

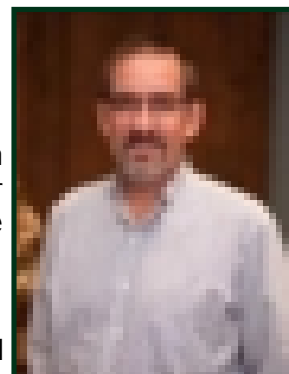
May 2018

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Tidbits from Luke

This month I'm going to give you some tidbits from my recent quiet times in Luke. Perhaps at times you wonder what goes on in Pastor Dan's head, or how is God speaking to him? I call it "on the anvil." The picture for me is one of being heated up and shaped by God the blacksmith.



Luke 8:37 (NASB), "And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned." Jesus is on the other side of the Sea of Galilee and has cast the "legion" of demons from the naked madman. When the people of the area hear the news, they come out to see. "All the people" asked Jesus to leave. It sounds to me like a real spiritual stronghold existed in the whole area!

I've been told by various Christians that have moved to Monroe that there is a spiritual hardness here. While people are mostly courteous, they are unwilling to make a commitment to Christ and His mission. I'm not content to throw up my hands and forget about the people in our community. I don't think that's what God wants of us. Nor am I comfortable just blaming them. Rather, I ask myself, "Am I doing what God wants me to do to reach them, and am I doing it in the way He wants me to do it?" Hence these "tidbits from Luke" are pricking at me.

Luke 8:13, "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away." In this parable of the sower and the seed, the second soil is the shallow rocky soil which doesn't sustain the plant. In Jesus' explanation He points out that the plant had "no firm root." In verse 6 Jesus said it sprung up quickly but soon withered because it had no moisture. I don't want to press the metaphor too far, but it does challenge me. Are we providing adequate discipleship (cultivation and watering) for those who make an initial response to the gospel?

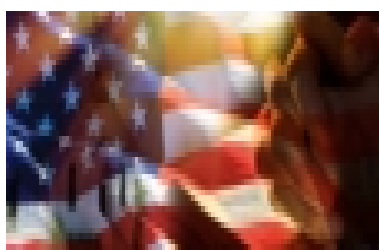
Luke 6:26, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way." This one stings. I confess, I want people to like me and think well of me. Jesus warns His followers that that's the way false prophets were treated. In verse 6 Jesus tells them, "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. (Luke 6:22). Am I living for Jesus' sake, or my own?"

Luke 9:23, "And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." Jesus seems to be saying that if we want to follow Him we have to deny the constant temptation to satisfy our desires for pleasures, possessions, and prides. He seems to be saying that we have to willingly accept whatever suffering we might have to face for being obedient to Him. The critic who asserts that Christianity is for the weak who need a crutch, must not have read the Bible!

So, there you have it, some rambling of your pastor on the anvil. But lest I leave you with a burden, there's another tidbit. **Luke 7:28,** "I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." Jesus is speaking of John the Baptist. Think of it, those who've entered God's kingdom, and who will one day enter His presence, are greater than John the Baptist! We have more honor than John did here, not because we did more, but because the Lord has adopted us as His own. It is because of what the Lord has done for me that I just have to pursue - what He wants from me, and in the way He wants it. How about you?



