



Ivy Memorial Baptist Church
Your family ... in Coliseum Central



January 2021



What's Up for 2021?

For most of us 2021 could not come fast enough. However, before we write 2020 completely off as the year we would like to forget, it would be wise to reflect on what God may be revealing through the global pandemic. Although God did not send the pandemic, he is using the crisis to call us to partner with him in his redemptive mission in new ways.

It is much too early to know everything that God is saying, but we may have some initial hunches. Here are just a couple. The church of Jesus Christ never slowed down or shut down. Even though we had to limit activities at the church building, God just kept working in the world. In fact, it has been pointed out that on Easter 2020 more people heard the Gospel than on any other day in all of human history although far fewer people were actually in church buildings.

Another reality that is mind blowing is that as a result of the pandemic the church has had to move much further and much faster into the future than it had ever imagined. It would have undoubtedly taken churches years – if not decades – to have the conversations that are now right in front of us. Rethinking church from top to bottom is not something we can put on the wish list for another time, it is something that we have to deal with right now.

I am not at all excited about the pandemic, but I am very excited about the new opportunities and fresh thinking about church that the pandemic has led us to. We have the incredible opportunity to face the future while being grounded in God's original intention of redemptive mission. Together, we are standing on the edge of a whole new world. God is already ahead of us and calls us to join him.

Unplugging the Parables Sermon Series

We will begin the year by exploring the parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. This sermon series is designed to help us frame up the future to which God is calling us. Jesus used parables to help us see and experience the reality of the Kingdom of God. Parables can be both affirming and dangerous. They often challenge our notions of establishment style religion and force us to see things from Kingdom perspectives. Parables were made for such time as these.



Five Fold Ministry

God designed his church around a model that the apostle Paul shares with us in Ephesians 4. The original design is focused on the following vocations: **A**postles, **P**rophets, **E**vangelists, **S**hepherds/pastors, and **T**eachers. Over centuries of time, this biblical model was replaced with models more suited for the institutional mode of church. Every follower of Jesus is called to function out of one of these areas. This is how God designed for his church to participate in discipleship and ministry.

Click on or type in this link for an Introductory Video on APEST (Five Fold Ministry).

https://youtu.be/Anm7ujct_0Q

We will offer two initial Zoom meetings. Choose either Monday, Jan. 18, 6 – 7 pm or Tuesday, Jan. 19, 11 am – noon. The Zoom meetings will be recorded for those who cannot attend and you can watch at your convenience.

January 18—Monday's APEST Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88371003527?pwd=MzFEb0x1UzR2alpiZkZiSm52UjN1UT09>

January 19—Tuesday's APEST Zoom Link at 11:00am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84531594968?pwd=dmYxcUhWV0dSQkpMRkt0NDIvVjEzQT09>



Common Theology

Theology has for the most part been a discipline that has been confined to seminaries and clergy. However, theology is intended for the entire body of Christ. Our culture – and even our churches – have been drowning in a sea of warped theology. Be on the look out for further details about opportunities to grow and learn theologically as we explore Common Theology for all God's people.



Your Church Staff would like to thank everyone for the generous love offering gift we received last month.

It is an honor to serve you!

Tables of Fellowship

The early church is well known for using homes as a primary place where God’s people gathered. Homes provided the earliest places for such things as worship, fellowship, Bible Study, prayer, discipleship, and witness. The pandemic has helped us to see how important our homes are as places where we can be church together. They allow us to gather, to share meals, to meet generationally, and to meet new people. As the year begins, we will seek to offer training on how we can use our homes in the same ways the early church did.



If you would like to explore the possibility of the use of your “table” where people can gather in Jesus’ name for a meal and fellowship, please join the Zoom meeting with Donna Williams on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6 – 7. You can access the meeting by clicking on the link below. Feel free to connect with Michelle at the church office if you would like help with using Zoom. If you would like to attend, please let church office know by noon, Jan 12.

The Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81464669322?pwd=TmtjWjZ3dWRJWlIeUVMay80UDFpQT09>

Did you know there is an Ivy Memorial You Tube Channel?

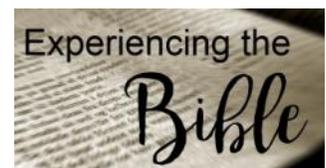
And it has a BUNCH of videos you might be interested in!

The *We are Ivy* playlist has videos from Pastor Brian Williams for us to consider what the future may look like?



The Story of God—these messages were part of Pastor Brian’s Grassroots Seminary class. Good Stuff!

Experiencing the Bible—another series of messages created for a Grassroots Seminary class. No tuition and no homework to turn in!



Search for “Ivy at Coliseum Central” in YouTube or click the You Tube link on our church website: <http://ivymemorial.org/connecting/>

The General Schedule:

(Some details may change!)

Please call the Church Office, or ask for help on the Friends & Family Facebook page if there's a problem.

Sunday	10:00am	Salvation class Sunday School on Zoom Victory class Sunday School on Zoom
	11:15am	Morning Message Live on the Facebook public page AND In-Person— <i>subject to change</i>
	6:00pm	YOUTH Connection. Check Facebook for the latest on location.
Monday		Our “Ivy Family” message usually posted on You Tube
Wednesday	6:00pm	Ivy Family Discussion & Prayer on Zoom (all welcome)
	7:00pm	YOUTH Connection. Check Facebook for the latest on location.

Zoom gatherings are available for your group.

Call the Church Office to schedule a time.

The church has an account and we are scheduling it just like we would schedule a room at the church.



We are meeting IN-PERSON and over Zoom on Sundays and Wednesdays

Bryan Gravely and China White are available for one-on-one support if needed.

Do not hesitate to call us!

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Do you have a prayer concern you need to share with us? Consider sending it to us via e-mail!

prayerline@ivymemorial.org

This e-mail address is monitored by the Church Office and one of the Deacons. It's a quick and easy way to be sure we know how and whom to pray for.

Giving Options

Visit www.ivymemorial.org to give online. You can even give via TEXT or by scanning this QR code.



Text **IVYATCC** to **73256** to give to the Unified Budget using your text messaging. *Standard text messaging rates may apply.* If you have questions call the Office at 838-3107.

Mailing your tithes and offerings is a great choice until we are able to gather in person once again. The Church Office is also open if you need to drop if off.

From the Church Office:

Your Church Office is still open

Monday—Thursday

9:00am—3:30pm

757-838-3107

ivymemorial@ivymemorial.org

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Hampton, VA 23666

www.ivymemorial.org