

Beulah
1851 Old Mountain Rd
Statesville, NC 28677

Church Office Hours
Mon-Thurs: 8am-4pm
Friday: 8am-12noon
Phone: 704.872.6971
www.beulahchurch.com

Church Staff

Senior Pastor Rev. Brian Burgess
bbcpastorbrian@gmail.com
Student Pastor Rev. Parker French
bbcpastorparker@gmail.com
Music Director Mrs. Lisa Gragg
lisagraggbbc@gmail.com
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beulahkidsmin@gmail.com
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beulahchurchlife@gmail.com
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cynthiahbbc@gmail.com
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jerryhbbc@gmail.com
Office Administrator Mrs. Robin McDonald
robinmbbc@gmail.com
Creative Design/Office Asst. Ms. Mac Inscore
mingscorebbc@gmail.com

Beulah Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings @ 9:00AM & 10:30AM
Preschool/Children's Worship 9AM & 10:30AM
Youth/Adult Small Groups, Sundays @ 9:00AM
(see listing of groups @ beulahchurch.com)

Other Worship Options

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/beulahchurch
Facebook: BeulahBaptistChurchStatesville
WAME 92.9FM or 550AM: Sundays @ 10AM
Church website: www.beulahchurch.com

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Beulah
STUDENT MINISTRY
Follow our Student Ministry on
INSTAGRAM @BEULAHBOOM
Get weekly text updates!
TEXT @BBYOUTH2 TO 81010
BBCPASTORPARKER@GMAIL.COM
OR 704-872-6971

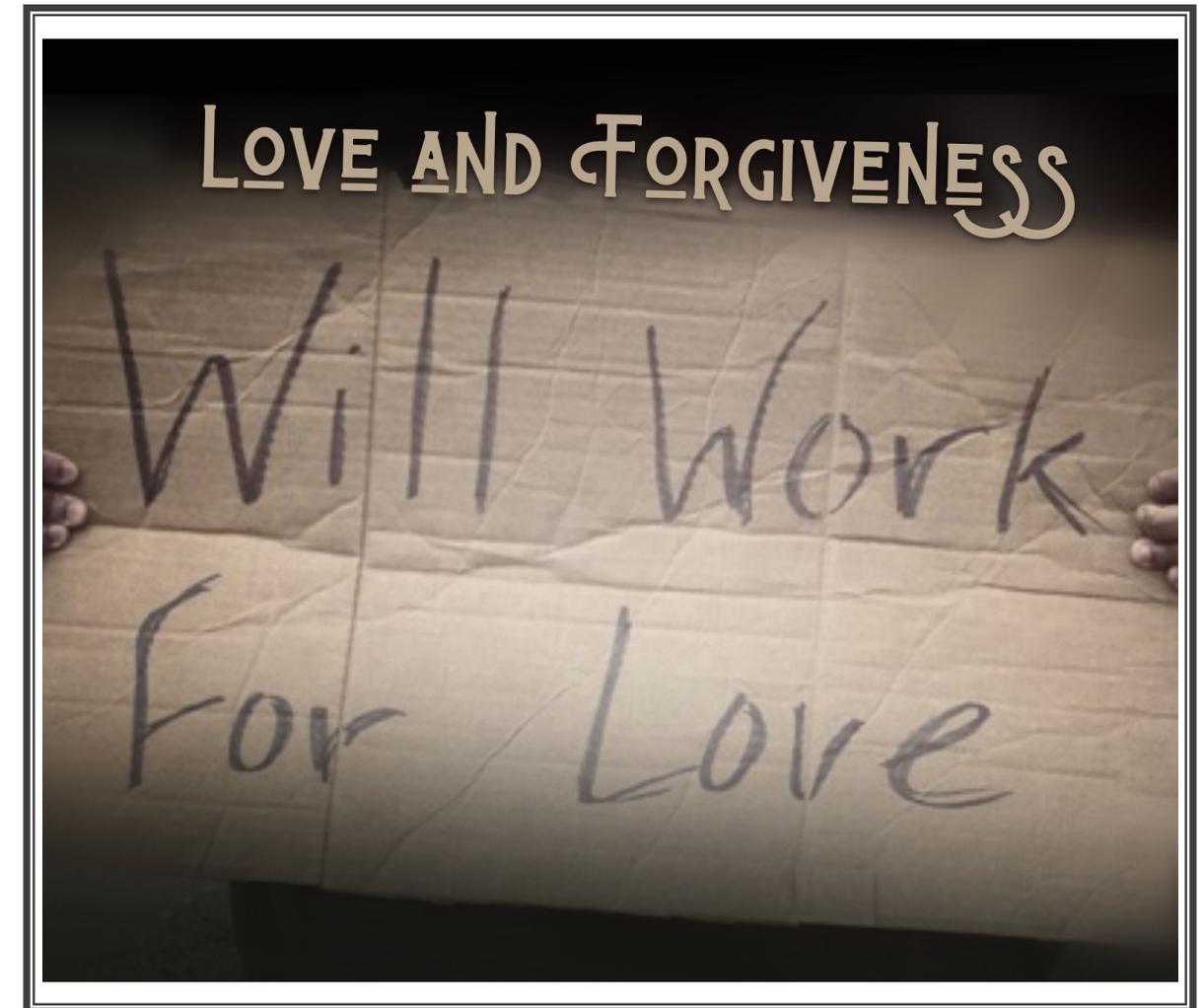
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EMAIL GINA:
beulahkidsmin@gmail.com
Or Call 704-872-6971

