



# August 19 Newsletter

This week, we watched the tragic events unfolding in Afghanistan. Our hearts break as we see the horrific and blatant evil before our eyes as the Taliban take back the country with ferocity. We are moved with compassion at those who have lost their homes, the women who are being enslaved, and those who have been killed.

As Christians our prayers are with all those impacted, but we are especially concerned for our brothers and sisters in Christ, who are being persecuted even to death for simply following Jesus Christ. Hebrews 13:3 says, "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body." Our family is being attacked and therefore we are just as broken as if the persecution was here in America.

At the same time, some of the most moving stories are coming from how the church is responding to the crisis in Afghanistan. Though few, there are still many believers in the country. Days ago, one received a letter from the Taliban saying, "We know who you are, what you do, and where to find you." The Taliban came to his door, but he had gone into hiding. Christians are in fear of their lives. One report shared that if you are found to have a Bible app on your phone you are sentenced to death immediately.

What I find amazing is that many of the believers in the area have chosen to stay and face what may come. They are choosing to stand for Christ though it will likely cost them everything. They are trusting in Christ with the peace that surpasses all understanding. One believer was reported to say, "We can trust that our Lord is mighty and will care for his children," and, "Our hope is not in politics but in Jesus who is the King."

As Christians we may never understand why God is allowing this to take place, but our peace comes from knowing that He is sovereign over it. This suffering is allowed by God for His purposes. It is right for us to pray for the protection of those in harm's way and that the efforts of evil would be thwarted. However, our ultimate hope comes from knowing the ultimate end to evil will be accomplished through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our hope is that even if this suffering continues God is making a way to end all suffering. God is allowing this for His glory and to further His kingdom. It is amazing that through persecution the church often grows and thrives. As Tertullian famously said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

Therefore, we pray that God protect our brothers and sisters. We pray that perhaps He would miraculously save even the Taliban on their way to kill Christians, just as He did with Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Above all we pray that God would glorify Himself and further His church during this persecution.

In Christ, Pastor Nathan

To read more:

- <https://www.9marks.org/article/afghan-pastors-ask-for-prayer/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/afghanistan-afghan-pastors>

## Weekly Schedule

### Sundays

- 9:00 AM: Inside Service and Sunday School
- 10:30 AM: Inside Service and Sunday School

### Sunday Evenings

- 4:30 PM: Choir Practice
- 6:00 PM: Adult Equipping Classes

### Tuesdays

- 7:00 AM: Men's Bible Study at Bob Evans
- 6:00 PM: Celebrate Recovery

### Wednesdays

- 10:00 AM: Prayer Meeting

### Thursdays

- 10:00 AM: Faith Class

## Upcoming Schedule

### Friday, August 20

- 6:00 PM: Family Fellowship Night (at beach, 16th Avenue N)

### Wednesday, August 25

- 6:00 pm: Church Conference 2nd Reading of the 2021-22 Proposed Budget, Vote on Nominating Report

### Sunday, August 29

- Vote on 2021-22 Proposed Budget, Deacons, and Personnel Proposals

### Saturday, September 4

- 10:30 AM: wMu

### Sunday, September 5

- Observance of the Lord's Supper
- Promotion Sunday
- No Evening Activities

### Monday, September 6

- Holiday: Church Office Closed

### Saturday, September 11

- 8:00 AM: Men's Breakfast

### Sunday, September 12

- 11:45 AM: Discover FBC Lunch for New and Prospective Members

## Sunday's Worship Guide

The Gospel Of Luke: Good News For All People  
The Prodigal God; Luke 15

- I. The Prodigal Son (11-19)
- II. The Prodigal God (20-24)
- III. The Prodigal Brother (25-32)



## Sunday, September 5

Children and Youth Promotion Sunday

## Christmas Haiti

It's simple ! Help put a smile on a Haitian child's face this Christmas by supporting Christmas Haiti.

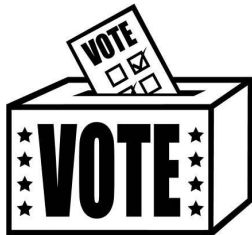
Pick up a plastic container from the lobby and fill it with items listed in the box. Enclose \$5.00 in the envelope to cover shipping and mark appropriate age for boy or girl. Return it to the church by Sunday, September 26.



**Friday, August 20: 6:00 PM (16th Ave N on the Beach)**  
Bring your dinner and lawn chairs and join us for a night of family fellowship!



**Wednesday, August 25: 6:00 PM**  
**Church Conference**  
2nd Reading of the 2021-22 Proposed Budget  
Vote on Nominating Report



## Sunday, August 29

### Ballot Vote for:

- 2021-22 Proposed Budget
- Deacons
- Establish Position of Director of Children's Ministry
- Alter Pastor Brett's Title to Pastor of Youth and Young Adults

**Call the church office or attend the August 25 church conference for questions**



## Kitchen Clean Up Time!

The kitchen/hospitality coordinator will be cleaning out the kitchen and storage area. If you have any personal things in the refrigerator or kitchen that you want, please remove them by September 1. Otherwise they may be tossed!



## Adopt a Homebound

We invite anyone who would like to adopt one of our homebound members to contact us. We appreciate those who answered the call and adopted a homebound member a year ago. If you are unable to continue for another year, please let us know. Homebound Ministry: John and Ellen Ellis 1944ll64@gmail.com

**Sunday, September 5**  
**Observance of the Lord's Supper**

**DISCOVER**  
**FBC SURFSIDE**

**FOR NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

**Sunday, September 12 at 11:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall.**  
**Call the church office to order lunch and reserve your spot!**