

Emory Church

Today

April 24 Sunday School — 9:45am
 Worship Service — 11:00am
 Evening Services — 6:00pm

Upcoming Events

April 29 Parents Night Out 6:00pm – 9:00pm
 May 8 Mother's Day
 July 18—22 Vacation Bible School — Zoomerang
 A visit to the Australian Outback
 Look for more detail in the coming weeks

Monthly Events

Believers First Tuesday @ 12:00pm
 Bunco Second Tuesday @ 6:30pm
 Crafty Ladies Third Tuesday @ 7:00pm
 GEMS Third Saturday morning @ 10:00am
 The Brethren Second & Fourth Tuesday @ 6:30pm
 Movie Night Third Sunday @ 6:00pm

<https://emorychurchbyhalia.org/calendar>

Prayer Request

Elijah Aldridge
 Mike Anglin
 Jerry Baldwin
 Jett Bobo
 Frank Burton
 Mary Ann Cooper
 Carlyon Crook
 Donald DeLoach
 Jerry Hanna
 Phillip Hughes
 Jim Riley Family
 Danette Smith
 Rita Stewart Family
 Jimmy Thompson
 Lorraine Thompson
 Tammy Waymire

2022 Graduates

Please see Bro. Mike to pickup form for
 Senior Recognition Sunday




VBS 2022 July 18—22

From the minute your mates step off the plane onto Australian soil, they will find themselves on a trip they'll never forget!

Emory Independent Methodist Church
www.emorychurchbyhalia.org

872 Watson Road Byhalia, MS 38611 (662) 838-7878	Dr. Michael Johnson Sr. Pastor (901) 606-8113
Sunday Services	Robin Cox Secretary/Treasurer (901) 351-7269
Sunday School 9:45am	Margie Thompson Believers (901) 262-6747
Worship Service 11:00am	
Evening Service 6:00pm	

April 24, 2022

Romans 1:21-23 (ESV)

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Mexico

What does persecution look like in Mexico?

In Mexico, criminal groups struggle for territorial control. Christians are perceived (and rightly so) to be against criminal operations and violence, and are therefore at constant risk of being targeted for elimination. In rural indigenous communities, anyone who turns from traditional religious beliefs can face rejection and punishment in the form of fines, imprisonment, and forced displacement. As Christians hold fast to traditional, biblical views on issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage, parental rights and religious liberty, they become less tolerated in the public square. Non-discrimination laws mean that any links between Christian faith and politics are placed under very strict legal scrutiny.

Meet Pastor Imeldo

When Pastor Imeldo returned from a few years living in the U.S., he was welcomed by his home village. He created a Bible study that grew to need a church building, which he built on family land. But when Christians came into town to meet at the church, officials closed it down and arrested Pastor Imeldo. After two days, the town's assembly ordered him to leave. He recalls someone telling him that day: "Imeldo, you have to understand that we want to preserve our customs, we don't want what you bring because then our traditions will disappear."

What has changed this year?

Mexican criminals were able to take advantage of the socio-political instability surrounding the COVID-19 crisis to reinforce and increase their territorial dominance, generating greater vulnerability (and increased violence) for Christians. The COVID-19 context also encouraged the indigenous community authorities to act more harshly against those Christians refusing to adhere to traditional customs. Additionally, it's becoming more difficult for Christians to find a chance to express their viewpoints in the public square.

Who is most vulnerable to persecution?

Criminal networks that have spread throughout Mexico act as drivers of persecution wherever the church is perceived as a threat to their interests. Mexico's southern states are the main areas for clan oppression, violating the rights of Christians inside indigenous communities. Church buildings have been vandalized by those who have a radical commitment to secularism and are opposed to any Christian values.

Order of Worship

Prelude	Please be seated to prepare yourself for worship	
*Hymn	#512 My Saviors Love	Congregation
Prayer		
*Hymn	#270 Wonderful Words of Life	Congregation
*Hymn	#409 I Know Whom I Have Believed	Congregation
*Affirmation of Faith		
Prayer for the Nation	#43 Mexico	
Scripture Reading	Romans 1:21-23	
Sermon	The Wrath of God, pt. 2	Michael Johnson
*Hymn	332 Without Him	Congregation
Benediction		
Announcements		
Closing Prayer		

(*) indicates times when you are invited to stand as you are able

Emory Calendar for the Week of April 24

Sunday 4/24	Sunday School	9:45am
	Worship Service	11:00am
	Evening Service	6:00pm
	The Chosen Season 1 Episode 8	
Tuesday 4/26	Explorers Bible Study - Women	9:30am
Wednesday 4/27	Explorers Bible Study - Men & Women	7:00pm
Thursday 4/28	TOPS	5:30pm
Friday 4/29	Parents Night Out	6:00pm

Updates for Bulletin - contact Robin Cox
901 351-7269 wildpigfan@aol.com