Beulah
Statesville, NC

The Messenger

Volume 56 Issue 1 January 5, 2023

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us... Ephesians 3:20



Beulah,

In our new series, Love and Forgiveness, we are working on a better biblical understanding about these truths. Listen to this article on Forgiveness by Vaneetha Risner.

What Forgiveness Is and Is Not

There are many definitions of forgiveness, but a simple one is *to surrender the right to hurt others in response to the way they've hurt us*. Forgiveness means refusing to retaliate or hold bitterness against people for the ways they have wounded us. It is a unilateral act — not conditional on the person being repentant or even willing to acknowledge what they've done.

Forgiveness is *not* saying that sin doesn't matter. It is not approving of what the other person has done, minimizing the offense, or denying we've been wronged. Forgiveness *is* acknowledging that the other person has sinned against us and may never be able to make it right. The apostle Paul writes, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, *as God in Christ forgave you*" (Ephesians 4:32). If God in Christ forgave us, then forgiving someone *cannot* mean diminishing the wrong they've done. God could never do that with sin and remain just.

Forgiveness doesn't always mean reconciliation or restoration. And it does not require restoring trust or inviting the people who hurt us back into a relationship. Forgiveness is unconditional, but meaningful reconciliation and restoration are conditional (in the gospel and in human relationships) on the offender's genuine repentance, humble willingness to accept the consequences of his actions, and a desire by both parties to work on the relationship.

Forgiving people also doesn't mean they won't experience consequences for their sin. When we forgive them, however, we leave those consequences to God, who says, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay" (Romans 12:19). This doesn't mean we may not pursue legal action, if warranted, against someone who has hurt us. In certain circumstances, that may be vital for the rehabilitation of the offender or for protecting other potential victims.

Forgiveness is costly. In the Bible, it involves shedding blood (Hebrews 9:22). Sacrifice. Death. Honestly, the first step of forgiveness still often feels like death. I want to cling to my right to be angry and often resent being asked to give that up. It all seems so unfair. My flesh still demands some type of retribution. My resistance shows me I need God's help to understand forgiveness and to truly forgive.

Where Do We Begin?

I have often had to say, *Lord, I don't want to forgive now, but could you make me willing to forgive? You have forgiven all my sins and I know anything I forgive others is small by comparison* (Matthew 18:21–35). *But I cannot do this without you. Please help me.*

Often, I have to repeat this prayer until God changes my heart. When he does, he usually helps me see the wounds of the person who has hurt me — wounds that do not diminish, justify, or excuse the offense, but that do soften my attitude toward the person.

Once I am engaged in wanting to forgive, I begin the process of forgiveness by naming what has happened and all the negative repercussions from the person's actions and words. I include everything. What I've lost. What's been hard. How it's made me feel. I want to know what I'm letting go of before I forgive so I can move forward, knowing I have counted the cost.

For most offenses, forgiveness is both an initial decision to let go of bitterness as well as a long, ongoing process. When offenses come to mind and painful memories resurface, I must intentionally stop rehearsing them and ask the Lord to help me release those thoughts and practice forgiveness. (continued...)

