

September 2018

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Follow Me!

In my quiet time reading the other day I found my attention drawn to Jesus's words, "Follow Me." In John 21, after His resurrection, Jesus had made breakfast for the disciples on the beach. He gave Peter a threefold exhortation to "tend His sheep" (verses 15, 16, 17), then let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. After this He then said to Peter, "Follow Me!" (verse 19). Peter turned around, and seeing John following them, says to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" That's when we read the response of Jesus, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is *that* to you? You follow Me!" (*John 21:22, NASB*)



Obviously, these words are a great reminder, and perhaps a chiding to us all. We should focus our attention on our own call to follow Jesus and not to be so concerned about what He has asked of others and what they are doing. It isn't that we shouldn't be concerned about others following Jesus, but surely the more we're concerned about others the less attention we're paying to our own walk!

However, that wasn't what grabbed my attention. Rather, it was the words "Follow Me." I was, and still am, challenged with the question, "Am I really following Jesus?" It's pretty easy to assume we're following Jesus once we know a little about the Bible, the life of Christ, and the gospel message. But couldn't I have a LOT of Bible knowledge, and really be following my own thoughts and ideas, instead of following Jesus?

What did "Follow Me" mean for Peter's life? What does it mean for you and me to follow Jesus? One doesn't have to think long to come up with a couple of other situations in which Jesus said the same words. For example, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;" (*John 10:27*). Jesus said that following Him, and listening to Him, is characteristic of every true believer! Since that's the case, we should know what it means, and be very focused on doing it!

Jesus seemed to put even more weight on following Him in Matthew 10 when He said, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it." (*Matthew 10:37-39*). Here Jesus emphasizes following Him in the context of loving Him more than anyone, and being willing to leave everything! This is no small invitation!

Jesus tells us that following Him is listening to Him more than anyone else, loving Him more than anyone else, and leaving more for Him than anything else. It's a pretty simple concept, but a huge commitment isn't it? I'm going to be talking about this in the upcoming sermon series. But, as my thoughts went that morning, what does one receive in return? Well, one receives a personal walk with Jesus, and a deepening relationship with Him. How does anything we could have in this world compare? Nothing else comes anywhere near, not even close! Are you all in?

In the Carpenter's Hand,
 Pastor Dan



September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Men's Breakfast - 8 am, NC
2 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon, & 1-3 pm Primetimers Games/ Lunch - 10 am — 1 pm, NC	5	6 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	7 Generations Workshop - 6:30-8:30 pm, NC	8
9 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School Kick Off 9:00 am Fusion Kick Off "Photo Scavenger Hunt" - 6-8 pm, LL #106	10 Prayer Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Bd. Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106	11 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon, & 1-3 pm	12	13 Missions Ministry - Papa Murphy's Night, 10% proceeds to Playground Fund—Must mention "Playground" NA - 7 pm, LL #102	14 Missions Ministry Cheese Days Food Tent Fundraiser - 10 am—8 pm Mission: Monroe Cheese Days Hospitality Tent 6—9 pm Free T-Shirts are provided	15 Missions Ministry Cheese Days Food Tent Fundraiser - 9 am—8 pm
16 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Next Steps "Step 3" - 6:30 pm, LL #102 Fusion Cheese Days Clean up & Pizza - Meet at Retail Tent at 6 pm	17 Prayer Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #102	18 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon, & 1-3 pm	19	20 Women's Bible Study, Hebrews - 9:30 am, NC NA - 7 pm, LL #102	21	22 NC in Use
23 Lord's Table Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Parents Meeting - 9:00 am, NC Next Steps "Step 1" Noon, Lunch Provided Fusion "Airsoft War" 12:15 pm w/Lena E Free in Rock City, IL Returning 4:30-5 pm	24 Prayer Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #102	25 Pleasant View Service - 9:30 am Library Hours: 10 am- Noon, & 1-3 pm Board of Deacons - 6 pm, LL #106	26 "See You at the Pole " Breakfast at MBC at 6 am, meet at the Schools at 7:15 am Trek/Journey Kick Off - 5:30 pm Awana Kick Off - 6:15 pm	27 Women's Bible Study, Hebrews - 9:30 am, NC Wild Mtn. Man Leader's Mtg. - 6:45 pm, location TBD NA - 7 pm, LL #102	28 Church in use - Wedding All Church Campout - Yellowstone State Park	29 Church in use - Wedding All Church Campout - Yellowstone State Park
30 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am All Church Campout - Yellowstone State Park						