Still on the Anvil,

Pastor Dan



Remembering

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Missions Mtg. ~ 6 pm, LL #106	2 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104 Awana Leaders Mtg. 6:15 pm, NC	3 National Day of Prayer ~ 6:30 am, Ludlow Mansion Prayer at the Justice Center 8:30-8:45 am Women's Philippians Study ~ 9:30 am, LL 106 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	4	5 Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC/K—Going fishing after the breakfast (location TBD)
6 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am Ignite ~ Service event, Monroe Clinic ~ 4 pm, meet at MBC Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106 Next Steps—Step 3 ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	7 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	8 Primitimers Fellowship ~ Coffee at 5:30 pm & Dinner at 6 pm	9 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104	10 Women's Philippians Study ~ 9:30 am, LL 106 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	11 Priscilla Shirer Simul- cast ~ 6:30 pm, Davis, IL	12 Priscilla Shirer Simul- cast ~ 9 am, Davis, IL
13 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am No Ignite No Fusion 	14 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Bd. Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	15	16 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104	17 Women's Philippians Study ~ 9:30 am, LL 106 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	18 Primitimers 11:15 am, Pizza Hut lunch Ministry Leaders Ap- preciation Dinner ~ 6:00 pm, NC	19 Joram Hurlbert Grad- uation ~ 2—4:30 pm, S/NC/K
20 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Recognizing High School Graduates Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am NC in use afternoon Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106	21 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	22 Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am Board of Deacons Mtg. ~ 6 pm, LL #106	23 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104	24 Women's Philippians Study ~ 9:30 am, LL 106 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	25 Men's Hike, ~ 6 pm, New Glarus Woods (carpool from MBC 5:30 pm)	26
27 Lord's Table Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am No Sunday School or Pipeline— (summer break) Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 No Fusion (summer break) Life Groups Conclude	28 Office Closed 	29	30 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104	31 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102		

	3 Ray & Becky Jones	5 Harold & Shirley Pieper
	7 Jeff & Vicki McNett	16 Randy & Lucy Whyte
	18 Russell & Liz Meyer	20 Aaron & Meghann Holverson
	20 Steve & Rhonda Schwarze	28 Bob & Deb Hauri

May BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Penny Ferreri
- 3 David Hurlbert
Dan Keen
Flaimide McNett
- 4 Tracy Signer
- 5 Suzette Sherman
- 6 Thadeus Miller
- 7 Collin Bisegger
Linda Shannon
- 8 Loren Bruehlman
Luke Whyte
- 9 Brewer Haworth

- 10 Laura Roth
- 11 Meranda Beernink
Maggie Setterstrom
- 13 Josh Kuenzi
Kristin Schout
- 14 Ivy Eddy
Ryan Wyss
- 17 Georgia Brown
Mike Westcomb
- 18 Douglas Crooks
- 19 Elaine Blue
- 21 Charles Kelley

- 24 Doris Kampfer
Logan Ringhand
- 26 Julie Champlin
Hallie Signer
- 27 Teagan Boom
Tenley Boom
- 28 Becky Brown
Tom Dolezel
Justin Miller
- 29 Ann Toay
- 30 Andrew Boom





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

To the family of Donna Garwell at the passing of her sister, Eleanor Bennett, on Thursday, March 15th.

To the families of Donna & Erick Bisegger, JoAnn and Mike Huber, and Elise & Chris Morris on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Kathryn Rufener, on Friday, March 23rd.

NEXT STEPS

Step 3—"Our Commitments"

(1 Session)

Sunday, May 6th

6:30 PM, Lower Level #102

AWANA

There will be an Awana leader and student leader end-of-year potluck/planning meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass. Come with any ideas to plan for the coming year. Hope to see you there.

Kim Markham, Commander

Prayer

I recently had surgery. I really appreciated and felt the prayers of many believers. Prayer changes things. It makes a difference.

There are so many things we can pray about. God's Word tells us to pray for those in authority over us. Do you pray for our government leaders?

The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is "Pray for America-Unity". We may believe there isn't unity because of political beliefs. I believe one big reason is because of what people believe or do not believe about Jesus. There is a real hatred toward Jesus and the principles He sets forth in His Word. We need to pray that the eyes of people will be opened to the Truth of God's Word. Christians can unite in prayer.

Pray for our spiritual leaders such as our Pastors, Elders, Deacons, AWANA Leaders, and Sunday School Teachers. They have a huge privilege and also a responsibility to those to whom they minister.

Feel free to join us at prayer meeting on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Make prayer a priority in your life. It is a privilege.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry

Mission:Monroe

is gearing up for our summer and fall service opportunities. Most of these events are perfect for families, Life Groups, and teens to get involved. All sign-up information will be available at the Welcome Center or by commenting on the Mission:Monroe FB page.

