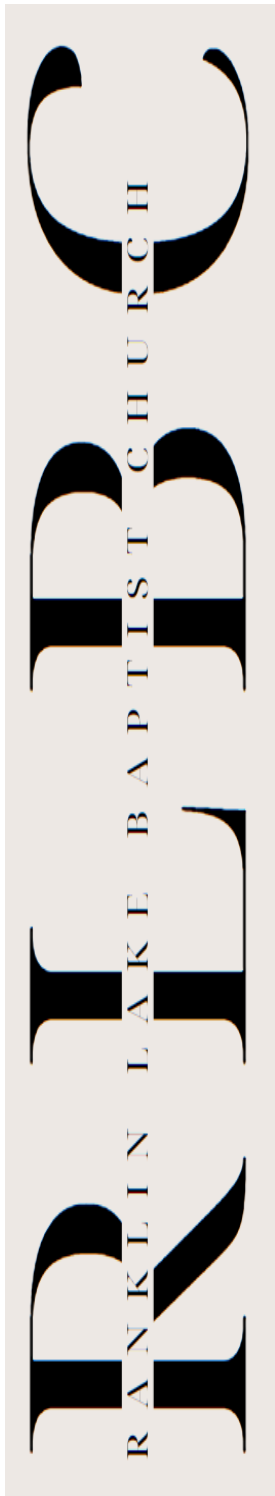
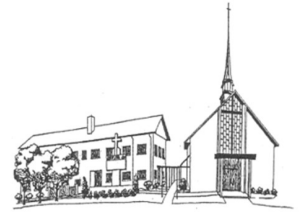


The Voice



From the Pastor's Heart . . .

2023...almost seems a bit surreal. It's hard to imagine we are celebrating another New Year. Seems like yesterday we were welcoming 2022 onto the scene of our lives and now we have another one. Mom was right—the older you get the faster time seems to fly by.

Anything about last year (seems so far away saying that now) we might can learn from? Did you learn any lessons? Did God teach you anything about your life, about Him or serving Him? Have you taken time to do some reflecting about life and the choices you have made, helping you to arrive at where you are now?

Why not lay this newsletter down and do that if you haven't already. What have you learned in 2022? Remember, we are coming out of the epidemic called COVID. Some people are struggling with what medical professionals have been calling "long COVID." We are still hearing about people contracting COVID. Some were even talking in late 2022 about a phenomenon called a tripledemic—COVID, Flu and RSV. All of them are related to respiratory maladies. In some places, masks are still being talked about and even suggested. Social distancing is still being discussed. Hand washing has been proclaimed as one deterrent to catching these viruses.

Fear has been proclaimed as a "savior." Names that have been spoken in the news as so-called experts have virtually been revered. And in some circles, you are hearing the words, "it's time to move on." So where do you stand? It's not my intent to vilify anyone. Our health needs to be cared for and really guarded. But somewhere in the midst of all this fearmongering and slamming each other, we need to pay more attention to the One who created us in the first place.

Interestingly, God created us with the capabilities to think through some of the issues we have been confronted with. I'm afraid we have relied too much upon "experts" to tell us what to do rather than take the information given, process it and draw our own conclusions. You don't have to be an expert to arrive at some reasonable conclusions.

As we enter into 2023, may I suggest a couple of things. They will not necessarily change our physical health, but they will help us grow in our relationship with the Lord. Spend at least as much time in reading and reflecting upon scripture as we do watching, reading and talking about the news. God's word says in Psalm 119:105, "***Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.***" Paul said it pretty succinctly in 2 Timothy 2:15, "***Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***" Some translations render the word "diligent" as "study." Try inserting that word into the verse. God's word is important and we need to allow it to speak into our lives and circumstances. Secondly, do not neglect gathering together as a "body in Christ" (Hebrews 10:25). Those two things will go a long way in helping us stay spiritually healthy.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Your Pastor and friend,



J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 3

January Nursery Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING

- 1/01 Elaine Putnam, Mimi Austin, Maddie Laughlin
- 1/08 Faye Hovis, Samantha Mocanu, Kinley Craig
- 1/15 Lynn Davis, Leslie Buchanan, Lynne Austin
- 1/22 Leslie & Anna Miller, Emily Bridges
- 1/29 Elaine Putnam, Mimi Austin, Maddie Laughlin

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- 1/04 Becky McQueen
- 1/11 Teresa Williams
- 1/18 DeLaine Loftis
- 1/25 Brenda Arrington

Please contact Elaine Putnam if you would like to be added to the next nursery schedule.

