

December 2018

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Why the Chaos?



Reading in Acts this morning I had to shake my head. The tradesmen of Ephesus, led by Demetrius, were upset at Paul's preaching because people were turning away from their god Artemis. They said, "Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence." (*Acts 19:27, NASB*). They were afraid that their god might be "regarded as worthless," and, "even be dethroned from her magnificence." Their prosperity depended on this not happening (*verse 25*). They were upset that Paul said, "gods made with hands are no gods at all." (*verse 26*). How do people think that an object made with human hands can become a god? They were "filled with rage" over this and able to create a citywide riot.

Meanwhile, going back about 1,500 years, reading in the Old Testament section for today, something not so far off from that happens among God's people. The Israelites who have just been supernaturally delivered from slavery in Egypt are camped at Mt. Sinai. The people assured Moses, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" (*Exodus 19:8; and 24:3*). Moses is back up the mountain before God for 40 days, receiving the directions for the tabernacle, and the unthinkable happens. "Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'" (*Exodus 32:1*). "Make us a god who will go before us"? Really? So, Aaron makes a golden calf and tells the people, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt" (*verse 4*). Are you kidding?! The people worshiped and made sacrifices to the golden calf (*verse 8*), meanwhile Moses intercedes with God not to destroy the whole nation. He comes down the mountain to find the people, "out of control" (*verse 25*).

Again, I found myself shaking my head. How do people come to the point that they believe something made with human hands becomes a god? It's worth noting that in both cases chaos resulted. In both cases the people were living in contradiction to the truth about God. It makes me wonder – is this what is happening in America? Things certainly seem "out of control."

As the Christmas season approaches, I'm grateful that the one true living God has manifested Himself in various times and ways in history. I'm grateful that He inspired a record of enough of His manifestations, and of more truth about Himself, in His written Word. I'm grateful that God has preserved this written record and given His Holy Spirit to help understand it. Most of all, I'm grateful that the fullest revealing God could give, He did in sending His Son, the Savior Christ Jesus. We've been created to know God, not to make a god. What a contrast we see between the chaos of people who create gods and the calm of people who come to God. I hope you take some time to rest, reflect, and respond in worship to the One the season has been set aside to celebrate. He is the Prince of Peace!

Unshaken in Faith,

Pastor Dan



December '18

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Visit the Library – Each Sunday after Services!						1 Men's Breakfast - 8 am, NC/K
2 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am, NC Ignite - 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion - 6-8 pm, LL #106	3 CareNet Chili Supper Hope Community Center - 4:30 pm-8 pm Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	4 Primetimers Games & Lunch - 10 am-1 pm Library Hours: 10 am-Noon, & 1-3 pm	5 AWANA STORE Trek/Journey - 5:30 pm Awana - 6:15 pm	6 Ladies Bible Study, Hebrews - 9:30 am, NC Good News Club begins @ Parkside School - 4 pm Young Adults Study - 8 pm, LL #106 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	7	8
9 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am, NC Guatemala Informational Mtg - 11:50 am, LL #102 Next Steps 1 - Lunch provided 12 pm, NC Ignite Caroling - 4-6 pm, meet at MBC Fusion Christmas Party - 6-8 pm, NC	10 Nehemiah Center & Kitchen in use Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	11 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon, & 1-3 pm Ladies "Gathering of Friends" Fellowship & Treats, hosted by Jennifer, Anne, & Meghann	12 Trek/Journey - 5:30 pm Awana - 6:15 pm	13 Ladies Bible Study, Hebrews - 9:30 am, NC Good News Club @ Parkside School - 4 pm Open House Christmas Party - 6-8 pm, Watson's Home Young Adults Study - 8 pm, LL #106 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	14	15
16 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Christmas Children's Skit Sunday School - 9 am No Pipeline - recess Ignite Christmas Party - 4-6 pm, Watson's home Fusion Caroling - 5-7 pm, meet on the Square	17 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	18 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon, & 1-3 pm	19 Missions Ministry "Papa Murphy's" 10% of proceeds go to "Playground Fund" Trek/Journey - 5:30 pm Awana - 6:15 pm	20 MBC Blood Drive - 1 pm-6 pm, NC Good News Club at Parkside School - 4 pm Young Adults Study - 8 pm, LL #106 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	21 Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch - 11:15 am	22
23 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am No Sunday School or Pipeline No Ignite or Fusion	24 4 & 9 pm christmas eve SERVICE You're Invited	25 CHRISTMAS BEGINS WITH Christ	26 Office Open: 8 am - 4 pm No Trek/Journey or Awana	27 Office Closed No Good News Club No Young Adult Study NA - 7 pm, LL #102	28 Office Open: 8 am - Noon	29
30 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Cookie Fellowship between services, sack lunch & more cookies at 12:15 pm, NC No Sunday School, Pipeline, Ignite, or Fusion	31 New Year's Eve					

3 Dominic Klitzke
Mike Klitzke
4 Gavin Eddy
6 Jim Brown
Mike Figi
Cierra Larson
7 Evan Bartelt
8 Anne Italiano
Shirley Pieper
Ryan Proudfit
9 Crystal Watson
10 Amelia Haworth
12 John Hudson
Ralph Johnson
Owen Kuenzi
Rose Larson
Jonathan Ragan
Brooks Schout

December Birthdays!

