



REGISTRATION has begun. Go to the Canton First website, click on VBS Knights and scroll to the bottom of the page. Call the office if you need help: 828-648-2367

SUNDAY, JULY 31



Community Worship Service

Upper Parking Lot @ Canton First Baptist

11am Worship
Neighborhood BLOCK PARTY w/ Food & Fun for all ages 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm



Invites You to Choir Practice Wednesday, July 20th @ 7:00 pm

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?
Invitation to Partner with Canton First Baptist Church: We invite you to membership with Canton First Baptist Church. Contact Dr. Court Greene to learn more. Baptism: If you are interested in baptism see Dr. Court Greene or call the church office at 828.648.2367.

July Sermon Series: God of the Harvest

JULY 03: LUKE 10: 01-11 "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL"
 JULY 10: LUKE 10: 21-24 "THE HARVESTERS"
 JULY 17: LUKE 10: 25-28 "THE FRUIT OF THE HARVEST"
 JULY 24: LUKE 10: 29-37 "THE HARVESTER'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL"



American Red Cross
Thurs. July 21st
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Canton First Baptist Fellowship Hall

BLOOD DRIVE



On the first Thursdays of each month we prepare and serve the meals at the Community Kitchen. If you're interested in volunteering let Lorene West know or come ready to work at 4:00 p.m. @ the Community Kitchen.

Canton First Baptist Church
828.648.2367 www.canton-fbc.org
208 Academy Street
Canton NC 28716

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He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself."
Luke 10:27

The Witness

208 Academy Street • Canton, North Carolina 28716
Office: 828.648.2367 • cantonfirst@gmail.com



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WE ARE HERE FOR *you*

Rev. Markey's quote from Bob Marley's, "Three Little Birds" (see next page) in this month's witness has inspired me. So, here is a Bob Marley quote that resonates with me, from "Redemption Songs".

"Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds."

Seems pretty works based, doesn't it? Is that Biblical? Well, it was written by a Rastafarian, so no. But it is still useful in our time. In the post covid church the question is often asked, "what is the church going to do?" Or, "what are we going to do now that the world has changed?"

I believe that a better question would be a simple change. "What am I going to do?" While corporate worship, and the family of God are critically important, there is and always has been an individual responsibility when it comes to our faith. It is true that only God, and not any of us as individuals can save a soul, it is also true that we each have to make a choice. In a changing world, what will each of us do? Will we choose to follow? Will we choose to be a part of God's salvific plan? Will we choose to "free our minds," by walking in truth instead of becoming captives of the "mental slavery" of fear and worry that are ever present around us?

Joshua 24:15, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Choose to serve. It is your choice to make. It is a path to freedom and peace in a frightening future, and it is a choice you will be glad to have made when you look back on this moment, after today becomes tomorrow's yesterday.



Your Pastor, Rev. Dr. Court Greene

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."
Jeremiah 29:11*

*"Don't worry about a thing;
'Cause every little thing gonna be all right.
Singin': 'Don't worry about a thing'
'Cause every little thing gonna be all right!"
-Bob Marley*

I hope that you are having a beautiful start to your summer. In spite of a world that continues to churn and writhe in turmoil and tumult, I encourage each of us to remember God's promise that our future is secure in Him.

Admittedly, I find it so easy to try and apply this passage from Jeremiah as a sort of promise of prosperity *just for me - a sort of Marleyian doctrine of "every little thing being all right."* While this thinking might prove true, depending on one's interpretation of "all right," I must concede that often my desire for my "troubles" to dissipate simply because "that's what God said He'd do" is more than a little misguided. Leaning on the assurances proclaimed in this passage of Scripture without context can leave one feeling discouraged, because the context reminds us that "all right" doesn't always align with "without issues."

Being secure in a hopeful future with Christ is not a promise that we will live comfortably, or even that we will be free from harm. In fact, Scripture often serves as a reminder that choosing to walk with Christ will not always be easy.

