

April 2018

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18 & 8th to Open Soon!



Perhaps you are wondering what's happening with 18 & 8th. That's a fair question. Things move slowly in churches because business and decisions are often handled by a committee. Committees don't meet every day, and as in this case, sometimes one committee waits for an answer from another committee or board that won't be meeting for another week, or month. So, thank you for being patient. Hopefully you haven't given up on the dream of what this facility can become!

The committee that was charged with researching community needs, presenting a plan for use, and suggesting a policy is coming to completion with its task. Thank you, Becky Brown, Scott Larson, Lynne Hardy, Rich Peach, Pastor Troy, Mike and Sarah Olmstead, Amanda Olhrich, and Duane Zimmerman, (and Penny Ferreri as administrative assistant) for the time you put in!

Here's an update. The four primary uses will be as follows: 1) An event/activity facility for organizations and individuals; 2) A facility for conferences; 3) A facility for a Christian counselor; and, 4) A coffee shop. Those who use the facility will have to agree with our values.

Let me give a little more information on each of these. But first, let me restate the vision. We foresee 18 & 8th as, **A place to love and serve our community in ways that help us build relationships that create opportunities to share the gospel of Christ.** Our vision is that the evangelism and discipleship that takes place is all through personal, one-on-one relationships. We want the community to know that they can come to this facility and not be hit with "a religious" message, just meet some amazing people who care about them. Out of those relationships, and when people are ready to find out what's different about us, we will take the opportunity to share the hope that is in us. Peter writes, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15, NASB).

As an event/activity area, various organizations and individuals will be able to rent the facility for their activity. Service organizations that need a place to hold an event or a meeting can request use of the building. It will be open to individuals that want to host gatherings for family or friends. We hope our people will volunteer to help some of these organizations with their events and thereby be "salt and light." An area that we would especially hope our people would take advantage of is sponsoring a special interest event, like a hobby, to which those who've yet to believe would be invited.

In terms of conferences, we hope to see conferences offered that strengthen families and help people in difficult issues of life. Conferences could be speakers, or a video series hosted by a facilitator. Obviously, it would include marriage and parenting conferences, but could also be anything from finances to recovering from addictions.

A place for a Christian counselor could take some time to develop. Issues of liability, fees, and Christian vs secular counseling have to be addressed carefully. The goal would be that hurting people could find God's directions and help as they work their way through their pain.

The coffee shop concept may face numerous obstacles. Zoning, setup costs, operations, and profitability are just a few of the issues that need to be worked through. While the committee and others are excited about having a place to meet with those who've yet to believe, the final shape of this is difficult to know this early.

18 & 8th is a big vision. It's way outside the box of traditional church ministry. And yet I think it reflects what is becoming a new norm for the church to reach those who've yet to believe. The day of the tent meeting, the crusade, and even bringing people into the church for an evangelistic meeting is fading in effectiveness. I think we can see the wisdom of Jesus when He chose "go" as the first word in the mission He gave us of making disciples (Matthew 28:19).

Please continue to pray that God will help us use this facility for His purposes in this area. And pray that He will help you to know what your part is in His mission!

For the Glory of His Name,

Pastor Dan





APRIL 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Easter Worship Service ~ 9:30 am, Monroe High School PAC</p> 	<p>2 Missions Meeting ~ 6:00 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102</p> <p>Awana: 5:30 ~ Jr Hi/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.</p>	<p>5 Women's Philippians Study ~ 9:30 am, NC</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC/K</p>
<p>8 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am, & 10:30 am Women's additional class</p> <p>Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Deadline for Elder/Deacon Recommendations</p>	<p>9 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p> <p>Elder Bd. Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102</p> <p>Awana: 5:30 ~ Jr Hi/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.</p>	<p>12 Women's Philippians Study ~ 9:30 am, NC</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Next Steps—Step 1 ~ 8 am, NC</p>
<p>15 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am, & 10:30 am Women's additional class</p> <p>Ignite ~ Service event at Monroe Clinic ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Next Steps—Step 2 (1st s) ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>16 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102</p> <p>Awana: Last night, Store night 5:30 ~ Jr Hi/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.</p>	<p>19 Women's Philippians Study ~ 9:30 am, NC</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>20 Primetimers 11:15 am, Pizza Hut lunch</p>	<p>21 One Meal Packing event ~ 10 am, Monroe Middle School Gym</p> <p>NC/K in use 11 am—4 pm</p>
<p>22 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am, & 10:30 am Women's additional class</p> <p>Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Next Steps—Step 2 (2nd s) ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>23 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>24 Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am</p> <p>Board of Deacons Mtg. ~ 6 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>25 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102</p> <p>Awana Closing Ceremony</p>	<p>26 Women's Philippians Study ~ 9:30 am, NC</p> <p>NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am</p> <p>Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>30 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>					

