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Pastor's Pen



Church in the Midst of Covid-19

Well, these are interesting days aren't they? Some are predicting this pandemic will have the biggest impact on our nation since WWII. Please follow the guidelines our health departments are giving us. Even if you don't think the Covid-19 pandemic is that serious, or is here in the Monroe area, your testimony to a watching world is important. Please don't give into panic and fear. Let's look to God as our source of hope, peace, wisdom, strength, and joy. The Elders are beginning to form a response plan in case the spread of the virus curve isn't flattened and things get worse here.

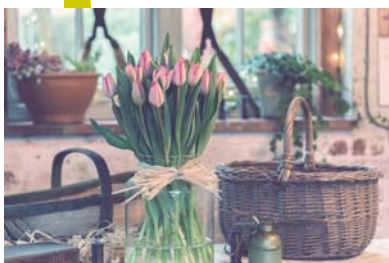
1 These are days of opportunity in many ways. Most of us have some extra time due to so many activities being cancelled. Even if you are still working full time, your kids, grandkids, and some others you know, have more time available. I write to urge you not to let this opportunity slip by without capitalizing on this time, for it will soon be gone. Paul gives us this exhortation, "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (*Ephesians 5:15-17, NASB*).

3 Let me make some suggestions. In broad terms, rest a little, grow spiritually, and make your own plan. So many of us live such busy lives that we can hardly remember what it is like to just sit and be still. I remember how sometimes I used to sit on a cement ledge outside the cheese factory after a busy day of cheesemaking. It was so peaceful and relaxing to just look out over the valley and enjoy the quiet for a few minutes. After a busy day of ministry Jesus said, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and **rest a while**." (*Mark 6:31*). Can you find a place, and take some time, to rest a while?

Secondly, **grow spiritually**. Peter wrote his letters at a time when life was very difficult for Christians; they were suffering for their faith. Even in light of their difficulty he closes his second letter with these words, "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (*2 Peter 3:18*). As we learn to live more fully in His grace and grow deeper in our relationship with Him, we will experience the blessings of His enablement.

8 Here's three areas in which we can all apply ourselves to grow spiritually. 1) *Personal spiritual growth*. I cannot emphasize this enough. We all need daily intake of God's Word. Early in my Christian life I came to believe I needed God's input, every day. Whether I felt like it or not, whether I got something out of it or not, I knew I needed to give God some time and attention. Nothing has been more valuable in my life. Establish your own time with God. Simply combine some prayer and some reading of God's Word, with an open heart. Don't give up before this daily habit is established.

2) *Family spiritual growth*. Even if you are an empty nester, or single, you can contribute in this area. Spend time in God's Word together. Talk with one another about what God is teaching you. If your family is grown and separated use other forms of communication. You can now "attend" church together online. Do you have a Bible Study at home that you haven't gotten around to? RightNow Media has some excellent video studies online. The church has a subscription that's free to our congregants. Email the office and we'll give you an invite so you can get set up. We've identified "Building Families" as a key part of our church's vision. Ultimately you are the one who needs to expend the effort.



Welcome
April



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Pastor's Pen continued...

3) *Help the body of Christ grow.* Paul wrote, "Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing." (1 *Thessalonians* 5:11). I'm so encouraged as I hear of some of you reaching out to check on, and to encourage one another. The initial feedback from our first online Life Group virtual meetings is very positive. It doesn't take much time to send an email or text, or use Messenger, Instagram, or Snap Chat. We can still pick up the phone and actually talk to someone. Who doesn't like to receive a card or letter in the mail? We all can reach out. If times get more difficult, we will need to be better connected. Growing together spiritually is the best way to connect.

Here's my suggestion in terms of **make a plan**. *Schedule it.* Paul, encouraging the Philippians to truly live the Christian life, warned them not to live like those who were, "enemies of the cross." He then wrote, "whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things." (*Philippians* 3:19). In order to keep our minds on things above, scheduling certain activities will help us immensely. I know, for the unstructured among us, you're revolting at this suggestion. But if you don't set aside a time, I'll bet it won't happen. It can be as precise as 5:45am, or loose as before breakfast, after supper, or after the kids are in bed. You get to choose what and when. It is easy to fill our uncommitted time with projects, or on the computer, social media, or watching TV. While we may, and should, make practical plans for what we will do if things get worse, let's also put some important things in place now. **Schedule it!**

God's Peace,
Pastor Dan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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
Raelynn Hartwig
Jesse Petersen
8 Walter Botteron
9 Brian Baer
11 Tanner Ils
Matt Jenson

14 Marlys Isely
15 Aaron Roidt
Ilene Schneider
16 JoAnne Kegebein
Neva Schultz
18 Luke Morris
19 Oliver Hardacre
Sharon Kubly
Olivia Witt
21 Zayden Beernink
Matthew Setterstrom
Ray Wyss
22 Christian Ohlrich
26 Lillianna Hayden
28 Libby Swenson
29 Caleb Figi

HAPPY anniversary

13 Victor & Julie Paske
14 John & Dawn Jordan
19 Kevin & Angie Geiwitz

Worship Service live streaming on
YouTube each Sunday at 9:00 AM.
Go to YouTube and search for
monroebiblechurch (all one word)

Our worship service will continue to be
uploaded to our church website
(www.monroebiblechurch.org)
after the 9 am service.

