



BOW LAKE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

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STRAFFORD, NH 03884
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blfwbc.org

REV. ROBIN SHAKAL, PASTOR
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JULY 6, 2025



Dear Friends,

I have to admit it has been hard to focus at times this week as my mind continues to drift back to Bob's passing...thoughts of shock and confusion...thoughts of care as concern for Sally and the rest of the family...thoughts of joy as I know Bob is with Jesus whom he loved.

Our time in Ephesians has spoken to us about this hope and eternal promise of everlasting life found in Christ, and this week we see everything is for God's glory. We are saved so that His grace can be seen through eternity which brings Him glory. Salvation is not by works so that no one may boast except in God alone, which brings Him glory. And He made us a new creation for good works of His determination which, again, is to bring Him glory.

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. That's what this section in Ephesians teaches us. Every aspect of our "new creation" status brings God glory, from beginning all through eternity. And His faithfulness to His promises means His "new creations" will truly enjoy Him forever. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday in worship of our God and King! God's blessings to you all.

Pastor Robin

NEWS, UPDATES AND REMINDERS



Need someone to pray for you or someone you know? Please visit our website (BLFWBC.org) at any time and submit your request by clicking on the appropriate button on the left side of the web page and filling in your information. Please indicate if you want your request to be held in confidence by our prayer group or shared with the congregation.

If you want to hold an event or use the Church building for an event, please contact Sue Higgins or Martha English. The request will be reviewed by the trustees and we will let you know what else needs to be done for your event. No use of the building will be available without proper clearance by the trustees. Reminder: There is no food or drink allowed in the sanctuary and the balcony is completely off limits



Please remember to pray for the people of Ukraine. With all that is going on in the world today, it is easy to forget that those courageous people continue to fight for freedom!

Refreshments after
Worship in the Idlepines
Room. Please sign up to do
refreshments one week
soon. Resuming in
September

CANCELED



HELP FOR LOCAL HOMELESS

See the following link for ways you can help support the homeless shelter in Rochester, "Home For Now".

<http://www.homelesscenterforstraffco.org/help-for-now.html>



Kitchen Supplies



There is a list in the supply closet of the things we use on a regular basis. We will try to keep this list up to date so that we all know what we have and can supplement supplies as needed.

Please check the list to see what you might want to help with. Call or text Kathleen Morin at 603-553-9912 with a message telling her what you will provide. Thank you!



REMEMBER NH FOOD BANK

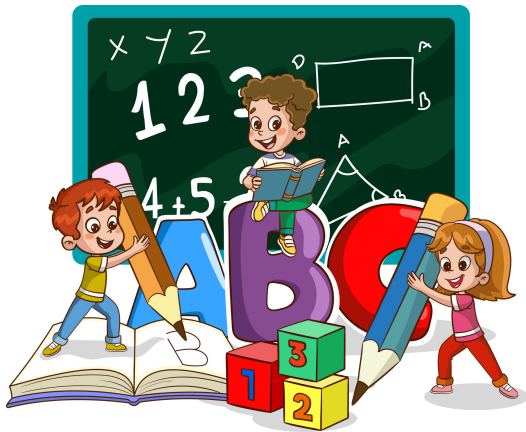
BLFWBC contributes \$0.50 for every dollar donated to NH Food Bank, so your giving will be multiplied! Prayerfully consider a donation to help our neediest in our State of NH. You may write a check to BLFWBC and put "NH Food

Bank" in the memo line, and the church treasurer will add the church contribution to your donation. The Strafford Food Pantry is currently meeting our town's needs and has a surplus of funds.



Worship - Baptism - Picnic
July 20 at 10 a.m.
at Carolyn Young's house -
146 Water Street
bring a chair and a dish to share

**Want an easy way to give to Bow
Lake Baptist Church?
click on this QR code. It will
bring you right to the Donations
page on the website. So Easy!**



Third Church very much needs helpers for Vacation Bible School Mon. July 28 - Friday Aug. 1, 9-11:30 a.m. The helpers don't need to prepare or teach a lesson, just accompany their class as they move from one teacher to the next. If you can do this contact Sue Rooks 603-978-0373 or Susan Bascomb at mommab323@gmail.com



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A Note from the Mission Committee

During the month of July we will be emphasizing the opportunity to give to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). OGHS supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of American Baptist churches and our partners. When a fire, flood, or hurricane strikes OGHS can respond immediately because the funds are there, and we can work through Christian ministries who are already working in the particular area.

Because of conflicts and climate changes there are more than 120 million displaced persons in the world. OGHS supports ministries to these persons wherever they are around the globe.

Additionally OGHS helps people learn to feed and care for themselves by giving grants to seed development projects.

If God is moving you to support this mission you can write a check to the Bow Lake Church and write OGHS in the memo. You can give any time and be as specific as you want by writing direction in the memo. ie. "OGHS-Gaza" or "OGHS-CA fires".