Birthdays!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Indy Garchie
- 2 Charles Champlin
- 3 Ramona Johnson
Gladdy Scheppele
- 5 Nancy Larson
Anna Ritschard
- 6 Nate Ackerman
Rick Hartwig
- 7 Russell Meyer
- 8 Josh Montgomery
Ezekiel Ritschard
Samuel Roidt
Tom Skoumal
Helen Tuttle
- 9 Michelle Bisegger
- 11 Isaiah Ritschard
- 12 Maggie Holverson
- 13 Caden Montgomery
- 16 Robin Nafzger

- 19 Andrea Brunner
Greg Dyer
Yvonne Heinbaugh
- 20 Peter Rische
- 22 Deb Hauri
- 23 Nathan Botteron
Bob Hauri
- 25 Josie Garwell
Jacob Whyte
- 26 Russ Meier
Cree Schadewaldt
- 27 Joey Thoman
Emma Turkelson
William Turkelson
- 28 Ellie Rische
Steve Schwarze
- 29 Chris Morris
- 30 Roman Dechtiarenko
Larry Hermanson

- 9 Chris & Laura Holverson
Russ & Corrine Meier
- 10 Gene & JoAnn Dobbins
- 13 Steven & Grifley McNett
- 14 Brian & Lexi Baer
- 18 Jeff & Marie Wunschel
- 19 Steve & Shannon Allbaugh
- 22 Jeff & Ann Italiano
- 25 Rich & Anita Peach
- 28 Dan & Deb Hendrickson
- 29 Larry & Jeanne Hermanson

ALL NEW!

Generations Workshop

September 7th at MBC!

We are privileged to host a Sarah Gibson “Generations” workshop Friday night, September 7th. Sarah is a Generations expert. She writes, lectures, coaches and consults about the changing generations in the work force and how they can more effectively communicate together. She is a much sought-after speaker and leadership consultant. Her specialty is identifying underlying patterns and concerns that hold teams back, and giving teams tools and language so they can create environments where a culture of trust and accountability can thrive.

In 2004 Sarah, a *Certified Speaking Professional*, founded Accent Learning and Consulting. Sarah’s book, *Geezer. Punk. Whatever*, is a practical guide to generational communication and has been used by individuals and organizations across North America. Sarah has spoken for a wide variety of audiences ranging across financial, government, healthcare, insurance, manufacturing, professional associations and professional services industries. Sarah is a Christ follower and has cheerfully offered her expertise to us because she loves Christ’s church and desires to give back to the Lord from what He has blessed her with.

This workshop will be directed toward our Ministry Leaders, but is also open to the entire congregation. It will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 8:30 pm. The topics will be:

Generations – who they are, how our generations play out in our daily lives

Characteristics that impact us as a church – how we approach communication, conflict, church preferences, decision making

How to best serve one another across generations

This will be a very valuable workshop! Please put this on your calendar!

With Our Sympathy to These Families:

We would like to extend our sympathy to Lucy Huber. Lucy’s sister, Roberta Bunderson, passed away on Tuesday, August 7th.

Our condolences go to John and Dawn Jordan. Dawn’s Mom, Irene Stocker, passed into eternity on Sunday, August 19th.

We would like to extend our sympathy to John and Kristi Hudson. John’s mom, Ida May Hudson-Wilder, passed away on Saturday, August 11th.

*Precious in the sight
of the Lord is the
death of his saints.*



I am writing this one day before the primary election. Before you know it the November election will be here. Please pray for the election. We need people to be elected that will support Biblical principles and the Constitution. Remember to pray for our local, county, state, and federal leaders.



A few years ago Pastor Jesse suggested an idea to remember prayer requests. Keep 3x5 cards handy and write prayer requests on them. This is especially handy when a person asks you to pray about a matter. Throughout the day, pray for the requests you wrote on the card. You can also transfer the requests to your prayer notebook. If you don't have a prayer notebook, I encourage you to start one. You'll be glad you did.

At the last Men's Breakfast Jim Hurlbert spoke about the Guatemala trip. Jim also led in a concert of prayer for several requests concerning Guatemala. It was very exciting, encouraging, and uplifting.

Believers should be more excited about prayer than sports, food, or recreation. God is waiting for us to communicate with Him. Please join us at 6:30 pm Monday evenings for prayer.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



Every baseball player needs a glove & bat in order to effectively play his role on the team. These tools help him function at his best as a baseball player. Every handyman will have a toolbox when he enters your home to fix the problem you have called him about. In it will be essential tools, including hammers, screw drivers, pliers, electrical tape, and other necessary items that make his job a success.

