



The Baptist Bridge

By the grace of God, the Philippi Baptist Church shall **Embrace, Model, and Share** the love of God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

July 2016

Philippi Baptist Church ♦ 69 Church St. ♦ Philippi, WV 26416 ♦ (304) 457-3206



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You can give online at pbcwv.net



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Jon Villers, Pastor Jud Bracey, Choir Director Madison Riffle, Youth Director

Emily Casto— Celebrate Recovery Ministry
Leader

Michele Moore, Church Pianist
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



Special thanks to Carlos A. Rodríguez for this article entitled:
Why Is Christianity Embarrassing? Dealing With Family Shame And Learning To Love it Still

After the mass shooting at an Orlando gay nightclub, Pastor Roger Jimenez praised the massacre, saying that it's a tragedy more "predators" and "pedophiles" didn't die.

You know that terrible feeling when someone is singing out of tune? Like really bad. In front of everybody (and they have no clue how bad it's going?)

That's called Fremdschämen – A German term which describes the process of being vicariously embarrassed by someone else. "Tom was completely wasted while he held the speech on Mike's wedding party." Fremdschämen in perfection.

That's how I feel 98% of the time I watch Christian TV. Or see a Christian Bible verse with a cheesy flower background on Facebook. Or hear a 90's sounding Christian song playing on the radio (in 2016). Or watch a Christian movie in the theatre.

Or worse (as we have seen recently from this pastor in California and many others in the last few days) when I watch a Christian talk about current events in the news. #Painful

Yes, I hate the critic in me! But I can't deny it: I'm embarrassed by my spiritual family.

So I've decided to stay as far away as possible. I'm choosing Netflix over GOD TV. The Tonight Show over the 700 Club. Jennifer Lawrence in Catching Fire over Nicolas Cage and/or Kirk Cameron in any Left Behind movie. Because it is so hard to put myself through that misery. It is a burden I cannot bear!

Now the problem is, that I feel like I am contradicting Scripture. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."

But I'm so ashamed! I can't help it. And the worst thing about it is that as a pastor who has done multiple live events, recorded worship music and has been on Christian TV – I am most ashamed of myself! (The worst kind of Fremdschämen!)

Good news though, I'm starting to realise that the Gospel is very different to Christianity. That Gospel Paul talks about is God's perfect statement of love and grace. Christianity is just our response to that message. The Gospel is the Good News of Salvation, to all people, everywhere. Christianity is the imperfect expression of the people who receive and acknowledge that news. The Gospel is the finished work of Christ, Christianity is the unfinished work of men.

I am a Christian. 100%. No doubt about it.

But my faith has little to do with Christianity, It has everything to do with Christ Himself!

You see, Jesus was not a Christian. Neither did the Early Church called themselves Christians. There are multiple stories in the New Testament of people who received Salvation (and will meet us in heaven) who never once called themselves a "Christian." Never did the sinners prayer. Never heard Newsboys or Third Day. Never watched War Room. Yet they're doing pretty great.

I know it's human nature to highlight the negative; so I intentionally remember and honor the millions of Christ-Followers who are loving their families and being a light in their communities, all over the world.

So it's ok for us if an expression of Christianity does not suit our style, or age, or preference. That's the beauty of family! We can honour and celebrate each other without having to be exactly the same.

Yes, I'm a pastor in a superb Christian church (shout out to my Catch The Fire family). I love my Christian friends and coworkers. I'm excited to serve in a global Christian ministry.

Nevertheless, I will not settle for the expression we are currently expressing.

Jesus did not die to create a Sunday Morning Gathering, He gave his life for everyone you encounter Monday through Saturday.

Our main message is not to defend Chick-Fil-A for closing on Sundays. Our core message is to share God's love with the Strip Club down the road.

Our voice is not for deciding who rules in the White House. Our true power is when we serve our cities and our leaders and our enemies.

TV and media and politics are a good place for our message, but our best platform is with our own families, and in the gutter with the homeless, with the orphans and the widows, with the poorest of the poor.

I want to keep my heart sweet. I don't want to be the judge of what is cool, or valid or properly "Christian" (God knows I'm getting old and cheesy myself) What do I know anyway?



Our Christian Family is a 2,000 year old organism that is constantly changing and shifting. And I am honestly excited for the diverse ways that the church is maturing and uniting and rejecting its own religiosity. Yes, the road is long and tedious but, it requires critics like me to invest more time loving and honouring to see the unity necessary in the body. Still, change must come. That's the perfect tension.

We love the church despite the stupidity, but we will not be ok with staying stupid.

The world has to know the true and living Christ. The One who was a Friend of Sinners. The One who was the enemy of religion. The One who loved people more than events. The One who was embarrassed with the religious/spiritual expression in His own era and came to show us a new (and better) way.

So next time you feel Fremdschämen rising up in your heart, just smile. Thank Jesus for the person/movie/show/preacher who is making you cringe on the inside and get excited for the change you and they will bring to the system. The truth is that they are on TV/Stage/Radio because they have put the time and effort to follow what they thought was right.