So far, here's the lineup:

July: July 13, Concert on the Square pizza sales for Family Promise.

August: All Monday's at the food pantry.

September: Cheese Days
Bountiful Hope Farm

October: Care Net Spaghetti Supper

Stay tuned!

T-shirts are still available to purchase for \$5. If interested, contact Carol Larson, 558-1475

Welcome Baby!

Congratulations to Tyler & Crystal Hartwig on the birth of their daughter, Raelynn Margaret Hartwig, on Saturday, April 7th. Raelynn was 7 lbs., 9 oz. and 19" long. She joins big sister, Rylie, at home.





Save the Date!
Men/Kids
ANNUAL
CANOE TRIP!
Saturday,
June 30 &
Sunday, July 1



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!

Library News

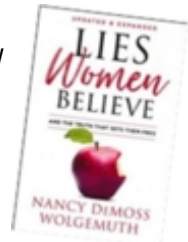
We are excited about the upcoming move and to see the progress being made upstairs! With this move the library will need more help, some during the week. If interested, please see Amanda Ohrich (or email ohrich316@gmail.com) for more information. Also, upon completion we will need help carrying the books upstairs, so keep an eye out for when that may be! In the meantime, we still have new books and media coming in downstairs for check-out!

We are getting in new books from the *Faithgirlz series* and the rest of the *Morgan Love* series! Fiction books by Tessa Afshar, Ted Dekker, and Chris Fabry! Books for personal growth: *Pictorial Pilgrim's Progress*, *The New City Catechism* (great for family study), and new books by Matt Chandler and David Platt! Also, science DVDs from the Creation Library and Moody Science!

We have the updated edition of *Lies Women Believe* and *Lies Young Women Believe* by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, exposing areas of deception most commonly believed by Christian women (lies about God, sin, priorities, marriage and family, emotions, etc), and then shedding light on how we can be delivered from bondage and set free to walk in God's grace, forgiveness, and abundant life!



A new book by Jen Wilkin *Women of the Word* offers a clear and concise plan to help women go deeper in their study of Scripture. This book will equip you to engage God's Word in a way that trains your mind and transforms your heart!



Lastly, we are adding a new media format: Magazines! We currently have three editions (March, April, May) of **WORLD Magazine**; reporting the news from a Christian worldview—interpreting world events under the reality of the Christian faith! Including major national stories, reviews of media (movies, books, and music, ranging from secular new releases to recent Christian releases), opinion pieces, and more!



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."**

If you would like to pray at the Justice Center following the National Day of Prayer, at approximately 8:30-8:45 AM, sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Dan Keen at 608-897-4563.

Men's Hike

Friday, May 25th

Carpooling from MBC at 5:30 PM,
or meet at New Glarus Woods
at 6:00 PM

Contact Kyle Ohrich with Questions:
719-439-1003





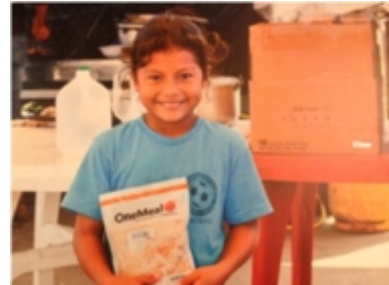
May 5th in the Nehemiah Center!

Join us following the breakfast if you'd like to go fishing (location TBD). Bring your fishing rod and tackle box; extra gear if you have it to share with someone who may not have fishing gear. Contact: Men's Ministry Leader, Kyle Ohlrich, 719-439-1003



****OneMeal Event**

Thank you for supporting the OneMeal program through *Kids Around the World*. Together, Juda-Zion United Methodist Church and MBC raised \$8,471 which purchased 31,374 meals. Thank you to everyone who helped pack the food on April 21! The meals are on their way to Haiti, where children will also receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



****Playground Project**



Thank you for supporting the Culver's Night on March 19! Because of your purchases, Culver's donated \$376.60 to Mission's Playground Fund. Thank you to the volunteer workers who helped make this event possible!