Thank you for prayerfully considering this offering.

Bow Lake Free Will Baptist Church

Join us for GAMES AND BBQ

August 2 from 11 to 2



A Gift certificates for \$35 will be given to each child to be used towards a new pair of sneakers to be purchased at Shoe Depot in Rochester.

Bow Lake Church is the place to be. Starting at 11 a.m. we will have games and activities for children of all ages. If it rains, we will show a kid-friendly movie.

At noon, we will have BBQ Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Chips and Juice for Lunch. More games or a movie after lunch. All are invited to this fun event.

Bow Lake
Free Will
Baptist
Church
530 Province
Road
Strafford, NH

www.blfwbc.org

603-664-7401 for details

Recently, another *Cru* staff member, Todd, led a team development time for Edward's Mission Trip Operations team. During that training, Todd shared how mission trips have impacted his family and him during his 32 years as *Cru* staff :

"On a mission trip to Russia my junior year of college, in 1991, I got to share the gospel with a student named Sergei who looked me in the eyes and said, "God can't love me. I have too much alcohol in me." Sergei thought he was unworthy to deserve the love of Christ. As we explained what grace is, Sergei could hardly believe it. He said he wanted that kind of love and to know more about this Jesus he never knew about. That moment was significant in God's call on my life to become a missionary [with] *Cru*.

Mission trips have been instrumental in my family. On a summer mission to Tanzania, as we saw students come to faith, we observed our 16 year old daughter make her faith her own. A few years later, our son did a summer mission where he experienced great community, intentional discipleship, and a mission to reach international students. He came home with a heart to share Christ with others and went on to reach many students on his college campus. Our other son did the same summer mission and experienced transformation that was vital in his journey of following the Lord.

Today all three of our kids are in some form of ministry. Mission trips have been a major piece of their discipleship story. I cannot imagine where I or my family would be today had we not had these life changing opportunities. Your team provides the necessary logistics and systems so that more laborers can be sent into the harvest to proclaim the gospel and have their lives transformed by it themselves."

As you can imagine, it was an incredible blessing for me (Edward) and my team to be reminded of the lifelong impact mission trips have both on those who hear the Gospel and the ones who are sent! See inset for some numbers from this summer and ways you can be praying for summer missions.

Thanks for your partnership that makes this possible!

Edward & Emily

Summer Mission Highlights

This summer 1,622 students are participating on 95 *Cru* Summer Mission Trips.

The first 2 weeks of the North Myrtle Beach Summer Mission saw over 100 people place their faith in Christ or re-dedicate their lives to Him!

Students from the Belgium Summer Mission got to share what it looks like to live in relationship with Jesus in a religious studies class. As a result, 2 of the students in the class came to faith!

Prayer Requests

Pray that God would use Summer Missions to impact the students who go and the people with whom they share the gospel. May many begin following Jesus because of these trips!

Edward is traveling for *Cru*'s weeklong national staff conference in July. Pray for a refreshing time for him and for Emily and the kids as they stay home.

3S Scoop

Samuel turned 7 this month and finished 1st grade. He loves school but is enjoying the freedom and fun of summer vacation. (And as you might guess from his cake, he really likes Spiderman!)

Sophia adores her baby sister and is a huge help around the house, especially with folding laundry. She's enjoying practicing piano and learning Arabic with Emily this summer.

Sarah is sweet, smiley, and doing great! She loves time with her "big sibs" and is cooing, smiling and kicking. She turned 3 months yesterday :)

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH AND FRIENDS FOR GIVING TO AMIRAH!
WE AIMED TO RAISE \$1000 AND WE RECEIVED \$1350.
THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT WALKED AND ROCKED TOO!

THIS IS A BLESSING TO THE WOMAN STRIVING TO GET OUT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH
AMIRAH'S HELP!
BLESSINGS, MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Since 2017, **ChildVoice** has worked in the Imvepi Refugee Settlement in northern Uganda, serving refugees from South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Young people attend our youth empowerment centers, located throughout the refugee settlement, every day to participate in programs that provide counseling, vocational training, and life-skills training. In particular, our agriculture training program has been highly effective in equipping young people with the skills, tools, and coaching they need to grow crops, start their own businesses, and become self-sufficient.

The recent escalation of conflict in South Sudan, along with the ongoing conflict in eastern DRC, has led to a massive influx of refugees into Uganda, stretching the already minimal resources and infrastructure.

Hear directly from ChildVoice's Project Manager, Owori Julius, who works in the Imvepi Refugee Settlement, as he provides a brief update on recent developments and explains how ChildVoice is responding.

Thank you for supporting ChildVoice's work to restore the voices of children silenced by war.

With gratitude,

Nathan Mandsager
ChildVoice CEO

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