

# THE FAMILY CONNECTION

Romans 15:7

April 11, 2021

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# welcome!

## Church Is Hard

Church is hard for...

- the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.
- the preacher's family, under the microscope of an entire body.
- the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.
- the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.
- the couple who fought the entire ride to service.
- the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.
- the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.
- the deacon with an estranged child.
- the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.
- the man insecure in his role as a leader.
- the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.
- the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.
- the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.
- the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.
- the sinners like me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress. However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, with worldly desires, and selfish motives.

Here is the beauty of church—Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is...

- a body, a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.
- a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.
- a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.
- a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.
- a converging of confrontation and invitation. a lesson in faith and trust.
- a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.
- a family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

Even on the hardest days at church— I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

Adapted from Jacob Waldron



**GIVING & ATTENDANCE**  
**WEEK ENDED April 4th**

Weekly Actual	\$ 8,898
Weekly Budget	<u>\$10,500</u>
Weekly Variance	\$ <1,602>
4 Week Average Variance	\$ <1,968>
Sunday Morning:	
Attendance in Building	195
Attendance via views online:	542
Sunday Evening:	
Attendance in Building	N/A
Attendance via views online:	N/A
Wednesday:	
Attendance in Building/ Teens	28
Attendance online:	154

**PRAYER SECTION**

- Claude Haynes, June McCauley, Elvis Durity, Bonnie Stephens, & Scott Blake continue to have health challenges.
- Pray for the families affected by COVID-19. This time has taken its toll on everyone physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually.
- John David Ottway is still receiving treatments. He is expected to need a blood transfusion again soon.

**Ministry Opportunity**

The ladies ministry is looking for someone to take over arranging meals for those who are sick, recovering, or grieving. Please contact Carla if you would like to volunteer.

**Ministry Opportunity**

If you would like to be part of the Audio Visual / Computer Ministry please see Zak or Kathleen.

**Bible Study**

**Our in person / virtual class for Sunday night:**

Everyone - Main Auditorium - 5:30 PM - Russ Bone

**Our in person classes for Wednesday night are:**

Everyone - Main Auditorium - 6:30PM.

Teens - Grey House - 6:30PM

All county mandated health precautions will be followed.

**Our virtual options for Wednesday night are:**

Ladies class via Zoom - 6PM - please contact Carla Sledge or Diane Otey for a Zoom invitation.

Auditorium class via Facebook - 6:30PM

We hope you will join us in one of these Bible study opportunities.

**Children's Worship Class**

Our children's worship class is offered to those 3 years of age to 2nd grade and will be held in Classroom A8 - that's the large classroom in the back. Children will be with their parents at the beginning of worship and will be dismissed by the song leader after the communion service. You may use either set of double doors into the classroom area. On your way back, please take a moment to encourage your child to go potty before going to class. We ask that when services are over, parents promptly pick up their children from the classroom. Due to safety reasons, only parents will be allowed to pick up their children.

**New Arrival**

America Gutierrez and Adrian Orelien proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Amyla Maliah Orelien. Amyla arrived 10 weeks early on March 31, 2021. At birth Amyla was 2 lbs, 5 oz and 15". She is in the NICU at Lee Hospital where she is gaining strength every day. Mom is home recovering from an emergency c-section.

**Adopt a Teacher Event**

Our next Adopt a Teacher event will be held this Friday, April 16th. The Ladies Ministry will host a "Salad Bar and Sweets" during which time the teachers will receive their "Secret Sister" style gifts for this quarter. Please bring your gifts to the building on Wed. April 14th.

**Great News**

Livingston Academy has received the Florida Coalition of Christian Private Schools Accreditation. They had an inspection this past week and passed with wonderful praises for Livingston Academy. Congratulations Becky along with the entire staff and volunteers!