13 Betty Siedschlag
14 Shannon Allbaugh
Maria Burke
Jeff Italiano
15 Timothy Thoman
16 Kaya Holverson
19 Jonah Ohlrich
20 Rex Schout
21 John Bartelt
22 Jacob Brunner
Dan Krahenbuhl
Troy Watson
24 Joe Phillipps
25 Chris Faith
28 Jenny Turkelson
29 Eli Elgin
31 Rylie Hartwig



1 Roy & Karie Nafzger
7 Mark & Deb Setterstrom
20 Larry & Pam Young
22 Bernie & Beth Roidt
30 Carter & Sarah Rische

With Our Sympathy



*We would like to extend our sympathy to Corrine Meier & family.
Corrine's husband, Russ Meier,
passed away Sunday, November 11th, 2018.*

*We also extend our sympathy to the family of Angie & Pat Miller. Angie's
father, Joseph Liszek, passed away Thursday, November 15th, 2018.*

May God bless you and sustain you with His peace.



*Ladies Christmas
Gathering of Friends
Tuesday, December 11th from
7:00–9:00 PM
in the Nehemiah Center.*

*Hosted by Jennifer
Krahenbuhl, Anne Keegan, &
Meghann Holverson.*

*Share amazing treats and
beautiful fellowship.*

*For all ladies,
high school age and up,
you are invited.*

Come and Enjoy!



WE WOULD LIKE TO

WELCOME

CHUCK & JENN CHLADIL

INTO MEMBERSHIP AT MBC!



The MBC Blood Drive will be Thursday, December 20th from 1 pm–6 pm. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you are able to help with the blood drive in any way. If you would like to donate blood, you can save up to 15 minutes when you donate by using RapidPass ahead of time! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Cookie Fellowship!



On Sunday, December 30th all are welcome to fellowship in the Nehemiah Center between Services. Please bring cookies to share. Following the second Service you are welcome to bring a sack lunch, and more cookies, to extend our time of fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

Prime Timers
CHRISTMAS
Games & Luncheon

& Pizza Hut

Greetings to the Primetimers! We'll meet one more time this year in the Nehemiah Center on Tuesday, December 4th for Games and Lunch from 10:00 am—1:00 pm. We will enjoy hot soup and sandwiches. We will have a book exchange in place of a White Elephant gift (how exciting!) so bring a book you'd like to give as a present. We will also be accepting any donations you might like to bring for the local food pantry.


Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch will be Friday, December 21st at 11:15 am.

Primetimers will not meet during the winter months of January and February. We will meet again in March, depending on the weather.

Cheers and God's Blessings for the Holidays. Be safe and healthy!

Erik & Amy Haworth committed publicly on Sunday, November 11th to raise their daughter, Kate, in such a way that she will have every motive and opportunity to choose Christ as her personal Savior and live the Christian lifestyle.

God Bless You!



AWANA

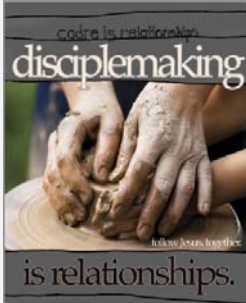
AWANA for ages 3 1/2 through 12th grade.

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

7th through 12th grade is 5:30 to 6:15 pm on Wednesday evenings.

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

Pipeline:
Disciplemaking
is
Relationships



The adult Disciplemaking Pipeline class will meet for their remaining two Sundays in December on the 2nd & 9th. We invite you to join us at 9:00 am in the Nehemiah Center. Our time together will allow us to view and discuss Jesus' method(s) and example of discipleship.

This class is for every age group (post-high school) and season of life. We hope you'll join us! The Disciplemaking book costs \$6. Questions? See Pastor Troy.



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Pleasant View Nursing Home Birthday Party on November 13th. You are a blessing!

It was wonderful to have Tim and Nicole Wilcox from YWAM-Madison, and Robin Warren from Glory Reins Ranch as our missionary guests over Harvest Weekend. All who attended the Men's Breakfast, Ladies Lunch, and Pipeline class were blessed by listening to our missionaries share what is happening in their ministries.

The Harvest Missions Christmas Gift offering totaled over \$1,900. This offering is divided up amongst the missionaries MBC supports. Thank you for your gifts, they are greatly appreciated by our missionaries!

If you are interested in attending the 2019 Guatemala Missions trip July 6-13, there is one more Informational Meeting on December 9th at 11:50 am, in the Lower Level. You must attend one of the informational meetings if you plan to go on this trip. This meeting is your last chance! Applications for the 2019 trip are due in the church office by Sunday, December 30th.

The Papa Murphy's Night fundraiser for the Guatemala Playground will be on Wednesday, December 19th. Must say "Playground" at time of purchase for donation to be made!



Shoebboxes

This year Monroe Bible Church collected 124 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child".

Thank you to all who donated!

These boxes are a wonderful gift and outreach for Christ to the children who receive them.



Christmas Eve Services at Monroe Bible Church will be Monday, December 24th at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM

Merry Christmas!

*Please Note: The Church Office will have limited hours during the week of Christmas in order for the staff to enjoy spending time with their families.

Office Hours:

Wednesday, Dec. 26th: 8 am—4 pm
Friday, Dec. 28th: 8 am—Noon

