

- The church has become a prayer partner for a new journeyman missionary, Abbey Irwin, of Jackson, Mississippi. She will be in Tokyo for two years. Please pray for her, and help the ladies send her care packages.
- Hardeetown VBS is scheduled for July 27-31. Spread the word that everyone in the community is invited. We will conclude with a family night party on Saturday, August 1.
- Our study of Revelation on Sunday evenings is continuing. This month we begin chapter twelve. Everyone is invited to attend, or you may watch the service via our website. Go to [www.hardeetownbc.com](http://www.hardeetownbc.com), and click on the link for sermons. That will take you to our YouTube page.
- Check out the church's new website at [www.hardeetownbc.com](http://www.hardeetownbc.com).

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# Hardeetown Baptist Church

*From the Crossroads of Levy County to  
the Crossroads of the Mission Field*

## The Pulpit and Pen



### Freedom and a Virus

While our nation has suffered through pandemics and violent attacks before, this pandemic has already proven to be far different than anything we have previously encountered. The coronavirus is by no means the worst enemy the world has ever encountered. The bubonic plague in Europe was far more devastating than anything this nation has ever seen. The Spanish flu of 1918 caused the death of approximately 50 million, and that same strain of influenza surfaced again as swine flu in 2009 with even more deaths.

The reason this pandemic may prove to be an even more serious enemy will not be due to its potential to kill. Rather it will be because of measures taken by the various governments of the world. Technology has advanced to the point that our government has the means to enforce containment measures on the populace never before seen in history, and the coronavirus has now given the government the motivation and justification to do exactly that.

Let us first consider the health and safety ramifications of this pandemic. Are we at a point in the spread of the virus whereby restricting travel and interaction among the populace is justified? One would assume that that is true. It has been shown that

the coronavirus is certainly contagious and has the potential to kill its victims.

However, there are two other very serious issues that we must consider. While public safety is a priority, one must also look at the political and theological implications of this pandemic.

The political considerations should be obvious. The First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees our citizens the right to freedom of religion and the right to peaceably assemble. The courts have also established the right to travel, based on three other established rights enumerated within the Constitution.

The Constitution authorizes the government to restrict freedom in the event of a national emergency, provided that those restrictions are limited and temporary. At present, the government has systematically stripped us of our rights all in the name of public safety. We should always be very leery anytime the government restricts our freedom for our own good and safety. Freedoms restricted are rarely, if ever, returned. The restriction of our freedoms is almost always a one-way street. According to Ben Franklin, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Finally, let us consider

the theological ramifications of the coronavirus pandemic. There is a biblical precedent to restrict those who are ill from participating in worship with the church. Numbers 5:2-3 and Deuteronomy chapters 11 through 15 explain how God required those with a contagious disease to be quarantined in order to protect the remainder of the healthy population.

The problem is with determining whether those who are healthy should refrain from worshipping or remain in quarantine. Since there is no way to know whether one has been exposed, the case can be made that one should comply with the government order.

Ultimately, the problem comes down to whether the cure is worse than the disease. What will the quarantine do to our church and others like us? Some may end up closing permanently. The biblical solution is clear and can be found in 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. Our nation needs to repent. So whether we are at home or church, we need to pray.

One concluding thought needs to be mentioned. Is this whole thing a trial run for the rise of one-world government under the rule of the antichrist? Our government would say no, but I am sure that the antichrist, whoever and wherever he is, is watching with interest.

# HARDEETOWN HSM STUDENT MINISTRIES

## Hardeetown Student Ministries

The youth mission trip to First Baptist Blountstown, scheduled for May 2, has been cancelled. In the meantime, come learn about the Bible, creation, the church, sin, salvation, and other Christian doctrines on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. via our new Rightnow Media.



The Gospel Journey study will continue on Wednesday nights through April. Come join us for pizza at 5:30 p.m. and Bible study at 6 p.m. It's never too late to come join us!



Try out our Rightnow Media! It's like Christian Netflix with over 24,000 videos. Email Brian at [timnez96@gmail.com](mailto:timnez96@gmail.com) to get started. You can also log on by texting RightNow HARDEE to 41411.

Students still have the opportunity to go to camp this summer, July 26-31. Cost is \$90. Deadline for sign-up is July 13, but SPACE IS LIMITED. For more information, go to [www.camppinehill.org](http://www.camppinehill.org). They have not cancelled this camp, but we will let you know

if anything changes. Also, so far there have been no changes for the MFuge mission trip to Charleston. The packing list will be sent out towards the end of the month.



## Champions for Christ Kids

Hello friends! What a blessing it is to welcome a new month! Did you know that in just a few days we will celebrate Easter, also known as Resurrection Day? To be honest, the Champions for Christ and I have already been celebrating Easter during our Wednesday night lessons. As the month of March began to wrap up, we started a new series called the Wonder of Easter. Although the world seems to be surrounded by chaos, the kids and I have been focusing on the peace that only Jesus can bring. I also wanted to take the time to acknowledge that life may look different in this next month as there is currently a pandemic happening. This is a great time for us to dwell on the unchanging word of God. He is with us, and He is in control! With the changes brought on by current circumstances, the decision has been made to cancel the family night and VBS kick-off. VBS has been rescheduled to July 27-31 with a family fun time on Saturday, August 1 from 3:00 to 5:00. More news and updates will be made regarding future activities as soon as we can. Stay well, and remember that Christ is risen; He has risen indeed!