*Please note that the sermon notes,
Life Group study guide questions,
bulletin, and children's bulletins will be
uploaded by noon each Friday, prior
to the upcoming Sunday service.



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Prayer Ministry

Have you ever been prompted to pray for someone and wondered why? 1 Timothy 2:1 says “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people.” (ESV) Your prayers matter. The phrase “first of all” indicates highest priority. Make prayer a priority in your life. Don’t ignore the promptings of the Holy Spirit to pray. God is never too busy to listen to our prayers. Pray for your family, friends, relatives, and neighbors.

How often do you check your phone? How about getting into the habit of every time you check your phone you also pray. Make a list of who and what to pray about. It helps to have reminders to prompt us to pray, especially when you’re chronologically gifted like I am. If you are a “techie” use your phone to help you to pray regularly and often. If you’re not one, pray regularly and often.

Dan Keen, Ministry Leader

MBC Office - Staying Connected

Our office will be following the Safer at Home order of Governor Evers. The office will be closed, but we will still be working, doing everything from home. We plan to continue livestreaming our worship service at 9 AM each week; please stay tuned in case we need to make changes. Everything will be uploaded to our church website by noon on Friday, prior to the Sunday service.

The work of the church goes on, just in a different way. Since we are not able to meet as a body, here are some different ways we are able to continue our giving:

Mail your giving to the church office.

Online Giving

Go to our church website, monroe bible church.org, and choose “Give” from the Menu on the left side of the screen,

Select “Give Online MBC on tithe.ly” (credit or debit card)

ACH forms available for download as well

Mobile Giving - Download the Tithe.ly App

Google Play Store or App Store

Search for tithe.ly and install

Then Search for Monroe Bible Church

Once you’ve found us, click “Give Now”

Stay connected, Everyone!

MBC Pastors & Staff



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Do you have access to RightNow Media?

If not, email the church office your name and the email address you want to use and we'll get you signed up. You'll have access to Bible studies, devotions, videos, etc. for individuals, couples, and kids through our church's subscription!

Stay in the Word!

Healthy Relationships

Women's Recovery Workshop
Find Freedom, Hope, & New Beginnings

Come and learn the Biblical solutions to healthy relationships!

Group Workshop

Date: Mondays, planning to begin May 11, 2020—Stay tuned for updates!

Time: 7-9 pm

To find out more or sign up, contact Tracy Signer:

214-4976 or tracysnhy7@gmail.com



If you've already completed this first workshop and are ready to continue on your journey to healing, contact Tracy to sign up for the 2nd workshop, **A House That Grace Built**, will meet Tuesdays from 7-9 pm, start date TBA. Tracy will keep everyone posted on these studies.



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Marriage Ministry

The Marriage Ministry recently concluded a six-week Pipeline marriage enrichment series.

In the first session we looked at several scriptures that give us God's perfect design for marriage. We handed out "The True Purpose of Marriage" by John Piper, and we discussed the roles God gave to the husband and to the wife to carry out. A marriage can only glorify God the way it was intended if each spouse makes it their top priority to abide in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

In sessions 2 & 3 we focused on improving communication in our relationships, with video instruction from Chip Ingram, helping us to learn, "How to Share Hearts Instead of Exchanging Words". A few of the things we discussed were, the 5 different levels of communication, speaking the truth in love, developing "assertiveness and active listening" skills, "creating a wish list", and how a spouse might use - "I feel _____, when you _____".

In sessions 4 & 5 we discussed conflict, and how conflict is inevitable in a fallen world. Most people consider conflict a bad thing, something to avoid. But this should not be our mindset. It is not usually pleasant but it is an opportunity to grow, if we handle it correctly, God's way. We discussed different personality types (sharks or turtles) and how each person deals with conflict differently. And we highlighted several key things to help us deal with anger when it occurs, and how to resolve conflict and restore a relationship.

In session 6 we came full circle from where we started in session 1 by talking about what every marriage needs most, Jesus Christ at the center! With Jesus Christ at the center of our marriages we will glorify God as we build strong family units, who will then lead the next generation to carry on a lasting legacy of love, fidelity, and faithfulness to the watching world!