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Prayer List

- Amy Ard (Ava Mocanu's friend)
- Heidi & Josh (Ava Mocanu's friends)
- Emily Bost (Jason's friend)
- Melanie Broome (Ava Mocanu's mom)
- David & Nealia Brunson (Lynne & Mimi Austin's neighbor)
- Toni Burnham
- Mary Byrd
- Brenda Cloninger
- Frances Cloninger
- Jay Faulk
- Craig & Kelly Fincher
- Linda Fincher
- David Gholson Jr. (nephew of Charlie Gholson)
- Ed Gholson (brother of Charlie Gholson)
- Haven Haas (friend of Emily Loftis)
- Brad Hay (Uncle of Brooke Loftis)
- Sam Massie
- Juanita Meares
- Jeanne Miller (Scott's sister)
- Carol Morrison (friend of Emily Loftis)
- Carolyn Picklesimer (Lynne & Mimi Austin's neighbor)
- Sandy Stines (friend of Brooke Loftis)
- Jeff & Peggy Summitt
- Tonja Wesson (Emily Loftis' mother)

January Birthdays



- 01.04 Sam Massie
- 01.06 Teresa Williams
- 01.27 Baylee Loftis



GGBA needs

- | <u>Breakfast Items</u> | <u>Canned Goods</u> | <u>Other</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cereal (Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Frosted Flakes) | Soup (Chicken Noodle/Tomato) | Applesauce (no glass) |
| Cereal Bars | Pork n beans or pinto beans | Spaghetti Noodles |
| Pop Tarts | Green Beans | Tuna or Chicken Helper |
| | Corn | Box of Macaroni and Cheese |
| | Canned Chicken | Peanut Butter |
| | Canned Tuna | Jelly |
| | Spaghetti and Meatballs | |
| | Spaghetti Sauce (canned only) | |

RIBC
UPCOMING
EVENTS



YOU'RE INVITED

Ladies
Prayer
Group

JANUARY 10 AT 10:30AM
LUNCH FOLLOWING

Embrace Grace
New Session starts 1/11



From the desk of the Secretary 2023

January

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

WOW. We made it.

How many of you thought you wouldn't see 2023? But here we are, by God's grace. I am so excited to see what God will do in your life in 2023. As this new year begins, I want to encourage you to seek Jesus like never before. Open your ears to hear what He has to say to you. Allow Him to use you, in ways you never thought possible. He isn't finished with you! Remember, you were created with a purpose and His calling on your life hasn't expired. There are people who are counting on your action, your step of faith. By showing Jesus' love you can singlehandedly make a huge impact in someone's life.

With the new year, always comes new goals. Some we keep and some tend to fall by the wayside (like my diet, lol). This year, I really want to focus more on God's word and applying it to my life. I want to find out what He has to say to me directly. Join with me in (trying our best— don't make it a chore or something stressful) reading the Bible all the way from beginning to end. I guarantee The Lord has something very special for you to hear. I pray He reveals it to you in the coming days and throughout the entirety of 2023.

Remember- this year will not come without challenges and hard days. BUT we have a hope in Jesus that those days won't always last. Joy comes in the morning. Great is His faithfulness to us. Let's make the most of these new opportunities. 365 days to be thankful for.

Love,

Lindsey

- Jan 1: Gen 1-3
- Jan 2: Gen 4-7
- Jan 3: Gen 8-11
- Jan 4: Gen 12-15
- Jan 5: Gen 16-18
- Jan 6: Gen 19-21
- Jan 7: Gen 22-24
- Jan 8: Gen 25-26
- Jan 9: Gen 27-29
- Jan 10: Gen 30-31
- Jan 11: Gen 32-34
- Jan 12: Gen 35-37
- Jan 13: Gen 38-40
- Jan 14: Gen 41-42
- Jan 15: Gen 43-45
- Jan 16: Gen 46-47
- Jan 17: Gen 48-50
- Jan 18: Ex 1-3
- Jan 19: Ex 4-6
- Jan 20: Ex 7-9
- Jan 21: Ex 10-12
- Jan 22: Ex 13-15
- Jan 23: Ex 16-18
- Jan 24: Ex 19-21
- Jan 25: Ex 22-24
- Jan 26: Ex 25-27
- Jan 27: Ex 28-29
- Jan 28: Ex 30-32
- Jan 29: Ex 33-35
- Jan 30: Ex 36-38
- Jan 31: Ex 39-40

Rankin Lake Baptist Church

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Contact us:

Phone: 704-922-4806

Pastor Jim - jimloftis1@gmail.com

Lindsey — Secretary — myrlbcsecretary@gmail.com

Weekly Church Activities

Sunday

9:30am Adult Men—meet in the sanctuary
Adult Ladies—meet in the Educational Building
Children's & Youth Sunday School in the
Educational Building
11:00am Morning Worship Service

Wednesday

6:00pm Embrace Grace
7:00pm Youth (meet in the youth room)
Adult Discipleship & Prayer Time

Can't join us in person?

Join us here....

Facebook – Rankin Lake Baptist Church

YouTube – Rankin Lake Baptist Church

Website – www.myrlbc.org



Need prayer?

Please send us an email, call
or message us on Facebook
and we will pray with you.

Matthew 18:20



God has bigger
plans for me than
I have for myself.

For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the LORD, plans to prosper
you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future.

• Jeremiah 29:11 •