that day again.

The Bible story was about four men who brought their friend who could not walk to Jesus. When they got to the house where Jesus was, there was a huge crowd, so many people there was no way they could get close to Jesus. Not to be out done, the four friends found an outside staircase that led up to the roof of the house. Houses in that day had flat roofs, and the roofs were made out of mud and grass. Once up on the roof, the four friends started digging through the roof until they had an opening large enough through which to lower their friend. Using ropes no doubt, they slowly lowered their friend to the feet of Jesus.

Jesus had been teaching the people. Wonder what He thought when pieces of mud and grass started falling from the ceiling above? Wonder what Jesus' listeners thought? But in just a moment, there was an opening and slowly a mat with a man on it was lowered just in front of Jesus. And you know the rest of the story! Jesus rewarded the faithfulness of the four friends. He healed the man who could not walk. Jesus spoke, "Get up! Take your mat and go home!" The man got up and walked out in full view of everyone. A Wow Moment! Amazing!

I tell you all the above to tell you this. My Sunday School teacher had a picture of this very event. How many of you remember the pictures I am talking about? It must have been 16x20! It was full color. It showed the man lying on the mat at the feet of Jesus, the crowd gathered around in amazement and the four friends looking down through the opening from the roof up above. I used to love it when we would gather around our Sunday School teacher and she would pull out the picture that depicted the lesson for the day. The pictures brought the Sunday School lesson to life for a little boy growing up in Sunday School. In my mind still today, they bring this story to life for me.

Wonder what happened to those pictures? Probably got dumped! But just maybe some of them are in a cabinet somewhere in a Baptist church! Collecting dust? Or just waiting to be pulled out and used to tell some nine-year old boy or girl the story of the four friends and how Jesus healed the man that could not walk.

We'll live stream Sunday, August 9, and continue our sermon series "Re(Mark)able!" based on the Gospel of Mark. Mark 2 opens with the story of the four friends and the paralyzed man. Please join us as we look at this remarkable story and see how the story of Jesus transforms us and makes our stories remarkable as well.

Preacher B

### SUNDAY, July 26, 2020

General Fund	\$19,075.94
Lightshine/Bldg Fund	\$5,899.50
Back Pack Program	\$120.00
US Hunger	\$50.00

### GIFTS TO THE BUILDING FUND

#### IN MEMORY OF:

**Reba Lowe**

Chester & Glenda Melton, Shirley Hudson

#### IN HONOR OF:

**Martha Jean McFarland** (Date of birth August 9)  
Mary Jane Hinkle

**Mamie's Sonshine SS Class**  
Shirley Hudson

Hey Florence Family,

I hope all of you are well. I had the opportunity Sunday to do the LiveStream for the first time; by myself. I must admit, I was a little anxious on the way to church. What do I do if the Internet is not working, what button do I push to turn the microphone on, and what happens if I flub the entire LiveStream up and we have to start over? All these and, trust me, many more scenarios were going through my mind. You see David, has run the LiveStream from day one. He sets it up, pushes all the "right" buttons and is cool under pressure if something goes wrong. I help him by running the sound and giving him moral support when needed.

I was fortunate to have a veteran in Pat Nanney for my moral support, and a lot of help from above. The LiveStream, during these times, is something we all need. We need to hear God's Word that has been placed on Bobby's heart. We need to pray as a family when Tonya leads us and we need inspiration from the music we hear. Therefore, as I turned in to the church parking lot, I prayed before getting out of the car. "God, take control, I am going to get out of the way, and let You guide the Livestream." Everything was not perfect, but with a couple phone calls to David, we made it another week.

It's hard sometimes to let go and let God take control. During these uncertain times, I find myself wanting to take control and try to fix things on my own. Proverbs 3:5-6 states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." As hard as it is, let us all try to let go a little this week and give it to God.

Blessings,

Scott



- 08/09 Jeff Condrey, Alex Emory, Steve Landry,  
Martha Jean McFarland
- 08/10 Clint Bland, Briar Yelton
- 08/11 Katie Lewis, Rodney McCracken
- 08/12 Kristin Bradley, Bryson Ellis, Azlyn Silvers
- 08/13 Kathy Ferguson, Brady Joyner, Paula Qualls
- 08/14 Doug Jackson, Terry Moore, Cassandra Parton,  
Darby Roller, Bryan Ross, Jr.,
- 08/15 Sheila Biggerstaff, Jim Gardner, Trudy Holland,  
Beverly Lott, Glenna Warlick



- 08/10 Jim & Sylvia Gardner
- 08/11 Tom & Karen Hamrick, Steve & Kriss Landry
- 08/12 Joe & Barbara Freeman, Phillip & Alpha White
- 08/14 Doug & Sharon Jackson
- 08/15 Darryl & Doris Maxwell,  
Jimmy & Lauren Roberson

How many Star Wars fans do we have out there?

I grew up watching these movies and during the last movie (Star Wars: The Last Jedi) I made some unique comparisons to our Faith. I am using the “language” of the movie so bear with me if you are not familiar.

The weapon of choice in Star Wars is a lightsaber. As a Christian, it is the Light: Our Savior.