**A large percentage of the video content and resource material that we compiled for these sessions is available to you on [Rightnowmedia.org](https://www.rightnowmedia.org). Contact the church office to receive information on how to set up your own free personal account at [rightnowmedia.org](https://www.rightnowmedia.org).*

Jeff & Marie Wunschel, Marriage Ministry Leaders



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National Day of Prayer 2020

The 2020 National Day of Prayer theme is **"Pray God's Glory Across the Earth"**. God made a promise to the prophet Habakkuk during some very deep and troubling times in Israel's history. It was a time marked by darkness and disobedience from the culture and God's people. Habakkuk could not believe what he was hearing as God began to detail the "woes" that would come to pass, but in the middle of the pronouncement of woes God pauses

to make a profound promise that would eventually be seen in the face of Jesus Christ and spread by Christ-followers until Christ returns. God's promise, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" echoes into the New Testament as the apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the **Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**" It is this knowledge, the knowledge of Jesus, the knowledge of the gospel, that we pray will spread across the earth. It is through every follower of Jesus living a prayer-care-share lifestyle that His glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

The Breakfast is cancelled this year, however we are asking everyone to join together in prayer for our Nation, Communities, and all of our Leaders on Thursday, May 7th, 2020!

Guatemala Mission Team Update

We recently received the exciting news that the shipping container with our playground, as well as several others to be constructed in Guatemala through *Kids*

Around The World, has arrived in Guatemala! The digging and construction tools we will be using were also included in the container, so we are one step closer to realizing the goal set several years ago by MBC. Support letters have been sent out. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to support the mission team this year. Even if you cannot contribute financially, we covet your prayers, especially with the coronavirus concerns we are currently facing. We are holding off on purchasing airline tickets until we know how the coronavirus will affect our travel plans.



OneMeal Event

Plans were underway for our 5th annual OneMeal packing event on May 2nd, but that will be rescheduled; possibly for later this summer. Watch for more information, volunteer, and donation opportunities in the coming months to raise the \$5,400 needed for 20,000 meals.

Other Mission News

Due to the Corona virus pandemic, Linda Shannon will no longer be going to West Africa this year on the 6-week Mercy Ship mission trip. She's hoping God will have her go on a Mercy Ship medical mission in the future. All donations that were sent direct to Mercy Ship will go to their general fund in 18 months, but if she's able to volunteer before that, it can be used for her trip.



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Church Family,

As with many of you, I am finding myself quarantined at home with children and youth in the house 24/7 and wondering what can we do next. There are only so many homework assignments, board games, and conversations that will hold the attention of our children. You may be wondering if there is anything more that you can do to help entertain and even disciple, your own family.

We had so many things going on in life before quarantine that we may have forgotten we have access to a valuable video resource. That's why I would like to draw your attention to Rightnow Media.

Summarized: RightNow Media is an online video streaming service that provides churches with on-demand biblical content to share with their members. When churches subscribe to RightNow Media, their members gain access to over 20,000 biblical videos that can be used for: Sunday school, home groups, and videos for children and adults.

Rather than trying to explain this, I would remind you to log in again to the password that you likely received a while back and look at the newest additions. If you need to be added again, please contact the office and we will re-connect you.

With this media constantly being updated with Bible Studies and equipping videos, you can begin a 4 or 6-week study with your family, or simply watch some children's videos with your younger children. Whatever your needs are, you will find something at RightnowMedia.org

In the Words of the Psalmist

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" Psalm 34:8

Pastor Troy Watson



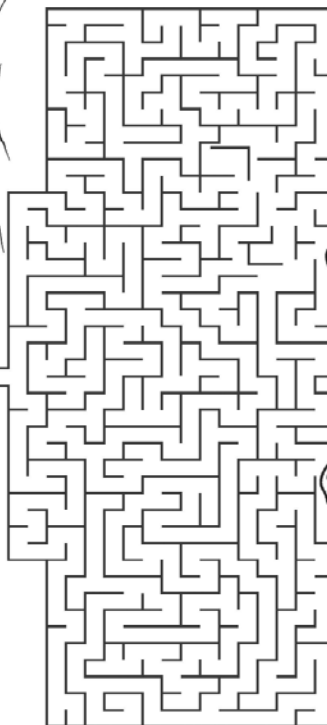
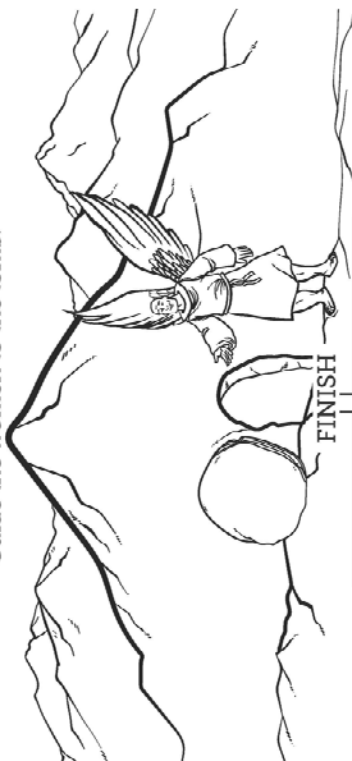
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Kid's Page

HE IS RISEN

Guide the women to the tomb.



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Word Bank

BOTTOM	FORSAKEN	RISEN
COMMANDED	GOLGOTHA	TOMB
EARTHQUAKE	MARY	JESUS

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HE IS RISEN

Word Search

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