Now, let them become an invitation to you that says, "It's my time!" And let us all use the energy we have been wasting on pointing the finger and turn it into an investment of creativity and radical transformation.

It's not a sin to be embarrassed by an expression of Christianity that does not look like Christ.

The sin is in judging them, while doing nothing ourselves.

I'll finish with the words of Jesus when faced with "different" members of the family, "Do not stop him, for whoever is not against you is for you." Luke 9:50

Peace

The church office will be closed Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.



There will be no Men's Prayer Breakfast in June, July and August. We invite all the men and boys in the Church to join us in September. Our topics cover a wide variety.



Book of the Month: James

Suggested Heart & Hand donation for July & August
Boxed side dishes, peanut butter, canned meat



Mission Possible—Mountain Hospice

Mountain Hospice was started twenty-five years ago as a mission of Philippi Baptist Church. Founders, all members of the church, included Norma Workman, Dorothy Hayhurst, Leonard LoBello, Barbara Smith, and Pastor Dick Hepler. When services began, Dot Hayhurst was the part-time nurse, and there were two patients. Today Mountain Hospice has six offices and provides treatment for a daily average of 85 individuals and their families in seven counties in North Central West Virginia—Barbour, Randolph, Pocahontas, Pendleton, Grant, and Mineral.

Services are provided primarily in the patients' homes, but the hospice also has contracts and treats patients in a dozen nursing homes and rehab centers. With its main office in Belington, Mountain Hospice is reportedly the fourth largest employer in Barbour County. The program includes not only medical care but also counseling for patient families and friends. Camp Good Grief is held each summer in several locations to provide recreation and counseling for children related to the patients. The hospice office in Belington has been certified by the Red Cross as an emergency shelter, and special programs and recognition are provided throughout the year for military veterans.

Financial support for all functions of the hospice is provided primarily by Medicare and Medicaid, but private insurance companies are also involved, as are donations from individuals and organizations. Patients are generally treated cost-free.

Anyone attending a parade in any of the seven counties served by the organization cannot fail to notice the Mountain Hospice float designed and constructed by MH staff members. The next time you see the prize-winning float or any employee or patient of Mountain Hospice, say a prayer of thanksgiving. Having cared for thousands of individuals suffering from life-threatening diseases, this organization has been a blessing initiated and still supported by Philippi Baptist Church as an act of mercy and compassion.



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students
Barbour County Homeless

Sam Branovich

Celebrate Recovery

Code Blue

Ruby Cozad

Alyssa Fencil

Arletta Gould

Linda Hepler

Stephanie Hinkle

Bailey Larrison

Local ministries

Patricia McQuade

Tom McQuade

Adrienne Marsh

Blair Marks

Bill Morlan

Orlando

Phillips family

Kathy Prussa

Dawn & Chuck Scheick's nephew

Elody Shrader

Jim Sutton

Phyllis Strachman

Charlee Thomas' Dad

Jim Warfuel

Liam Varughese

PBC Abide Youth

Unspoken requests for family members, unsaved people,
community concerns, job and home loss, financial
difficulties.

Also, in need of prayer: Our nation, state, and country
leaders and officials. Please pray for victims of crime,
war and violence throughout our country.



Pray for protection for military personnel and
their families throughout the world and those
serving our country:

Captain Aaron Cross

Tim Jenkins,

Brian Lundell

Corporal Anthony Perry, Sr.

Amber Underwood

Major Kris Wood



Remember
Our
Shut-Ins

Blair & Pearl Marks, Vangie Shaffer
(Mansfield Place), Germaine &
Austin Whitman



Maggie Dixon

David Imboden & Sara Widder

Emily Meader's Neice

Dawn & Chuck Scheick

Marilyn Shearer

Rev. Lewis Villers

Happy
Birthday!

- 2- Bobby Villers
- 2- Thomas Villers
- 3- Josh Gilpin
- 5- Cheryl Wolfe
- 7- Clayton Phillips
- 8- Noah Casto
- 13- Bentley Meader
- 16- Bruce Blankenship
- 20- Randy Moore
- 22- Richard Hepler
- 24- Carman Cline
- 24- Madison Riffle
- 24- Dorian Cottrill
- 26- Shirley Keen
- 28- Roconda Daugherty
- 29- Taylor Smith
- 30- Erin Davis
- 31- Caleb Villers



- 3- George & Marija Sommers
- 11- Gary & Brenda Price
- 14- Kenny & Patty Phillips
- 16- Jud & Kelly Bracey
- 29- Pete & Sarah Ferguson
- 30- Bruce & Cheryl Blankenship
- 31- Wesley & Crystal Gray

Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship	9:15am 10:30am
Mondays	Celebrate Recovery Praise Team Practice Celebrate Recovery	4:45pm 6:30pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house)	12:45pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Service	6pm
Every other Saturday	Youth	6pm