The first order was the first militia group formed by the Galactic Empire. God’s first order was the creation of heaven on earth. Mission of man failed when man sinned!

The final order was the result of combined forces as a new empire was reborn. When we join God’s army, the Darkside is defeated. Christ reigns and we belong to a new empire.

The story’s main character is Rey. She has struggled with who she is, unaware of her lineage. She eventually faces her fears and embraces who she is. The overall moral of the story is don’t be afraid of who you are – as Christians sometimes we cower to the fact that we are Christians based on the society around us. We can pray in public and we can profess our faith by how we live regardless of what the rest of society is doing. We know our lineage; we are the children of God!

We have the power to move mountains – to transform lives. In the movie Rey Skywalker transforms lives by the power of the Jedi she possesses. We transform lives by the power of the Holy Spirit..

Often, we consider ourselves defeated because it seems there are more non-believers than believers, but there are more of us. Can you imagine a world where all believers in Christ come together for Christ?

May the Force be with you!!! (this is the famous Star Wars slogan. For us, I mean the presence of God!!!)

Tonya

This past week I was looking at some photos from last year. I came across some pictures of when our team from Florence went to India on a mission trip. It brought back some good memories and a lot of joy to my heart. We partnered with Pastor Prabaht and Pastor Neerij. If you remember Pastor Neerij was hosting a church in his home and spreading the Gospel in his community. Pastor Prabaht had a church, orphanage, and school where they housed over 30 children. It was such a blessing to be with each of them that week.

I messaged Prabaht last week and asked how we could pray for his family. He said that things have been difficult since the Coronavirus came to India but that God had provided for all their needs. They were continuing to take care of the orphans and by God's grace they were all still healthy. He asked that we would pray for God to provide food and school supplies for the children. He also asked that we pray for his church as they are trying to help those in their community who are struggling.

Please take a moment today to pray for Pastor Neerij and Pastor Prabaht as they seek to make Christ known in their communities!

David

### Kids Corner:

Read Matthew 6:11-12

Unscramble the words to find two things Jesus said to pray for.

ailyd readb \_\_\_\_\_  
giveforness \_\_\_\_\_

Tonya



### Did you know?

August 3rd is National Watermelon Day

August 4th is National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day

August 5th is National Work Like a Dog Day

August 6th is National Wiggle Your Toes Day

August 7th is National Water Balloon Day

August 8th is National Happiness Happens Day

These sound like fun ways to celebrate the week. As you celebrate each one, let's relate it back to God.

We can thank Him for beautiful, refreshing, fruits of the season as we eat a watermelon. We can thank Him for the sweetness of His presence as we eat a chocolate chip cookie. We can serve others while we work like a dog or we can thank Him for the sunny days as we kick our shoes off in the green grass. Water Balloons are refreshing and bring joy like God's love for us. We can finish up the week being Happy. Thanking God for all the blessings He has given us! Let's make every day National Celebrate Christ Day!!!

Tonya



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**201 South Broadway Street**  
**Forest City, NC 28043-3698**

**Phone: 828-245-5411**

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**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**[www.florencechurch.net](http://www.florencechurch.net)**

**Or Current Resident**

### **Bible Studies for Life: Senior Adult**

#### **We Support One Another**

#### **Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16**

Preacher Bobby reminded us of this a few weeks ago during a sermon, "No one is an island." No one can ultimately survive or thrive without the assistance of others, especially the church.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the "me" driven society focuses on "what will benefit me or my family" and rarely is thought given to how our actions and choices impact other people. Our sinful nature is drawn to selfishness. However, when we come to Christ, we are immediately joined with all believers.

Today's lesson addresses our responsibility toward others. Paul doesn't tell us to create unity but to keep the unity. We are given two ways to do this.

1. God empowers us to pursue relational unity. In humility, we should consider others in addition to ourselves. With gentleness and through patience, we should show others the same mercy we have been shown from Jesus.
2. God empowers us to profess doctrinal unity. There is only one Savior, Jesus Christ.

Don't approach church for how it will benefit you, but how we as the church might benefit one another. Let's use our spiritual gifts to grow, unify, and love Christ's church.



### **Explore the Bible**

#### **Accepting Discipline**

#### **Proverbs 29:1-3, 12-20**

Discipline is essential for spiritual growth and development. God uses discipline from society, family, and others to shape His people. When the righteous walk in God's wisdom, everyone benefits.

Our spiritual journey as believers takes a similar path but it does not automatically make us mature Christians. We will inevitably make mistakes in our spiritual training. When we do, God uses discipline to correct us and get us back on track.

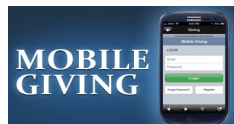
Today's lesson gives us words of wisdom that encourage believers to understand and accept the value of discipline.

Proverbs 29:18-20 reminds us that words alone do not constitute wisdom as acting on those words is required.

God's wisdom is available to everyone.

God's revealed truth must be put into action.

God's Word provides a basis for determining wise action.



**TEXT [florencebc](https://www.florencechurch.net)  
to 73256  
and give using  
your smart phone!**