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

13 Victor & Julie Paske	14 John & Dawn Jordan
19 Kevin & Angie Geiwitz	23 Ross & Michelle Bisegger

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Kayla Bruehlman
- April Kuenzi
- Janet Willman
- 2 Crystal Hartwig
- 4 Karen Brunner
- 5 Micah Brunner
- Benjamin Figi
- 6 Carson Eddy
- Pat Miller
- 7 Anika Figi
- Jesse Petersen
- 8 Walter Botteron

- 9 Brian Baer
- 12 Ed Demianiuk
- Tessa Hurlbert
- 13 Violet Ohlrich
- 14 Marlys Isely
- 15 Aaron Roidt
- Ilene Schneider
- 16 JoAnne Kegebein
- Neva Schultz
- Trevor Signer
- 18 Luke Morris

- 19 Sharon Kubly
- 21 Zayden Beernink
- Matthew Setterstrom
- Ray Wyss
- 22 Christian Ohlrich
- 26 Lillianna Hayden
- 29 Caleb Figi
- Ewan Miller
- 30 Joan Howe
- Jane Thoman
- Judy Wray





We would like to extend our sympathy to these families. May God's strength and peace sustain each of you.

Randy & Gloria Ringhand and their family at the death of Randy's Mother, Bernadine Ringhand, who passed away Saturday, February 17, 2018.

Ann Toay and her family at the death of her sister, Margaret Esch, who passed away Sunday, March 11, 2018.

Pat & Angie Miller, and Justin & Jaclyn Miller, and their family at the death of Angie's Mother, Vivian Liszek, who passed away Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Marriage Ministry

Why You Should Apologize for Careless Words

Article About: Communication and Conflict. By Gary Chapman

I had been out of town for three days. When I returned, I found that my wife had one of the chairs in our bedroom reupholstered. She asked, "How do you like it?" I replied, "I like it, but to be honest, I liked the old color better." She broke into tears. "I spent two weeks trying to find the right colors," she said. "I thought you would like it." I could have tried to defend my comment, but I said, "I'm sorry, honey. I should have looked more closely before responding. I do like it, and I appreciate all of your efforts to get the right color."

After hearing this story, one husband said, "You really did like the former color better. Why should you apologize because she got upset?" This man's comments reflect an attitude many husbands have during disagreements with their wife. So they settle for a fractured marriage, refusing to accept responsibility for careless words or ill-thought actions.

If I hurt my wife, whether intentionally or unintentionally, I should apologize. When my behavior puts an emotional barrier between my wife and me, it's my responsibility to try to remove the barrier. Apologizing does not mean that what I did was morally wrong; it means that I am deeply concerned that I have hurt her. Most wives will respond positively when we admit our mistakes, when we acknowledge our careless comments or our preoccupation with other things.

A gentle approach. So the next time your wife explodes at your behavior, why not say, "Honey, obviously I have hurt you deeply. Tell me why it hurts you so much." Then listen, express understanding and ask her to forgive you. When she seems emotionally distant, consider responding with, "Honey, I'm wondering if I have done something to hurt you. I sense that something is bothering you, and if I'm the problem, I certainly want to deal with it. I love you."

Owning our mistakes is the road to marital intimacy.

Dr. Gary Chapman is a pastor, speaker and best-selling author of *The Five Love Languages*.

thank you! Scott and Carol Larson have a strong desire to see God glorified through strong marriages and families. They have been a vital part of the marriage ministry for several years. Through prayer, mentoring couples, encouraging, and modeling what a Christ-centered marriage should be. Due to Scott's health concerns they will have to step down from their role in the Ministry. Please take a moment, the next time you see them, to join with us in thanking Scott and Carol for their service to the marriage ministry and continue to pray for Scott and Carol and their family.