Where's the "welfare" and lack of harm? Where then is this "future with hope?" What we DO get from this passage of assurance is a reminder that in all things God is in control. He sees tomorrow as clearly as He remembers yesterday, and He has promised us a future beyond the ephemeral struggles we face in our time in this life. We serve a God who has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. He knows every pain of this world, and is acutely aware of the context of every moment of every life. Alpha and Omega, God is with us as we each walk our path, and even though He knows the full extent of our journeys, He hears our prayers with divine empathy and genuine care.

*"Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with 10,000 beside."
-Thomas Chisholm*

I serve a God who has called me to be his child, in good times and times of struggle. I trust that God sees the challenges I face, and is patiently guiding me through them through the Holy Spirit. The eternal assurance of a future with hope has much to offer how we can conduct ourselves in the present. God Loves us. God cares deeply what happens to us, in the mountains and valleys that we all traverse, and in our ultimate destination of an eternity found with Christ. Jeremiah 29:11 and countless other reminders in the Bible assure us that even though things aren't always going our way, we are called to press forward, remembering the strength we are given today can be found in the bright hope for tomorrow.

Blessings!

Rev. James Markey

Experience God with Canton First

Sunday: July 3, 2022:

9:45 Sunday School Adults-FH, Children - 3rd Floor
11:00 Worship in-person, Facebook, YouTube & WPTL
COMMUNION SUNDAY

Monday **Happy Fourth!** Office Closed.

Tuesday 10:00 Jean Teague WMU in the Fellowship Hall
3:30 Staff Meeting
4:30 Setup Sorrells Park to hand out water @ **Fourth +1**
5:30 Hand out water (Volunteers needed.)

Wednesday **NO** Choir Practice

Thursday 4:00 Community Kitchen

Saturday **9:00 VBS here @ Canton First. Until 3:00 pm. The Bus is available to kids that need transportation. Contact the church office 648-2367 to reserve your seat.**

Sunday: July 10, 2022:

9:45 Sunday School Adults-FH, Children - 3rd Floor
11:00 Worship in-person, Facebook, YouTube & WPTL
Tuesday 3:30 Staff Meeting
Wednesday 6:00 **Church-Wide Hot Dog Supper**
7:00 **Church-Wide Movie & Popcorn Night in the FH**

Sunday: July 17, 2022:

9:45 Sunday School Adults-FH, Children - 3rd Floor
11:00 Worship in-person, Facebook, YouTube & WPTL
Tuesday 3:30 Staff Meeting
Wednesday 7:00 Choir Practice
Thursday 10—3 **Blood Mobile** in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday: July 24, 2022:

9:45 Sunday School Adults-FH, Children - 3rd Floor
11:00 Worship in-person, Facebook, YouTube & WPTL
Tuesday 3:30 Staff Meeting
Wednesday 7:00 Choir Practice

Sunday: July 31, 2022:

9:45 Sunday School Adults-FH, Children - 3rd Floor
11:00 ALL-COMMUNITY Outdoor Worship @ Canton First Baptist Upper Parking Lot AND Facebook, YouTube & WPTL
12:00 BLOCK PARTY: Food, Fun & Fellowship until 3:00 pm
Tuesday 10:00 Jean Teague WMU in the Fellowship Hall
3:30 Staff Meeting
Wednesday 7:00 Choir Practice
Thursday 4:00 Community Kitchen



July 3
Sunday School: Donna Wood Worship: Gail Cannon
July 10
Sunday School: Sabrina Brock Worship: Brittany Inman
July 17
Sunday School: Sandra Grogan Worship: Sabrina Brock
July 24
Sunday School: Cathy Walsh Worship: Katie Reeves
July 31
Sunday School: Susan Davis Worship: Donna Wood



July 3
Sabrina Brock
July 10
Kristi Greene
July 17
Donna Wood
July 24
Kathy Willetts
July 31
Robbie McLeod





All Community VBS
Sat. July 9th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
@ Canton First Baptist



UPCOMING

Canton First Baptist Church

208 Academy St Canton NC 28716

Presents

Hotdog Dinner and Family Movie Night

Inspiring movies for all ages with snacks.

6pm Wednesday, July 13