

## December 2019

### in this issue

Pastors Pen	1
Calendar Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Celebration! Christmas Skit Christmas Service Greeting Ministry Bible Reading Plan New Members	3
Gathering of Friends Men's Breakfast Awana Store Backpack Buddies Missions	4
Sympathy Primetimers Blood Drive Next Steps Operation Christmas Child Prayer	5
18 & 8th Update Just for Kids	6



### The Fullness of Time

I often think about the verse with the phrase, “the fullness of time,” during the Christmas season. For most of us “fullness of time” is probably more like a commentary on our calendar and daily pace, than understanding the meaning in the verse! Here’s the verse and the following verse, “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup>so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (*Galatians 4:4-5*). “The fullness of time” means that Jesus was sent into the world at just the right time in human history. “Fullness” has the connotation of completion. If we look at what happened concerning the spread of the gospel after Jesus’ resurrection, we would see how things like language and transportation, and the political, cultural, and religious climate, were “complete” like never before in the world.

Perhaps most important is how Judaism and the practice of the Law had developed. Enough time had passed for it to be evident that no one could achieve the righteousness of God by law-keeping, and that sin could not be mastered. Sin was even permeating the spiritual leadership, those entrusted with the teaching and application of God’s Word. What a mess. Where would the world be now if God hadn’t intervened when He did?

Thankfully God did intervene. The “fullness of time” had come. “For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.” (*1 Timothy 2:5-6*). Jesus arrived, “and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’” (*Mark 1:15*).

As we join in celebrating the coming of Christ this Christmas season, let’s remember with gratitude that we live in a glorious time. Christ Jesus has come as our ransom; He has finished our redemption on the cross. We have a record of it. We have been invited to “receive the adoption” and enter the kingdom of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Let’s also remember that there will be a “fullness of time” for His return. Speaking of His return the apostle Paul wrote, “which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,” (*1 Timothy 6:15*).

Let’s also remember that Christmas may be “the fullness of time” in the lives of people we know. They could be ready to hear the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ. Christmas might present the opportunity for that conversation. Perhaps we should live each day like we are in “the fullness of time!”

In His Time,

*Pastor Dan*



# December '19



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Celebration Service! Guest speaker, Jon Payne Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am  Sunday school - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am  Noon Potluck/Pig Roast Celebration Games</p>	<p>2 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>3 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon  Primitimers Lunch &amp; Games - 10 am—1 pm, NC/K</p>	<p>4 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, &amp; 3<sup>1/2</sup> yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm</p>	<p>5 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg.- 6 pm, NC  NA - 7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>6  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC</p>	<p>7 Men's Breakfast - 8 am, NC/K  Christmas Skit Re- hearsal - 9 am, S  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>8 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am Sunday school - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am Next Steps- Step 1 - Noon, LL #102 (Lunch provided) Guatemala 2020 Info. Mtg. - Noon, LL Iglesia Biblica Service - 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion: 6-8 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>9 NC in use - all day Elder Board Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>10 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon  Ladies "Gathering of Friends" Event - 7—9 pm, NC/K</p>	<p>11 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, &amp; 3<sup>1/2</sup> yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm  Awana Store Night  <i>If you have gifts to donate to the Awana Store have them to church by 5:30 pm— Clearly mark them "Awana"</i></p>	<p>12 Backpack Buddies Glove Packing - 6 pm at 18 &amp; 8th, Help Needed  Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg.- 6 pm, NC  NA - 7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>13  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC</p>	<p>14 Christmas Skit Re- hearsal - 9 am, S  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>15 Worship Services: Children's Christmas Skit The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am  Sunday School &amp; Pipeline - 9 am Iglesia Biblica Service - 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion Caroling?</p>	<p>16 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>17 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon  Board of Deacons Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>18 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, &amp; 3<sup>1/2</sup> yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm</p>	<p>19 MBC Blood Drive - 12:30 pm—6 pm, NC  Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg - 6 pm, LL  NA - 7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>20 Primitimers Pizza Hut Lunch - 11:15 am  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC</p>	<p>21  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>22 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am  No Sunday School or Pipeline Iglesia Biblica Service - 2-4 pm, NC No Ignite Fusion: 6-8 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>23 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>24 No Pleasant View Service or Library Hours  <b>Christmas Eve Service - 4 pm</b></p>		<p>26 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg - 6 pm, NC  NA - 7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>27  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC</p>	<p>28  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>29 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am  No Sunday School or Pipeline Iglesia Biblica Service - 2-4 pm, NC No Ignite or Fusion</p>	<p>30 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>31 Guatemala 2020 Appli- cations due in office  Library Hours: 10 am- Noon</p>	<p>Perhaps you're considering a Year-End donation. If so, please consider our Event Center — 18 &amp; 8th! Simply write your check to Monroe Bible Church and note "18 &amp; 8th" on your check memo line. Thank you!</p>			