Save the date:
Brewers Baseball Game
Tuesday, July 3rd
Brewers vs Minnesota Twins
Game time—3 pm
Tickets will be \$10.
Everyone is invited to attend!
Questions? Bernie Roidt: 325-2199

What's New At The Library?

God's Design For Sex Series: Four books, each with its own appropriate age range and format that tells your child about sex, God's way. The first two (3-5 and 5-8) are picture-book style, and the last two (8-11 and 11-14) are more chapter-book style. These books are very detailed and will allow your child to know God's design for sex.



Francine Rivers has a new book! *The Masterpiece* is a redemptive love story, a probing tale that reminds us that mercy can shape even the most broken among us into an imperfect, yet stunning masterpiece.

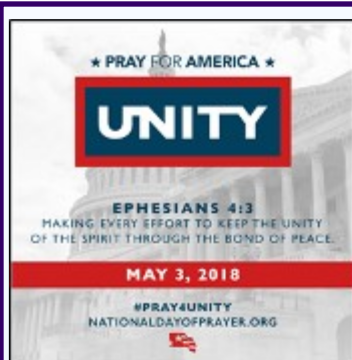
Riley Mae and the Good News Shoes is a new kids series about a young girl and her new opportunity to be an athletic shoe model. She gets into unexpected adventures and grows closer to God through her journeys!



Other new books:

***Dirty Girls Come Clean*, by Crystal Renaud**, founder of Dirty Girls Ministries and an AACC certified counselor - whose own addiction started at age 10 - provides steps to recovery uniquely tailored for the female addict. Beginning with surrender, moving to confession, embracing accountability, owning responsibility, to finally sharing with others, the reader will be taken on a journey that can guide her from a state of woundedness to one of healing.

***The Leap: Launching Your Full Time Career in Our Part Time Economy*, by Robert Dickie III** who is the President of Crown and a former CEO of an international company. He shares his knowledge and experience, outlines seven proven strategies for operating in our ever-changing landscape, and helps you make an action plan to achieve results. What does it look like to avoid anchors, create multiple income streams, and brand yourself? *The Leap* will help you navigate these and other critical tasks for having lasting work in a changing economy.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST May 3rd

The 2018 theme is *Pray for America—UNITY*, based upon Ephesian 4:3 ***“Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”***

Prayer brings people together. Prayer brings UNITY. Year after year we have seen God work through the relationships we build with community leaders who attend the Prayer Breakfast.

Our outreach through prayer is making a difference, in the lives of those we pray for and in the lives of the youth who take a stand and pray. Please join us for this significant event!

Volunteers are needed for Prayer (ages 10-20), Table Hosts, Ushers, Greeters, Breakfast Casserole Servers, Registration Table, Set-up, and Clean-up. Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center. Sign up before April 16th.



****OneMeal Event**

This year we will be holding our 3rd annual OneMeal Food Packing Event at the Monroe Middle School new gym on **Saturday, April 21** at **10 am**.

A new minimum of \$5,400 is required to hold the event. These funds purchase ingredients through *Kids Around the World* for 20,000 meals and provide for shipment of the food. This year MBC is partnering with Juda-Zion United Methodist Church and each is raising **\$2,700**. Tax deductible checks are to be made PAYABLE to KIDS AROUND THE WORLD, and placed in the OneMeal donation box at the back of the church. You can also donate directly to *Kids Around The World* online from our church website. The last day to donate is Sunday, April 15.



The ingredients are packaged on the 21st in a family friendly, assembly-line style. The food we package will be sent to hungry children in **Haiti**, who will also receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a great family-friendly event where you can invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help pack. All ages are welcome! We will provide water and snacks, and the first 20 packing-people to show up receive a Thrivent T-shirt. Please sign up at the OneMeal table at the back of the church.

****Playground Project**

*We will be having a **Garage Sale** on **June 14 & 15** with proceeds going to the "Playground Project"...so start saving your items now! We are in the second year of a 5-year campaign to raise \$20,000 for a playground through *Kids Around the World*. So far we have raised \$4,360.41. Thank you for your support! Once the funds are raised, we will send a team to install the playground in Guatemala.



