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Newsletter—June 2020

Pastor's Pen



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Reentry

In last month's Pastor's Pen article, I stressed that we should be concerned about, "safety of others, our testimony to outsiders, and our freedom (religious freedom in particular)" as we face the Covid-19 pandemic. I issued a reminder that we've been commanded to be subject to rulers, (Titus 3; Romans 13 and 2 Peter 2), to love our neighbor (Mark 12:32), "let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth" (Eph. 4:29), remember that our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), and that disciplinmaking is our priority (Matt. 28:19-20). I trust that you've all done well last month and that both your, and the church's, testimony has remained strong.

Hopefully we are on the backside of the Covid-19 surge and it will not return later this year to any significant degree. Thankfully it did not hit our area nearly as hard as feared. However, there is another dark danger lurking in the shadows. It hasn't hit us as hard as it might have either, but we aren't on the backside of this one yet. We might compare it to a space capsule's reentry to the earth's atmosphere and the danger it faces of burning up. I'll call ours the church's reentry into church meetings. The danger of burning up is through divisiveness. Just like our space engineers need to make sure a space capsule has a sufficient shield and proper orientation as it enters earth's atmosphere, we need to be properly "shielded" and "oriented" as we reenter church life. This will be a challenge for the congregation, but one that I feel we will succeed in and grow through.

As we enter into church services and meetings once again, people will come with differing opinions about the level of risk and how our governing officials, and church leaders, have handled it. Our "survival shield" will be the steps we take to protect ourselves. There are a variety of different dangers perceived in our congregation. Some of us are, or have people in our families, that are physically vulnerable to sickness. Some of us are struggling emotionally from isolation, or with fear of contracting Covid-19. Some are fearful of financial loss. Some feel our leaders overstepped, others feel they haven't done enough. These are just a few of the differing thoughts and feelings in our congregation. For some the need to be in church and with one another is very significant. For others the need to hold off for a while is significant. For others there is a desire to come, but discomfort with getting too close to people. We each need to do what helps us feel safe, AND, respect what others feel they need. These are not doctrinal differences, but do reflect spiritual maturity.

Let's make sure we don't pull our justification for meeting out of Hebrews 10 and ignore what is immediately there as well. I'll underline it, "and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

I think we should consider an emphasis on unity and our mission our proper orientation. Jesus stressed unity. In His prayer the last evening before His arrest He said, "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.²² The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me." (*John 17:20-23*). His prayer was that the kind of unity that exists in the godhead, a unity of purpose, and mission, and steeped in love, would exist among His followers. The words of Jesus, "that the world may know" emphasize how powerful a statement the unity of a diverse group of people can make to the watching world.





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Pastor's Pen continued...

Strongly held different opinions quickly become divisive when people forcefully express and/or defend them, or take offense at them. James warns his readers, "Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*.¹² There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor? (*James 4:11-12, NASB*). Paul also warns his readers not to judge or "regard your brother with contempt" (Romans 14:4, 10).

The only way any group of diverse people with differing opinions can be united is by elevating the priority of its purpose, its mission, and love for one another, above personal preferences and opinions. Our purpose is to glorify God, our mission is discipling, and God made it clear that love for one another is to be our priority. As we begin to come together this needs to be our "orientation."

Different people will be "reentering" corporate church life at different times over the next several weeks. As we respect each other's different opinions and responses to Covid-19, look for ways to demonstrate love for one another, and strive to build unity, we will grow as a congregation. Let's not forget that we have an adversary and this may be a small challenge compared to what lies ahead. Don't burn now!