Why Forgiveness Is Vital to Joy

For years I didn't realize the importance of forgiveness and somehow assumed it was optional; now I see it as a command. "As the Lord has forgiven you," Colossians 3:13 says, "so you also must forgive." So to truly forgive those who have wronged us, we must first receive God's forgiveness, acknowledging our need before him, which empowers us to forgive others. Christian forgiveness is vertical before it is horizontal. Throughout Scripture, our Lord intertwines his forgiveness of us with our forgiveness of others (Matthew 6:14–15). And like all of his commands, it is always for our good.

Forgiving those who have hurt us sets us free. It keeps bitterness from taking root, bitterness that would defile us and everyone around us (Ephesians 4:31). When we cling to resentment, we unknowingly give our offender ongoing power over our hearts, which keeps us enslaved to our anger. This prison we have created pulls us away from our Lord because we cannot hold on to bitterness and hold on to God.

Correspondingly, forgiving those who have wronged us releases the hold of bitterness on us. God, who has forgiven our enormous debt, gives us the power to forgive others. It is his power, not ours. This is the miracle of Christian forgiveness: when we forgive, Christ does something profound in us and for us. Those wounds inflicted by others firmly graft us into Christ, the vine, and his life flows all the more powerfully through us. The process unleashes God's power in our lives in an unparalleled way, making forgiveness one of the most life-changing steps we ever take.

Forgiveness, Freedom, and Peace

Joy and sorrow often coexist, but joy and bitterness cannot. Bitterness and unforgiveness rob our lives of vitality, peace, and the refreshing joy of God's presence. We see the power of forgiveness and grace in the lives of Joseph (Genesis 50:15–21) and Job (Job 42:7–10), who both forgave those who wronged them. And we see the hold of unforgiveness and rage on others like Joash, who murdered the priest who disagreed with him (2 Chronicles 24:20–22), and even on Jonah, who was angry at God's compassion (Jonah 4:1–3). Being able to forgive not only changes our present; it changes our future. When we forgive, we can begin walking in freedom and joy.

I don't know where you are in your journey of forgiveness. Perhaps the wound for you is still fresh, and you need time to process all that's happened. Maybe you've been holding on to bitterness for a long time, and God is asking you to let go. If that's you, I encourage you to pray. To trust God. To forgive your offender. You won't regret it.

And after you have forgiven, after you've been released from the prison of bitterness, you may be amazed at how quickly God begins to flood your life with the joy and peace you lost.

Are you a forgiving person?

Hopeful,

Pastor Brian

New Bible Study for Ladies: *The Gospel on The Ground* by Kristi McLelland

Please reach out to Monica Hosch, 704-881-1725, or Karen Messick, 704-902-9548, if you are interested in participating in this study that will begin in February. We are hoping to meet every other week. Day/location/time to be set once we have an interest level determined.

The link below has a video clip with more information about this study.

www.lifeway.com/en/product-family/the-gospel-on-the-ground-bible-study



- 1/4 Rita Walker, Emily Watson, Zac Ivey
- 1/5 Lisa Thompson, Ben Price, Brylee Gibson, Kim Earnest
- 1/6 Betty Davidson, Tim Lancaster, Olivia Harbin, Grey Chapman
- 1/7 Josh Watson, Brian Moore, Cheryl Gibson, Matt McLain, Madison Sharpe, Ridge Henderson
- 1/8 Jim Dagenhart, Bubba Bowman
- 1/9 Boyd Anderson, Jessica Laws, Kiley Sharpe, Lucas Porter, Jamie Shore
- 1/10 Logan Hosch, Samuel Dellinger, Dilynn Norris
- 1/11 Cindy Henderson, Shelley Bowman, Evie French
- 1/12 Amy McHargue, Brad Warren, Noah Sherrill
- 1/14 Misty Davis, Keri Sharpe, Pat Lewis, Jaclyn Votipka
- 1/16 Nancy Moore
- 1/17 Eddie Dellinger, Jennifer Greer, Mark Carlson
- 1/18 Mary Ann Sherrill, Chuck Bowman, Abby Boehm, Eli Boehm
- 1/19 Sarah Morrow, Mildred Elliott, Billy Clippard, Anson Strange, Nicholas Porter
- 1/20 Tommy Bell, Kim Chandler
- 1/21 Lois Lovette, Kay Wright
- 1/22 Charles Anderson, Roger Nash