We will be having a **Garage Sale June 14 & 15** with proceeds going to the Playground Project...so start saving your items now! We are in the 2nd of a 5-year campaign to raise \$20,000 for a playground through *Kids Around the World*. Once the funds are raised, we will send a team to install the playground in Guatemala. Please be on the lookout for sign-ups at the Welcome Center to help with this giant undertaking. If you have any questions, contact Deb Hurlbert at 325-3430.

****Guatemala Missions Team**

The 2018 Guatemala Team consists of Jesse Peterson, Wendy Westcomb, Pastor Dan, Ashley Thomas, Mike Westcomb, Crystal Zimmerman, Jim Hurlbert, Helen Tuttle, and (not pictured) Christina Tuttle & Ruth Tuttle.

A **special offering** will be taken on Sunday, June 3 at each service. Support helps pay for travel costs, room & board, translators, VBS supplies, and construction materials for the conference center. The team leaves July 7 and returns July 15.



Ladies—Sign up at the Welcome Center!

May 11 & 12, 2018

Faith Community Church in
Davis, IL



Priscilla
SHIRER
SIMULCAST



Hard Times and Hidden Opportunities

Hard times come in marriage, don't they? You may have found yourself stewing about your husband bringing home an unexpected guest for dinner or you may have experienced a significant loss. You may be disappointed in your husband because he doesn't listen as intently as he used to; maybe when you kiss you don't feel anything close to electric. Be careful to guard your heart or you may start thinking, this isn't working. Marriage is just too hard.

Remember: Your husband doesn't have it easy, either. You may snap at him for no reason, or you may be too busy for romance. Maybe he's afraid to mention a certain subject because of the wrath it will incur, or maybe he simply misses the light-hearted girl he married.

There's a memorable line in the baseball movie *A League of Their Own*, where the coach says, "The hard . . . is what makes it great." When you go through a hard time in your marriage, why not view it as an opportunity for greatness? Strong character can be formed under fire (Romans 5:3-4 "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope").

The following three approaches have helped me through difficult times in my married life:

Be grateful. When you're thankful, you are following God's will for your life. So spend a few minutes in prayer. Thank God for your man and for specific blessings in your marriage. First Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Be gracious. When your husband is getting under your skin, remember that he's not living with Miss Congeniality every day of the year, either. Offer your husband the same grace you want to receive from him. Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." And cut yourself some slack. You're not called to do life perfectly, so focus on growing and learning from your mistakes.

Be good. Choose to meet hardships in your life with goodness. If your husband says something that hurts you, don't use your words as weapons of retaliation. Proverbs 15:1 says, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

As you embrace the hard times and commit to learning from them, God can build a rock-solid marriage that's capable of weathering the storms ahead.

Article from Focus on the Family - Written by Arlene Pellicane.

Marriage Ministry, Jeff & Marie Wunschel

Class of 2018



Ashley Bruehlman will graduate from Argyle High School on Saturday, May 26th. She will be attending Minnesota State University—Mankato in the fall, where she will be playing volleyball for the Mavericks and majoring in Accounting or Business Finance. In lieu of a party, cards of congratulations may be sent to Ashley at 14999 Hillcrest Rd., Argyle, WI 53504.



Hallie will be graduating from Monroe High School on June 3rd. She will be attending college in the fall either at UW-Platteville or Emmaus Bible College. An open house to celebrate her graduation is being held on June 2 at 4:00 PM at her home. W4810 Town Center Road. All are invited.



Sarah Harder will graduate from Monroe High School on June 3rd. She will attend UW-Whitewater this fall and major in Accounting. In lieu of a party, cards of congratulations may be sent to Sarah at PO Box 42, Monroe, WI 53566.

In May, Jared will be graduating from Liberty University with a Bachelor's of Science in Cinematic Arts.



Upon graduation he will be pursuing a Masters Degree in Strategic Communications also from Liberty. At the same time, Jared is constantly seeking out opportunities to build connections within the film industry and continues to maintain his involvement in a number of short form and feature length projects.