Loving the Bride of Christ,
Pastor Dan



1 Brenda Rossing
 2 Joyce Coplien
 5 Kathy Krasuss
 Lyla Ritschard
 6 Alexis Elgin
 Joan Haight
 Steven McNett
 7 Henry Morris
 8 Rebekah Thoman
 10 Vicki McNett
 11 Olivia Rhoe

12 Ezra Kramer
 Tracy Petersen
 Luke Skoumal
 13 Gloria Ringhand
 14 Jady Elgin
 Chris Holverson
 Patrick White
 16 Ashley Bruehlman
 Katie Demianiuk
 Chloe Thompson
 17 Wrendalyn Miller

19 Noah Eddy
 Carol Hasselmann
 Jennifer Krahenbuhl
 Lucy Whyte
 21 Roger Stauffacher
 24 Deandra Pleindoux-
 DeBlack
 Matthew Rhoe
 28 Andy Thoman
 29 Judy Derrickson
 Caleb Kuenzi
 30 Madelyn Thoman



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Anniversaries

- 2 Adam & Chelsea Brunner
- 4 Erik & Amy Haworth
Justin & Holly Rhoe
- 6 Tim & Sherry Thomas
- 8 Luke & Natalie Whyte
- 10 Milt & Suzette Sherman



- 13 Roman & Luba Dechtiarenko
- 15 Jim & Becky Brown
- 15 Charles & Julie Champlin
- 17 Paul & Anna Ritschard
- 18 Dan & Celia Keen



- 18 Kevin & Liz Schulthess
- 19 Al & Colleen Ostenson
- 21 Ralph & Margie Johnson
- 25 Ron & Chris Faith
- 27 Kyle & Amanda Ohlrich

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 5 - (s.1) 6:30 pm, LL #106	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 5 - (s.2) 6:30 pm, LL #106	15	16 Board of Deacons - 6:30 pm, LL #106	17	18 Blood Drive - 12:30—6 pm, NC	19	20
21 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am	22	23	24 Additional Blood Drive - 12:00—7 pm, NC	25	26	27
28 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am	29	30				



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Child Protection Training Required

Don't wait! For most of you, your child protection certifications are expiring in the next two months. Monroe Bible Church requires annual certification training for everyone who works with youth in any capacity, with background checks done every four years on adults. Now is the time to contact the church office (office@monroebiblechurch.org) with the email address you would like to use in order to complete your annual training. Once you've contacted the office you will receive an email from Mobilize My Ministry requesting information, then another email with a link to complete your training online. The training consists of a video followed by a quiz, and takes about 45 minutes to complete. The office is notified once you've successfully completed your training.

Be sure to check your Spam folders for the emails from message@mobilizemyministry.com

The Lord's Table—Sunday, June 14th

Juice will be in the same individual cups, but they will be spread out on the table for people to easily take as we dismiss row by row, both in the Sanctuary & Nehemiah Center.

We are asking that each of you and your families BYOB (Bring Your Own Bread) - it can be crackers, or if you'd like to make your own bread, we've included a recipe below.

Unleavened Bread Recipe:

2 cups flour
 1/4 cup brown sugar
 3/4 cup (12 Tablespoons) melted unsalted butter
 1/4 cup water
 2 Tablespoons honey

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Knead on a floured pastry cloth and roll out 1/2 inch thick. Transfer to a greased cookie sheet. Bake 17 minutes. Cool. Cut into desired size pieces.

Healthy Relationships Women's Recovery Workshops

Find Freedom, Hope, & New Beginnings

Come and learn the Biblical solutions to find freedom and hope in healthy relationships!



2 Group Workshops:

1st Group - "The Christian Codependency Recovery Workshop"
 Mondays, begins June 1st, 7-9 pm

2nd Group - "A House That Grace Built"
 Tuesdays, begins June 2nd, 7-9 pm

To find out more or sign up, contact Tracy Signer:
 214-4976 or tracysnhy7@gmail.com



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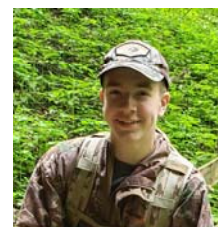
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YOU DID IT!
Congratulations



2020 Graduates

Gavin Eddy—I graduated early, on Sunday, March 15, 2020. I am undecided about future educational plans. I am currently working and enjoying this next step.



Ben Figi—I will be graduating from Argyle High School. My future plans are undecided at the moment. We will hopefully be having a graduation party on Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 pm. All are welcome to attend!

Indy Garchie—I graduated early, on Friday, March 6th, 2020. I plan to attend Blackhawk Tech. in the fall. I enjoy welding and “hands on” work.