## Happy Birthday!



3	Mike Klitzke Shane Schulte Bill Westphal
4	Gavin Eddy
6	Jim Brown Michael Figi Cierra Larson
7	Evan Bartelt
8	Ann Italiano Shirley Pieper Ryan Proudfit
9	Crystal Watson
10	Amelia Haworth
12	John Hudson Ralph Johnson

12	Owen Kuenzi Rose Larson Jonathan Ragan Brooks Schout
13	Betty Siedschlag
14	Shannon Allbaugh Maria Burke Jeff Italiano
15	Timothy Thoman
16	Kaya Holverson
17	Brian Thompson
19	Jonah Ohlrich
20	Rex Schout
21	John Bartelt
22	Jacob Brunner

22	Pastor Dan Pastor Troy
24	Joe Phillipps
25	Chris Faith
28	Jenny Turkelson
29	Eli Elgin
31	Rylie Hartwig Barbara Thompson

<b>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</b>	
1	Roy & Karie Nafzger
7	Mark & Deb Setterstrom
20	Larry & Pam Young
22	Bernie & Beth Roidt
30	Carter & Sarah Rische

**It's a Celebration!**

After the unanimous vote to make the necessary changes to our constitution we are now officially an Evangelical Free Church.

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, Jon Payne, the District Superintendent, will be here to welcome us, then we'll celebrate! Iglesia Bíblica Evangelica will join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> service and celebration lunch & games.

There'll be coffee & donuts at each service, and a pig roast and cake at noon. You'll provide potluck food items to compliment the pig roast. Games following the potluck.

Plan now to attend!  
Join us!

**Children's Christmas Skit**



Children ages 4 - 12 are invited to participate in a Skit honoring the birth of Jesus on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at each of the services. A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center. Rehearsals are at 9 am on December 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jacqui Witt with any questions at 608-558-9992 or jacquiwitt79@gmail.com

**Christmas Eve Service**  
at  
**Monroe Bible Church**  
**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00 pm**

**Greeting Ministry**

Do you have a friendly smile, a warm handshake, like to meet new people and visit with regular attenders? Then the Greeting Ministry could be for you! We are in need of more greeters of any age for both services. If this is a ministry you would like to be involved with, contact Kathy Markham at [kathyam@hughes.net](mailto:kathyam@hughes.net) or 608-558-5001.

**Bible Reading Plans**  
Are available at the Welcome Center.



Start reading today!

**Welcome**  
New Members

Mia Kelley  
Joe Thoman  
Libby Thoman



### Hey Men

Have you attended a Men's Breakfast this year? If not, why not? All men and boys are welcome to come on Saturday, December 7th at 8 am for a great time of food and fellowship. Contact Kyle Ohlrich with questions 719-439-1003. Invite a friend!

### Awana Store December 11



**If you have gift items you would like to donate to the Awana Store please bring them to church by Dec. 11th. Mark items "Awana". Clubbers "purchase" the donated items with their Awana shares.**



**Backpack Buddies  
Glove Packing  
6 pm, Thursday, December 12  
18 & 8th  
Help Needed!**



A BIG thank you to all who volunteered talent, time, cupcakes, and bingo prizes for the November Pleasant View Birthday Party. We especially thank Elise Morris for once again coordinating the party. The residents look forward to this special time with you as their days can be long and lonely. God commanded the Israelites long ago to "rise up before the gray headed and honor the aged and you shall revere your God" (Lev. 19:32). Thank you for showing God's love and compassion to these often forgotten folks.

Those interested in participating in the 2020 Guatemala KATW mission trip July 18-25th have one last chance to attend the mandatory informational meeting on December 8th at 12 noon in the lower level. This is the first step in joining the team. If you have been unable to attend, please contact Crystal Zimmerman at 608 325 6793. Applications are due in the church office Dec. 31st. The first team meeting will be held in January and you will need a current passport by then.

Another Harvest Weekend is behind us but let's not forget those who are serving God far from home over Christmas. While sending out your Christmas cards and emails, why not add to your list some of the missionaries we support here at MBC? Visit the Missions Bulletin Board or look in your 2019-2020 World Missions booklet to find addresses and emails. It only takes a few minutes and is such an encouragement to know they are being prayed for and remembered back home. You also might remember those from Monroe Bible Church who are serving in the military far from home. Holiday time can be especially lonely.