Please join us Saturday June 2nd at 18 & 8th for a Senior Recital and Graduation Celebration for our daughter Maggie. Doors will open at 1:30pm for the 45 minute concert which will start at 2:00. Refreshments will be served following the recital. Maggie plans to attend UW Madison in the fall to study music education. We hope you can come for the concert or cake or both, Mark and Deb Setterstrom.



We'd be pleased and honored to have you join us! Joram Benjamin Hurlbert will graduate from Richland Valley Vocational Eruditional Institute Saturday, May 19, 2018 at Monroe Bible Church ~ 2613 8th Avenue, Monroe. 2pm Ceremony. Celebratory gathering following.

Class of 2018



Ruth Joy Tuttle will be graduating on June 3rd from Monroe High School. In the fall she will attend Carroll University in Waukesha to study Music Therapy. A graduation celebration will be held on Saturday, June 9th, 1-5pm at 2520 13 1/2 Ave, Monroe. Everyone from church is invited to attend.



Carson Eddy will graduate on Friday, June 1st. He plans to study Business Management at Blackhawk Technical College and transfer to Ottawa University to finish his Bachelor's degree in English. In lieu of a party, cards of congratulations may be sent to Carson at 2329 5th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566.



Luke Skoumal will graduate from Juda High School on Saturday, May 26th.

To All of Our Graduates:

Congratulations
Class of 2018



Upcoming Pipeline Classes

The Pipeline Men's and Women's Sunday School classes have created some good discussion and allowed for powerful prayer over the past month and a half. *Me, Myself and Lies* and *The Wild Mountain* studies have challenged and encouraged our adult men and women as they continue to grow in faith and seek to become men and women of God. April 22nd was our final class in this rotation. *The Wild Mountain* combined Men's and Boys discussions are being planned for this summer...Stay tuned for updates.

Beginning May 6th, we will do a study called *Go Fish*. Our class will include a short video segment with discussion about how to naturally talk about our faith in Jesus. Topics include: *We Were All Fish Once*, *Why Go Fishing*, *Fishing Together*, and *The One That Got Away*. We all want to be better at creating discussion that allows us to talk about Jesus and our faith. Join us and let's learn together!

People love to tell stories of their fishing adventures. When it comes to faith, however, most people clam up. Why is it we can't talk about what God has done in our lives as naturally as we can spin fishing tales? In this study, Andy Stanley explores the motivation behind sharing your faith and how it can become a natural part of your life. Summary of material, Rightnow Media

Looking forward to joining with you!
Pastor Troy Watson

PRIMETIMER

Do you remember graduation????

The month of May always makes us think of graduations and parties. After all the cold and snowy April weather, we are ready for warmer days and times spent with friends. So Primetimers, we are going to have an evening to remember and visit on Tuesday, May 8th. We would like you to provide us with a graduation picture, or one of you at around 18 years of age, before that night (maybe by Sunday the 6th), and think of a story to share, either from your graduation or a special event that took place near that time. Be sure your name is on the picture. Sound like fun?

It will be a casual evening with time for the pictures, a short devotion, great food, and some singing. No big program, just good friends and fellowship. As always, coffee and punch will be ready at 5:30 PM. We will eat at 6:00 PM – bring a friend, a dish to pass, and your special smile. If you have any questions please call us at 325-4240.

Ray and Becky Jones

Romans 12: 10: "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
Honor one another above yourselves."

The vision for 18 & 8th is moving forward!

Here's an update on what's been happening at 18 & 8th: A cleaning day with many volunteers has made the facility ready for use, a use policy and statement of faith has been formed, our insurance provider's legal department has reviewed the policy and made suggestions which have been addressed, and the Elders and Deacons have appointed an initial board to be the administrators of 18 & 8th as it begins to be open for use. This board will review and approve or decline applications to use the facility according to the policy, handle the paperwork, oversee how the facility is being used, form a budget, purchase supplies, see that repairs are being made, and make recommendations for improvements to the property. The board members include the current Chairman of the Elders, Scott Larson; the current Chairman of the Deacons, Richard Thoman; the two pastors, Pastor Dan and Pastor Troy; and Penny Ferreri.