David J. Hurlbert—I will graduate from Richland Valley Vocational Eruditional Institute on May 16, 2020. We look forward to having you join us to celebrate on June 13th at 3 pm at Monroe Bible Church. I am currently working in Parts/Service at Freeport Honda Kawasaki.

Mike Klitzke—I plan on going to a technical college while serving in the Army Reserves as an electronics repair technician, and after that find what skills I have that are the best and pursue a career with those in mind.



Contact
Pastor Troy!

The Family “Get Outdoors” Contest

Get your family outside a minimum of 3 different times and take photos or videos. Document your family on a bike ride, fishing trip, gardening, playing games, or whatever you like to do together outside.

Make a 2-3 minute photo or video collage and send it to: pastortroy@monroebiblechurch.org by June 1st. Prizes will be awarded to the top two submissions in June. Get creative and have fun with this! Check out the main page on our church website for a video and more information from Pastor Troy on this contest.



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Pray God's Glory Across the Earth!

With social distancing guidelines and large gathering restrictions in place with the COVID-19 virus pandemic, this year's National Day of Prayer event was in danger. If the event was to be held at all it would require some very different arrangements. We prayed for God to guide our thoughts and plans and asked God to provide for our needs. We wanted to be able to continue this special annual time of prayer for our community and our country.



God is so very good! He blessed the National Day of Prayer Team with a vision and with new people with special talents to help create something very different from our traditional annual prayer breakfast. In the end, a wonderful video of prayer was created. Youth from our MBC families prepared special prayers for families, schools, business and health, media, and government. Then early on May 7th, all our prayer guests were sent an email link to watch a special video time of prayer for them.

Special thanks to Paul & Anna Ritschard and family, the Roidt family, the Elgin family, the Holverson family, the Hardacre family, and the Kuenzi family.

We encourage everyone to continue to Pray God's Glory Across the Earth! You may access the video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJyBD1mrX2E>

National Day of Prayer Team
 Pastor Dan, Helen Tuttle, Corrine Meier, Dan Keen, Jeff Wunschel

Prayer Ministry

Thursday, May 7th, was the National Day Of Prayer. Thank you to all who made the prayer video presentation.

Hopefully many of you were able to take part by driving around to the designated locations in your city or area and offer up prayers to the ONE, Who hears and answers prayer. I would encourage you to do this on a regular basis.

I had planned another "Concert of Prayer" for the last Monday in April, but the virus prevented us from gathering. Until we can assemble together again, let's pray for Pastor Dan and Pastor Troy and their families. They have many responsibilities they deal with daily. It will encourage them to know the congregation is praying for them.

Martin Luther said "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing". Pray with your spouse and your children. Call a friend and pray with them. Make it a high priority in your life to pray. Pray before you ever turn on your TV in the morning. I Thessalonians 5:17- Pray continually, in other words always have an attitude of prayer throughout the day. I love the ESV version of James 5:16, "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working". Pray, don't be anxious, Philippians 4:6. Meditate on God's Word.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



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Baby Bottle Campaign **Mother's Day through Father's Day**

If you would like to contribute to the annual Green County CareNet Pregnancy Center fundraiser, donations to the Baby Bottle Campaign can be made on their website at www.carenetgreencounty.org. The "Make a Donation" button is in the top left corner of the home page. The Center also has a basket of bottles available in the entryway of their main office (1512 – 11th Street) for people to pick up and fill with your pocket change, dollar bills, or even a check, then drop it off at the Center; or you may use a container in your home to collect change during the campaign and then drop it off at the Center. You can mail a check directly to the CareNet Pregnancy Center at P.O. Box 13, Monroe, WI 53566, be sure to write MBC Baby Bottle Campaign on the memo line.



We would like to offer our sympathy to the family & Friends of those who've recently passed away.

Marian Rufer

Marian Louise Rufer, age 94, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison.