What does every Christian parent need in his/her toolbox to help guide and lead their sons and daughters into a faith that can withstand and thrive in our society today?

The Bible clearly instructs parents to lead and instruct the next generations in the scriptures, and in keeping God's Word. This is not an option for the Christian family. Unfortunately, we sometimes struggle to find a means and the time to instruct them in the things of God, and bypass this valued time in showing our children who God is and what He is doing in this world. I believe that the parent's toolbox should be intentionally packed with the best tools, a little courage, and a willingness to investigate how it best works for his/her family. With that said, I want to recommend that you consider *"The New City Catechism"*. This tool may sound old and dusty, but I assure you, it's anything but that. I recommend you make it part of your family toolbox. The New City Catechism is an App you can get on your phone, ipad or computer and allows you, your child, and your teens to discuss a single doctrine or truth of God every week of the year. Simply set aside one 15 minute segment of time each week with your family around the table to discuss questions such as "Who made you?", "What else did God create?", & "Who is God". There are 52 weeks of questions, songs, and commentary in this creative App. The app allows you to have these discussions at home or on the road with the phone app. You will find this in your App Store online. You can also buy *The New City Catechism* as a desk top calendar or in book form online by doing a search.

I also recommend that you include in your parenting toolbox the new, *Monroe Bible Church: Family Bible Reading Plan*. Every Christian family needs to read God's Word with their children, and help form a habit of daily reading time with God. How else will our children form these habits?

Most of the best baseball players will spend hours daily working on ground balls & considering scenarios on where to throw the ball when it is hit to them. When game time comes around and a ball is hit to them on the field, they automatically respond according to what they have faithfully practiced. In our society today, we must be intentional in discipling our children on who God is and what the Mission is that He has called us to. Your children's spiritual health demands it. Check out these new resources. They are both free and readily available.

Pastor Troy Watson

AWANA

AWANA will be starting September 26 for ages 3 1/2 through 12th grade.

Ages 3 1/2 through 6th grade meet from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Wednesday evenings.

Tentative time for 7th through 12th grade is 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

Contact Jim Hurlbert, Commander, (325-3430) if you have any questions or if you are interested in helping.

MISSION:MONROE

Summer has provided many opportunities to serve our community. Some of our events included serving pizza at the Concert on the Square for Family Promise, sorting & hanging clothing at the MACC, helping pack food at the Green County Food Pantry, and providing blankets for the hospice center. With fall quickly approaching, we have a whole new set of activities. "Come to Cheese Days in Monroe" and help at the Hospitality Tent on Friday, 6 pm—9 pm. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Later in the month we will be helping at Bountiful Hope Farms. Stay tuned.

The first Monday of October we will take care of all aspects of the Spaghetti Supper for Care Net. Everyone can help with this by baking desserts, set-up, serving, and clean-up.

All updates and details will be in the bulletin, at the Welcome Center, in an email, and on our Mission:Monroe FB page.



Ladies Retreat 2018

*Pick up a Registration Brochure
at the Welcome Center!*

Perception
Perspective
Proclamation

A journey through Psalm 73

October 19—21

Primetimers Luncheon and Game Day



On Tuesday, September 4th Primetimers will be meeting to visit, play games, and have lunch together. Deb Hendrickson will host this event and hopes to have September 4th be a planning session for future luncheons. If you will be attending and would like to contribute something to the meal, give Deb a call (214-5532). The fellowship starts at 10 am with lunch at noon.

NEXT STEPS

“Next Steps” Step 3 ~ Sunday, September 16th
– 6:30 pm, LL #102

“Next Steps” Step 1 ~ Sunday, September 23rd
- Noon, NC
Lunch provided.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Tree Cutting at MBC

Because of emerald ash borer damage to our three large trees, it will be necessary to remove them. We'll be requesting help for this process.



There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in September and we are expecting to do the tree removal sometime in October.

Any questions can be directed to Duane Zimmerman at 608-214-6793.



Monroe Bible Church Family Campout
When: Friday Sept 28- Sunday Sept 30th
Where: Yellowstone Lake Campground

**WI State Park entrance sticker is required!*

Group site reserved - only 50 tent campers overnight & 16 total tents September 28-30th.

Electricity on site for TENT CAMPING ONLY.

Reserve your own camper site online for these dates if you'll be bringing a camper (no need to sign up at the Welcome Center if you're bringing a camper)

Sign up at the Welcome Center and pick up a recommended list of supplies you should bring. Indicate on the sign-up if you are staying over one or both nights, and how many are in your family.