There have already been two birthday parties held at 18 & 8th and a dog obedience class has begun. There is a graduation party, an assault prevention seminar, and an addictions recovery group scheduled. Individuals and groups outside our church are beginning to hear about the facility and we are receiving very positive comments about the concept! If you have an interest in holding an event, pick up an application form at the office. If you would like a tour of the property, contact one of the board members to make arrangements.

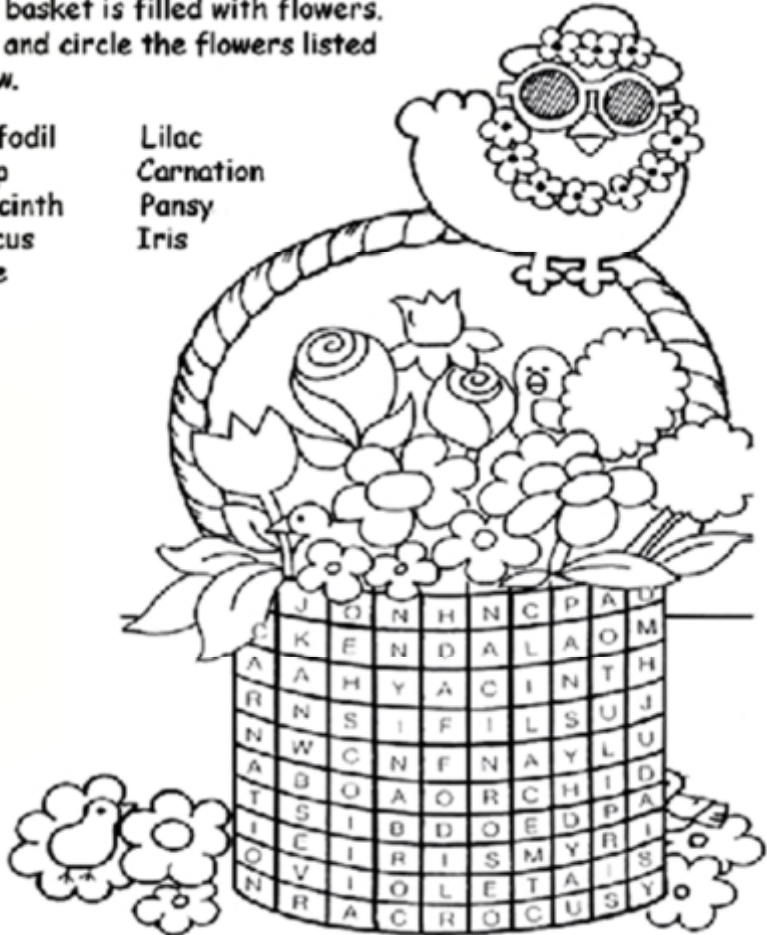
After some of the more important improvements are made to the property we will hold an open house for the community. Please uphold in prayer the vision for this to be a place from which to love and serve the community in ways that build relationships that will, in turn, provide opportunities to share Jesus Christ.

Just for Kids

Spring Means Flowers!

This basket is filled with flowers. Find and circle the flowers listed below.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| Daffodil | Lilac |
| Tulip | Carnation |
| Hyacinth | Pansy |
| Crocus | Iris |
| Rose | |



The birdies are back!
Five of them are hiding on this page, can you find all five?

Color the Pictures!

HEART LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.

Mom, you're the light of my life!



What you need:

- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Tape
- Mason jar
- Primer paint
- Acrylic paint (3 colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea light
- Paper and pen
- Hole punch
- Twine

What you do:

1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
4. Place the tea light in the jar.
5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.



WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M	N	O
E	F	G	P	R	S
H	I	L	T	U	Y

" _____ your _____

and your _____,

the _____ your _____ has

_____."

_____ 5:16, NIV