## HBC Women's Ministries

Things have been a bit crazy lately in our world, but God's work still remains. We have had a group at church the past couple weeks sewing diligently to produce masks. By the time this newsletter is published, we will have given out over 400 masks.

We are also shipping a care box to Abbey Irwin, our adopted missionary in Tokyo, along with a check to help with her expenses. Thank you to those who generously helped support Abbey.

We have postponed the start of our Bible studies to May. (details TBD) In the meantime, if anyone wants to have a small-group study in April, please contact Connie directly. These study groups will be small—10 or fewer. For more information, please contact Connie at 229-977-8764. Our next breakfast meeting was scheduled for April 26 at 8 a.m. However, the Florida governor just declared another 30 days of isolation, so we have had to cancel unless that changes. We will announce our next breakfast meeting as soon as we can finalize the details. We will let you know if this changes due to COVID-19.

We love and miss everyone! Stay safe.



### MEET ABBEY IRWIN!!

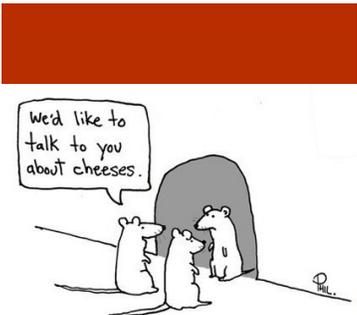
Don't forget to send our adopted missionary a card this month. Care packages are especially welcome. Abbey is from Mississippi and is serving the Lord in Tokyo teaching English while she witnesses for Jesus.

**Irwin, Abbey**  
180-0021  
Tokyo-To, Musashino-Shi,  
Sakura Zutsumi 1-2-19  
Sun Varie 401  
JAPAN



**April birthdays:**

- James Williams 4/02
  - Debbie Williams 4/05
  - Lindsey Hoffman 4/06
  - William Blosch 4/10
  - Brian Timney 4/18
  - Mahala Timney 4/22
  - Luke Reidy 4/25
  - Jonathan Ward 4/26
  - Richard Howell 4/27
  - Jacob Reidy 4/27
  - Susan Garner 4/29
- Happy Birthday to All!**



# Announcements

Church council will not meet this month due to the virus. However, the church will have its regular monthly business meeting Sunday evening, April 5, at 6:00. Business normally conducted at the church council will be done simultaneously with the business meeting.

There will be no Easter sunrise worship service April 12, and the breakfast traditionally served afterward is also cancelled. The regular 11:00 Easter service will occur on schedule. However, for those who elect to enter the building, please spread out and avoid spreading illness to one another. As an alternative, we will be having a "drive-in" worship service. We have installed a low-power FM transmitter, and

our services will be broadcast on 92.1. Offering will be collected as you leave the parking lot, or you may tithe online via [www.hardeetownbc.com/give](http://www.hardeetownbc.com/give). Please be faithful to the Lord financially as well as spiritually during these hard times.

Please meet with us to pray for our church every Sunday morning at 9:00. Men meet in the church library, and ladies meet in the fellowship hall.

Our next senior adult luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, May 28. Further details are unknown until the Coronavirus issue is resolved.

The monthly HBC Women's Ministries breakfast scheduled

for April 26 at 8:00 a.m. has been cancelled. Details about rescheduling will be provided as soon as possible.

Vacation Bible School has been rescheduled for July 27-31. There will be a family night party on Saturday, August 1, following our week of VBS.

Once the church resumes its normal schedule, the HBC Men's Ministry will resume. We normally meet every first Sunday at 8:00 for breakfast at the church. All men are invited. Church members are asked to donate a small amount to cover the cost of the meal.

# April Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>
			Staff Meeting 5:00-5:30PM			
<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
Council mtg 5PM Bus Mtg 6PM Palm Sunday					Good Friday	
			Spring	Break		
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service Breakfast A/Armstrong Off. No eve svc						
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Youth Comm Mtg at 4:30						
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		
HBC Wom Breakfast 8AM						

**Bible Trivia**

Where did Saul (AKA Paul) go to school?  
Last month's answer: Spain (Romans 15:24-28)



**April Memory Verse**

Romans 8:28

We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **(NASB)**



1716 NW 14th ST  
Chiefland, FL 32626

A cooperating Baptist church affiliated with the Harmony Baptist Association, Florida Baptist State Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention.

**Hardeetown Baptist Church exists for the purpose of bringing glory to God by worshipping Christ, making disciples, fellowshiping with believers, and ministering to those in need. Our goal is to reach Chiefland and the northwestern Levy County community for Christ by evangelizing the lost and producing growing disciples of Christ through relationship-building and intentional evangelism. We are an autonomous body of believers that voluntarily cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention and Florida Baptist Convention in order to support local, regional, national, and international missions through the Cooperative Program and with the Harmony Baptist Association for the support of local and area missions.**

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