Hospital / Assisted Living

- Bobby Pope** — Iredell, #307
- Eleyda Duncan**, Unit 33
Brookdale Hickory Northeast
2530 16th St NE — Hickory, NC 28601

Van Driver Schedule

- Please call van riders the night before to confirm pick-up time, or to inform them if you swap dates with another driver.
- 1/8: Justin Wike
 - 1/15: Charles Doss
 - 1/22: Scott Kilby

Attendance Report 01/01/2023

Adult/Youth Small Groups: 145
Sunday Morning Worship: *908

**Includes 186 in Children/Preschool Worship*

Giving Report 01/01/2023

Budget Giving	\$ 72,083.25
Building Fund	150.00
Heath Family	200.00
FCA	50.00
Lottie Moon Offering	1,371.60
Youth Ministry	460.00

2023 Budget Plan—\$1,493,468.45

Total All Receipts YTD:	\$ 74,314.85
Total Expenses:	<u>2,100.45</u>
Receipts Minus Expenses:	\$ 72,214.40

Lottie Moon Given to Date: \$ 36,927.76

Ramsey+ is Financial Peace University... PLUS a whole lot more! To activate your FREE account, simply follow the instructions on our website at www.beulahchurch.com. We are excited for what Ramsey+ means for our congregation!

RightNow Media offers 25,000+ video-driven resources to encourage your spiritual growth. To sign up for **free membership**: 1) Scan QR code:

2) Or text: RIGHTNOW
BEULAHBBC to 41411.

3) Or go to beulahchurch.com
Click on Connect tab; Connect;
Then scroll to bottom of page.



Ways to Give

 ONLINE beulahchurch.com 	 MOBILE text "beulahgive" to 77977 <small>*Message & Data Rates May Apply</small>	 ENVELOPE Cash & Check	 Scan to Give
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B.L.A.S.T. Women's Ministry

Our next B.L.A.S.T. gathering will be a Game Night on Wednesday, Jan 11 at 7PM.
More details to follow.

Our next regular meeting will be held Monday, January 23 at 7:00PM in the fellowship hall.
Jill Morrow will share her testimony entitled, "The Hem of His Garment".

Golden Harvesters

Our next gathering will be held on Wednesday, January 11, at 10:30AM in the fellowship hall. We will bring our favorite soups, crackers, cornbread, and snacks!

School Food Bag Ministry

Mondays: January 9 and January 23
9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Beulah Kitchen Supplies

If your group uses the fellowship hall/kitchen area and you see that any kitchen supplies are getting low, please contact Lou Ann Dyson so they can be replenished – 704.682.9175. There is also a board in the kitchen where you can check off items that are needed. Also, if you use any of the dish towels/dish cloths in the kitchen, please wash them and return them for the next group to use.

Beulah Beginnings Play & Pray

9-11am @ Beulah for Birth-PreK & Caregivers

1.13 Jesus Loves You Snow Much activities

BeulahKIDS Friday Nights for K-5th Grade

1.13 Winter Warm-up Outreach in CWC, 6-8pm

Tithe Envelopes

If you are using tithing envelopes, these are ready to be picked up outside the sanctuary.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
IN CONCERT

GREATER VISION

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT PROJECT HOPE
Rooted In Grace & Love
(MISSIONARIES SERVING IN PERU)

BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH

1851 OLD MOUNTAIN ROAD
STATESVILLE, NC 28677

SECOND GENERATION QUARTET

"Declare His glory among the nations, HIS marvelous works among all the peoples!"
1 Chronicles 16:24

TICKET PRICE: \$15 AT THE DOOR
Advanced Tickets Call 704.682.9175
OR ORDER ONLINE @ WWW.ROOTEDINGRACEANDLOVE.ORG
DOORS OPEN AT 3:00 P.M.

Scarves for Project Hope/Peru

We continue to collect scarves & toboggans to send to Project Hope Peru. Our goal is to send 100 scarves as a gift from our hearts to theirs! A collection box is available near the church office through Jan 29. Questions? Call Rebecca Perry 704-872-6484 or the church.



FCA 10-Session Study

Biblical approach to coaching the heart, mind, and body.

Applicable to all sports and all ages.

If interested in participating, use the QR code to register, or contact Buck Gatton at 704-902-7101 or bgatton@fca.org

Study begins Sunday, Jan 15 at 5:00pm, two sessions per week.
Dates: Jan 15, 22, 29, Feb 5 & 19.