Ladies! Save the date!
May 11 & 12, 2018
Faith Community
Church in Davis, IL



Priscilla
SHIRER
SIMULCAST



Awana store is Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Any donations would be appreciated.

The Awana closing ceremony is Wednesday, April 25, 2018. We would appreciate donations of cookies or bars for that night.

Please pray that we finish the Awana year strong.

Kim Markham, Awana Commander



RESURRECTION HOPE

Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.

Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 2+2 = ___ united | 2x3 = ___ death | 7+6 = ___ resurrection |
| 3x3 = ___ certainly | 18-16 = ___ have | 4-1 = ___ been |
| 0+1 = ___ if | 2x4 = ___ we | 13-1 = ___ him |
| 2+3 = ___ in | 20-6 = ___ like | 2+5 = ___ his |
| 2x5 = ___ be | 8+3 = ___ with | |

"For 1 we 2 3 4
with him 5 a 6 like 7 ,
8 will 9 also 10 united
11 12 in a 13
14 his." Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV

Just for Kids!



Mission:Monroe

As we welcome spring and summer, they bring new opportunities for Mission:Monroe to reach out to our body and the community in new ways.

Matthew 20:28 "... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Let this be our attitude as we consider individually where God would have each of us serve.

Details will be shared and updated via bulletin, email, and Mission:Monroe Facebook page. A sign-up will be at the Welcome Center when these opportunities arise.

Questions? Contact Carol Larson, 558-1475



NEXT STEPS

Step 1—"Our Mission & Vision"

(1 Session)

Saturday, April 14th

8:00 AM, Nehemiah Center

Breakfast provided.

Step 2—"Our Core Beliefs"

(2 Sessions)

Sundays, April 15th & 22nd

6:30 PM, Lower Level #102

Please sign-up at the Welcome Center

****Steps 2 & 3 are required
for membership.***

EASTER WORSHIP
SERVICE — 9:30 AM
APRIL 1, 2018



MONROE HIGH
SCHOOL PAC

(1600 26TH STREET)

LIBRARY NEWS: THE LIBRARY IS BEING MOVED UPSTAIRS!

"A church library is a storehouse of materials that reinforces a church's message or aids people who want to dig deeper. Libraries have also become a place where individuals and families can find entertainment that uplifts spirits and enlightens minds instead of assaulting their values" (Why the Church Library Is Still Relevant, Luanne Radecki Blackburn). In 1 Corinthians 8:9 Paul tells us to be careful how we exercise our freedom in Christ so that we don't become a stumbling block. The church library can be an important way to combat the "50 Shades" kind of current book culture with books that edify rather than tear down our faith.

Several people have mentioned they weren't aware that we have a church library, others cannot access the library, and still others don't have enough time to come downstairs to browse while family members are upstairs. Right now, the library has an "out of sight, out of mind" location. We have known for some time that an upstairs location could rectify those problems, and we now have a plan to do it! This relocation will make the library visible for those who don't know there is a library, give a better ease of access for those who have problems with the stairs, provide more room to expand our book selection, display pastoral/leader recommended reading, and make implementing various reading programs more realistic.

The move will entail enlarging the storage closet on the south end of the Nehemiah Center to be able to hold all of the chair and table carts and the stackable chairs that are now being stored on that end. There will be a dividing wall from that closet to the west wall that would define the library. This will enlarge the library by about 50% from what it is now. The wall will have two large windows in it for visibility. The library will be able to be used for other purposes such as a Sunday school classroom and a meeting room. The existing library will become an office. We are excited to be able to make this improvement to our facility. Construction will begin soon with a June 1st target for completion.

The children's book section is currently the most used part of the church library. This section enables parents the opportunity to help grow their child's faith walk, which is often a daunting task. Books provide opportunities for children to ask questions about what they're reading. This can enable parents the chance to further their child's growth. Simply reading good books alone can help a child grow in their own faith. The fiction section is stocked with books that tell of characters coming to faith, or of their faith journey; which can be encouraging and help the reader to grow in their faith. The nonfiction section is full of books, from studies and biographies, to inspiration and practical Christian living. The DVD section is full of family-friendly and faith-based movies, documentaries, biographical dramas, and Bible studies. The library contains useful reading for all ages! Watch for the move, but you don't have to wait for the relocation to take advantage of these wonderful resources!