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

14 - America Gutierrez	22 - Clarke Gaynor	27 - Faith Brown
15 - Cody Callanan	23 - Bill Gillett	27 - Sonyia Rimmer
16 - Jordyn Dempsey	24 - Hugh Travis	28 - Margorie Rhodes
16 - Jim & Brenda Martin	24 - Tom Wriggins	30 - Di Menoher
18 - Emma Wriggins	25 - Tracey Mak	
22 - Sela Adams	26 - Audrey Streefkerk	

**New Keys**

If you have a key to the front / back doors, you will need to get a different key. For security purposes we change the locks every few years.

### SHEPHERDS

Terry Billingsby 423-943-8999  
 Barry Brown: 239- 777-7248  
 Ben Gyimah: 239-449-6339  
 Scott Otey 239-253-9640  
 Hugh Travis 239-450-1445

### STAFF

Russ Bone: Interim Minister  
 Kathleen Brown: Office Admin  
 Zak Dempsey: Youth Minister  
 Tim Neal Lead Minister

### DEACONS

Jeff Blake Adult Education  
 Marvin Donis TBA  
 Roberto Escobar, Jr. Daycare Cmte.  
 Alan Glazier Worship  
 Glenn Macon Youth  
 Larry Menoher Building / Grounds  
 Drew Meulenberg Finance  
 Marc Rimmer Benevolence  
 Tom Wriggins Worship

### MINISTRY LEADERS

Dennis Coleman Building & Grounds  
 Haris Domond Social Media &  
 Advertising  
 George Fetzer Security  
 Scott Holden Visitation  
 David Wakeland Involvement  
 Online Giving: 

### USA MISSIONS

Roberto Escobar, Sr. [Naples]  
 Christian Home & Bible School  
 Mauricio Yegros [Coral Springs]

### LIVINGSTON ACADEMY

Becky Hartly Director

### GHANA MISSIONARIES

Emanuel, Peter, Gideon, Mark,  
 Amos, Anthony, James,  
 Valentine, Evans, Jacob, Prosper

### WORSHIP SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Worship - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
 Streaming - 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM  
 Hispanic Service - 1:00 PM  
 Evening Study - 5:30 PM

#### WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class - 6PM via Zoom  
 Bible Study - 6:30 PM  
 Streaming begins at 6:30 PM

### OFFICE HOURS

M, W, F - 10A.M. - 5:00 PM



### SERVICE SCHEDULE

**April 4th**

Welcome: Scott Otey  
 Song Leader: Joe Lennon  
 Preaching: Russ Bone  
 Scripture Reading &  
 Opening Prayer Roberto Escobar, Jr.  
 Communion:  
 Leader Barry Brown  
 Servers & Ushers:  
 Tom Wriggins, Phil Osborne  
 Cody Callanan, Bill Strong  
 Closing Prayer: Tom Wriggins  
 Computer: David Wakeland  
 Sound Booth: Kathleen Brown  
 Media: Zak Dempsey

**Next Week**

Welcome: Terry Billingsby  
 Song Leader: Joe Lennon  
 Preaching: Russ Bone  
 Scripture Reading &  
 Opening Prayer Barry Brown  
 Communion:  
 Leader Tom Wriggins  
 Servers & Ushers:  
 Scott Holden, Glenn Macon  
 AJ Lopez, Scott Otey  
 Closing Prayer: Ben Gyimah  
 Computer: David Wakeland  
 Sound Booth: Kathleen Brown  
 Media: Zak Dempsey  
 Communion Prep:  
 Please meet in Classroom #11 10  
 minutes before services begin. If  
 you are unable to serve, please call:  
 Alan Glazier or Tom Wriggins  
 [Worship], Kathleen Brown [Sound]

### MISSION STATEMENT

#### To Glorify God By:

Leading people to know God through Jesus Christ.  
 Equipping members for ministry and spiritual service.  
 Assisting members to grow in love, holy living and fellowship with the  
 community of Christ.  
 Declaring God in spiritual and truthful worship.

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