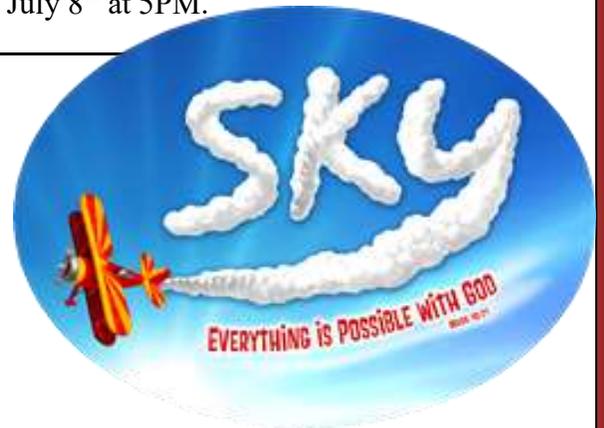
Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for July

	July 3rd	July 10th	July 17th	July 24th	July 31st
Nursery	Wanda Steele & Emily Meader	Rebekah Hicks & Margaret Salimi	Zvezdana Vlastic & Bonnie Daugherty	Cheryl Wolfe & Hannah Dixon	Kelly Bracey & Jennifer Weyandt
Children's Church	Kelly Bracey & Jennifer Weyandt	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Sarah, Pete & Sam Ferguson	Crystal & Wes Gray	



Vacation Bible School will be Saturday, July 9th, 9:30AM- 3:30PM. Anyone who wishes to help make decorations please join us here at the church on June 28th at 6:30PM and July 8th at 5PM.

The American Baptist Women's Ministries voted on June 7 to sponsor a diaper shower for the Kenny and Patti Phillips family. Please bring packages of diapers to the church any time in June or July. Any size will do because unopened packages can be traded at the store for whatever other sizes are needed. The diapers can be left in the chapel room at the church. Bless you--and bless the Phillips family.



We are asking all able-bodied members to please park behind the courthouse or in the city lot. We have many handi-capped member who need the closer metered spaces. Thank

We have raised \$15,900 of our \$26,000 goal for the new church van.



One Great HOUR OF SHARING

Dear Friends,

It is time again for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. By the grace of God, we are given the opportunity to share our gifts and resources with our brothers and sisters in need around the world. All of us have the power to give back to God from that which God has given us, and in doing so, create a more just world for all of God's children. Through our gifts, we participate in the many ministries that serve the hungry, the poor, the distressed, the refugee.

The Hebrew Bible models this offering in the story of Ruth and Naomi, portrayed in the Book of Ruth. When faced with forced relocation, due to famine and political strife, Ruth said to Naomi, "Where you go I will go." Solidarity stands at the heart of their story. Solidarity stands at the heart of the ministries of One Great Hour of Sharing. Solidarity stands at the heart of this offering.

Like Ruth and Naomi, refugees today are confronted with dire situations in their homes, and are forced by the necessity of survival to leave behind their communities in order to seek safety and security. Currently, the United Nations estimates over 60 million of our brothers and sisters across the world are refugees or displaced persons. The number is higher than it has been since World War II, and is expected to increase as violence continues in the Middle East and parts of Africa.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing we embrace refugees around the world as our own. We say "where you go, we will go." This offering places us side-by-side with those in need. It offers us the opportunity to be Ruth for the Naomi's of the world. By supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, we answer God's call for us to bring wholeness to a fragmented world.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches across the globe. Sometimes it provides solidarity to those who have experienced loss due to disasters in our own community and congregation, and at other times it says tangibly "you are not forgotten" to our sisters and brothers on the other side of the world. Through our gifts, we can help ensure that all of God's children have what they need. Together, we accompany the refugee and stand in solidarity with the distressed, bringing about the world as God intended.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift to this special offering.

Sincerely,

Board of Missions & Outreach



Philippi Baptist Church
69 Church Street
Philippi, WV 26416

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 2nd–6:00PM– Youth– Abide Ministry
Sunday, July 3rd– Saturday, July 9th– High School Camp at Camp Cowen
Sunday, July 3rd– Friday, July 8th– World Mission Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin
Sunday, July 3rd– 10:30AM– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering
11:30PM– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting
6:00PM– Diaconate meeting
Tuesday, July 5th, Wednesday, July 6th & Friday, July 8th– Church reserved to decorate for VBS
Thursday, July 7th– 5PM– Church Reserved
July 9th– 9:30AM– Vacation Bible School
Sunday July, 10th– Saturday, July 16th– Junior High 2 Camp at Camp Cowen
Sunday, July 10th– 3:00PM– CR Leadership meeting
4:30PM– Board of Christian Education meeting
5:00PM– Board of Trustees meeting
7:30PM– Church Council meeting
Saturday, July, 16th– Senior Day at Camp Cowen
2:00PM– Union Association Picnic
6:00PM– Youth– Abide Ministry
Sunday, July 17th– Saturday, July 23rd– Stroudsburg, Mission team staying at PBC
High School 2 Camp at Camp Cowen
Friday, July 29th– Monday, August 1st– Family Camp at Camp Cowen
Saturday, July 30th– Youth– Abide Ministry