*We would like to offer our sympathy to  
Hannah Kramer and her family.  
Hannah's father, Timothy Knight,  
passed away October 12th.  
May God comfort and bless you  
with His peace.*



**Blood Drive**  
Thursday, December 19th  
12:30-6 pm  
Nehemiah Center

**GENERAL HELPER Volunteers &  
FOOD Needed!**

**Sign up at the Welcome Center**



Lunch & Games  
Tuesday, December 3  
10 am—1 pm, NC/K

**Pizza Hut Birthday Lunch:**

Friday, December 20th, at  
11:15 am



## NEXT STEPS

**Step 1 – Our Mission & Vision**  
Sunday, December 8th at noon in the  
Lower Level room 102

*Jesus made the mission of the church clear  
in Matthew 28:9-20. We know that our  
purpose is to bring glory to God. Each  
church is unique according to its location  
and the people in it. The vision defines how  
the local church goes about bringing glory  
to God and making disciples. We'll learn  
what our vision is and how you can become  
a part of it. Lunch will be served.*

*Sign up at the Welcome Center!*

*Operation Christmas Child Shoebox*

**202** boxes collected!

*Praise God!!!*



**Prayer Ministry:** Do you pray for our missionaries? They have many needs and responsibilities. They have many of the same needs we do and also many different ones.

It's not easy to live in another country. The culture is probably different than the one the missionary came from. The people they want to reach may speak a different language. The food may be very different. They are separated from their family and friends which can create loneliness. Missionaries are dependent on other people for their monthly support. Consider supporting a missionary financially.

Keep in contact with our missionaries by writing letters to them or calling them. Get to know them, the scope of their work, and their needs. This will help you to pray for them intelligently and regularly.

Recently my wife and I were privileged to have a missionary in our home for several days. He was also a former student of mine when I taught in a Christian school in Michigan. It was a privilege to get to know more about the scope of his ministry and his needs. Take time to pray and correspond with our missionaries. They need our prayers and encouragement.

I talked to my 92 year old aunt on the phone the other night. She prays for missionaries regularly. She also prays for family members daily. Pass a heritage of prayer on to your children. You will be blessed by this.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

## 18 & 8<sup>th</sup> News

We just finished holding an Open House at 18 & 8<sup>th</sup> and many of you participated in greeting guests, hosting rooms, helping with set-up, painting, carpet cleaning, maintenance, and providing snacks for our guests. Thank you for your generosity of time and resources!

The Open House allowed Monroe residents & surrounding community friends who are planning future events to walk through and ask questions about the venue, and it also allowed others to sign up to help with Backpack Buddies and get information on meetings presently taking place there. For some of us at MBC it was the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the building, and some of you noticed the remodeling that has already happened: new restrooms, updated entryway, much needed fresh paint throughout, wax on floors, and more.

Much more is yet to be done to make 18 & 8<sup>th</sup> a venue that causes our neighbors to consider our facility first when planning a family or business event, a community simulcast, or a simple meeting. We are asking you to consider coming alongside the 18 & 8<sup>th</sup> planning team with your year-end donations. The Deacons have approved 18 & 8<sup>th</sup> as a special end of the year giving project this year.

Would you consider giving towards a new Prep Room at 18 & 8<sup>th</sup> at year's end? The Prep Room is an area where groups can disperse snacks, coffee, and drinks while holding an event such as a game night or movie event. The plan for the Prep Room will be a simple upper level room between the conference room and entryway. To update this space we will need a couple of serving counters & cupboards, two serving windows, a refrigerator, a grinder, and a large coffee maker installed in order to make this a welcoming area for the community to enjoy. There are further plans to update several of the rooms, besides the Prep Room. Contact Pastor Dan or I for details.

Some of you may have the gift of time and a willingness to help in any number of ways. In the near future we will be looking for friendly volunteers who enjoy hosting events, serving as security for evening events, or answering questions for our new friends. We hope that some of our Life Groups will consider serving together and creating events such as a community game night, or something to invite members of the community to. Let us know if that is something you are interested in doing as an act of ministry. As the new venue is recognized in the community and requests for use increase, we will have growing opportunities for many to serve and engage our neighbors at 18 & 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are excited about the possibilities that this venue will provide our community. We are just as excited about how God might lead our Church Family. Will you dream with us? Will you be praying for God's leading? Will you volunteer in 2020? Let's move ahead together as the Lord leads.

Pastor Troy Watson and the 18 & 8<sup>th</sup> Team

Just for Kids!