Arthur Sommerville

Steve Fowler, the American Director for SEE (Society for Europe's Evangelism), contacted Monroe Bible Church to let us know that Arthur Sommerville passed away on May 4th due to prostate and liver cancer. He had Covid-19 last month and was hospitalized for 5 days and recovered from that before the cancer took over. Art Sommerville was one of the first, if not the very first, missionary supported by MBC. He had an amazing, faithful ministry that spanned over 70 years in France and his last words were *Praise the Lord!*



From Mother's Day through Father's Day, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Green County is holding their annual Baby Bottle Campaign fundraiser. As with many mission organizations, the COVID 19 pandemic has created decreased funding and increased need. If possible, please participate in this local mission fundraiser. Details appear above. Since MBC received a refund of our donation toward Linda Shannon's cancelled Mercy Ships mission, the Missions Ministry has decided to send a donation to the Pregnancy Center for the Baby Bottle Campaign to supplement our monthly support.

Mark October 3rd-4th on your calendar for Harvest Weekend. Shepherds College has made a commitment to join us, providing there are no restrictions on gatherings or travel. If there are restrictions of some kind, we may need to get creative!

Continue to remember our missionaries in prayer, that their needs may be met and their ministries flourish in difficult circumstances.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader



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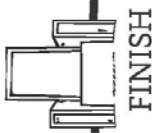
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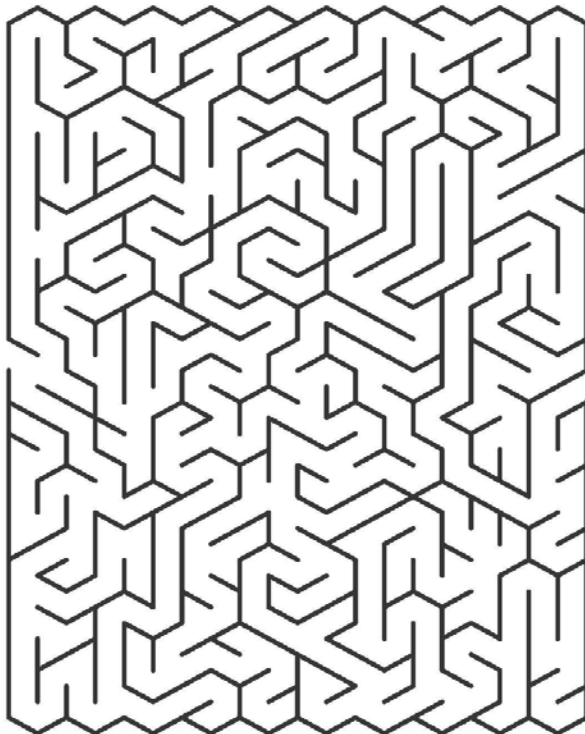
Kid's Page

ALL THINGS NEW

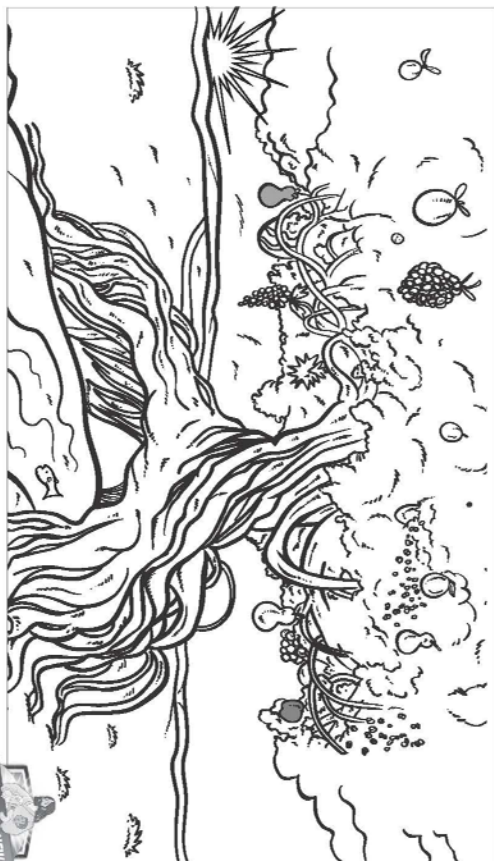
Lead the people to Heaven.



FINISH



START



Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.

ALL THINGS NEW

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