

MAYOR'S CORNER



A BLOG BY MAYOR JAMES D. STEWART, JR.

JUNE 22, 2026

TOMORROW IS NOT PROMISED

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” – James 4:14 (KJV)

BOTTOM LINE: None of us is guaranteed tomorrow. So, love hard today, mend what is broken today, and do not delay the things that matter – because life is too short and far too uncertain to wait. This week’s word was written through tears.

Before I share what is on my heart, I ask one thing of you: please pray for my family. We are walking through a dark valley, and we feel every step of it.

This past Saturday, it rained all day – heavy enough that my flight out of town was pushed back and rebooked. For me, that storm was an inconvenience. For another, it was the last one he would ever drive through.

Later that day, my phone rang. It was my sister, with news no family is ever ready to hear. My niece’s husband was heading home on those flooded roads when his car hydroplaned and struck a utility pole. In the twinkling of an eye, his life on this earth was over. He had only just celebrated his forty-ninth birthday; the joy of that day was still fresh from earlier that week. Now he leaves behind a wife and two children, a daughter and a son, who will grow up carrying his name.

The same rain – an inconvenience to one man, the end of everything for another. None of us knows when we wake, which kind of day we are being given.

That is why the book of James asks the question we would rather not sit with: What is your life? And it answers plainly – a mist, a vapor, here for a little while and then gone. We mark our calendars as if next week and next year are owed to us. They are not. Tomorrow has never been promised to any of us.

So let it wake us up. If today is the only day we are certain of, then today is where the living must happen.



**Do not grow weary in well-doing...
Live it. Give it.
Do It Every Day.**



Live today fully. Do not save your joy, your purpose, or your obedience for a better season that may never come.

Do not delay. The promise you keep meaning to keep – keep it. The call you keep putting off, make it. The dream you are waiting for the “right time” to begin – begin it. The right time is here.

Mend what is broken. Say the apology. Offer forgiveness. Reconcile while there is still time to reconcile.

And love one another, as God loves us. Fully. First. Without keeping score. It is the heart of the Beloved Community, and the only thing that outlasts us.

I close where I began: would you pray for us? For my niece, for those two precious children, and for our whole family as we prepare to lay a husband and father to rest. Your prayers will carry us when we cannot carry ourselves.

And to everyone reading this: do not wait. Go and love the people God gave you today, while it is still today.

The City of
Irondale

Build Community. Build the Future.