Cost is \$8 per person, whether you stay 1 night or both nights.

**Make checks payable to Monroe Bible Church and Indicate "Campout" on the memo line.*

Deadline for payment is Sunday, September 23rd.

There is a separate sign-up sheet if you would like to attend one or both of the church family meals on Friday and/or Saturday at 6 pm.

Pastor Troy Watson



PAPA MURPHY'S NIGHT - Thursday, Sept. 13!! Cheese Days can be a hectic time so why not grab a few Papa Murphy's pizzas on Sept. 13 for the busy weekend? Just say "Playground" upon purchase and Papa Murphy's in Monroe will donate 10% of the proceeds to the Playground Fund! Monroe Bible Church has a 5-year campaign to raise \$20,000 for a Kids Around The World (KATW) playground. KATW "harvests" unwanted commercial grade playgrounds in the US, refurbishes, and ships them to 3rd world countries. It is a wonderful way to bring play into children's lives, show them God's love, and provide churches with ministering opportunities. Once funds are raised, we hope to send a team to install the playground, under the supervision of KATW staff. We are in our 3rd year of fundraising, and have raised \$10,340.45!



Thank you for your support!



Cheese Days "Food Tent" needs volunteers

This is our 2nd Cheese Days in which we will have a Playground fundraising tent on the square. On Friday, we will sell bottled water and Saturday we will try adding some frozen treats to the menu. If you can work a 2-hour shift Friday, Sept. 14 and/or Saturday, Sept. 15, please sign up at the Welcome Center and pick up your free Thrivent T-shirt. Thank you for your support!



Our Guatemalan Missionary to visit

Oscar Chiquito and his family will be in the United States this fall. Oscar will be giving a ministry update in the Nehemiah Center on **Sat., Oct. 27 at 10:30 am – 11:30 am**. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend, especially if you are considering going on next year's trip. The 2019 Trip Information meetings will be held October 28, November 4 & 18 and December 9, 2018.

Harvest Weekend

This year our Missionary guests will be Tim & Nicole Wilcox (YWAM- Madison) and Kevin & Robin Warren (Glory Reins Ranch – Virginia). Please mark **Nov. 10** on your calendar for the Men/boy's Breakfast and Women/girl's Luncheon. We will be holding a **Harvest Congregational Potluck** on Sunday, Nov. 11 in the Nehemiah Center after the 2nd service.



Saturday, September 1st

8 am – Nehemiah Center



I trust that all of you have had a great summer and are geared up for the upcoming ministry year. I want to say thank you to ALL our leaders who have faithfully served the last few years. With that in mind, I want to remind you about signing up for a Life Group. Our

purpose is to share life together through study, discipleship, and serving. This will only happen if you set your heart to accomplish our mission by your involvement.

Jeff Wunschel, Jim Hurlbert, Kim Markham, Duane Zimmerman, Josh Kuenzi, Chris Morris, Scott Larson, and Bernie Roidt will once again be leading groups. We are always looking for more leaders, as well as those who would like to be developed as a group leader.

We would also like to expand our number of groups to minister to surrounding communities. If you have new ideas/suggestions that coincide with our vision or would be interested in hosting a group, PLEASE contact me at 608-576-4046.

Looking forward to a fantastic year of spiritual growth.

Mike Westcomb,
Life Group Ministry Leader

Marriage MINISTRY

Have you ever thought about how much your marriage is like a garden? If you expect to get a good amount of quality produce from your garden it requires your constant attention and routine maintenance. If not, your garden will become overrun with undesirable weeds and unwanted pests that will severely limit your garden's potential.

You must take regular inventory of your garden's condition. First, you need to cultivate the ground well to get a good crop started, and then cultivate again from time to time to keep the ground soft so that it is always prepared to receive the sustaining moisture that it needs. You also need to take the time to do the unpleasant task of pulling weeds that always seem to creep in from the outside into your precious garden space. And of course, it is your responsibility to determine that special blend of fertilizer you need to apply to your garden to produce excellent results.

Are you managing your time wisely and maintaining your "garden" well? May God bless your marriage.

During the Marriage Ministry August "Date Your Spouse Challenge" several couples reported to us that they had a lot of fun dating their spouse, as they made it a priority to care for their "garden".

Week 1 winners were **Josh and April Kuenzi**.

Week 2 winners were **Paul and Andrea Brunner**.

