



2613 8th Avenue  
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# Newsletter—September 2020

## Pastor's Pen:

### Coronavirus Fatigue?



I think I can safely say all of us are weary from the stress the coronavirus is causing, especially because it seems there is no end in sight. How do we endure this since, as a church, we are not going to make it go away? Paul told the Galatians and the Thessalonians not to lose heart or become weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13). Jesus said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden," (Matthew 11:28), and the writer of Hebrews said, "For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:3, *NASB*). These verses tell us Jesus is our example and source of strength, and not to quit doing good.

I constantly tell myself that we need to see the opportunity and seize it. Paul wrote, "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:15-17). The way we've always done things isn't necessarily the will of God for today. We need to be wise. Perhaps God is pushing us outside our comfortable box to teach us something new?

There are two areas that we know to be the will of God – unity in His church (John 17:20-23) and disciple-making (Matthew 28:18-20). A COVID-19 challenge to our unity today is that we are physically separated; about one-third of our congregation has not yet returned to a weekend worship service. Another challenge is figuring out how to reach out to our neighbors who we are also separated from, and who are also anxious, or angry, or frustrated, or fearful, and/or confused about what to believe about this virus. What is the "good" we can do and not quit doing?

Let me make a suggestion for turning our weariness into winsomeness for two of these challenges. First, concerning our neighbors: Many have strong feelings about the virus. People want to talk about it, people need to talk about it, and people are going to talk about it. And therein lies our opportunity! Many are more open to talking about God and eternity than they were just a few months ago. Many want to know how to cope today. So, they talk. We earn the right to speak into these concerns by listening first. Hence, rather than looking for confirmation from others that our view is right, or trying to win someone over, our goal should be to point them to Christ! More important than whatever happens as a result of COVID-19 is where each person is in their relationship with God when the eternal everlasting reign of our Lord Jesus Christ begins.

I suggest we spend some time thinking of responses we can have that will point people to Christ. Here are some very brief "starter" examples. To those who are fearful, we might say something like, "We all fear death and take precautions in different ways. But we will all eventually die from something. What we should fear more than anything is what happens when we do die! Are you ready?" To the weary, we can say something like, "Jesus promised rest to those who would come to Him, and God gives renewed strength to those who wait on Him. He wants us to look to Jesus for our example and to pray. Do you have a relationship with Him?" To the angry we might say something like, "God grieves about all diseases, injustices, deception, etc., and will bring it all to an end, and to justice one day. We will all face His justice for our own sins one day as well. Are you ready for that?" A good way to equip ourselves is to think our way through scenarios like these, and find Scriptural answers. Are you ready to answer people in this "season" (2 Timothy 4:2) by pointing them to Christ? Whatever the response others have to COVID-19, it's important that we listen first, then tell of the hope within us with gentleness (1 Peter 3:15).

Secondly, concerning our unity: Whether we are attending a Sunday service at the building or not, we can reach out to others to help build unity. How can you say, "I miss you" to someone? How can you show someone that you haven't seen for several weeks that you care about them and that they are loved? Being in the body of Christ is practicing the "one anothers." In this "season" we need to learn new ways and to take the initiative. We can make a phone call, send a card, give a small gift, or make a short visit to someone without implying that we think they are wrong. All of us, whether we are coming to worship services or not, can extend a little effort in this way for the purpose of building unity in the body of Christ.

Will all of this pass and will we be able to go back to church life the way we knew it? Maybe, but then again, maybe not. I want to make the most of this time, will you help me?

Pressing on, *Pastor Dan*





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# Newsletter—September 2020

• HAPPY •  
*Wedding*  
• ANNIVERSARY •

9 Chris & Laura Holverson  
10 Martin & Leonor Roche  
13 Steve & Gritly McNett  
14 Brian & Lexi Baer

18 Jeff & Marie Wunschel  
19 Steve & Shannon Allbaugh  
21 Jesse & Gracie Petersen  
22 Jeff & Ann Italiano

25 Rich & Anita Peach  
27 Bill & Deb Westphal  
28 Dan & Deb Hendrickson  
29 Larry & Jeanne Hermanson

## September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	3 Health Team Mtg.— 6:30 pm, #106  Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	4  Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	5  Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
6 The Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC	7  Labor Day (Office Closed)	8	9 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	10 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	11  Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	12  Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
13 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC	14 Women's Group—10 am, Library (NC)  Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102  Elder Board Mtg.—6:30 pm, LL #106	15	16 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	17 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	18 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	19 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
20 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC  Next Steps-Step 3 ~ 9:00 am, LL #100  Pipeline & Sunday School Kick-Off—9 am  Ignite & Fusion Leader's Meeting—1 pm, #106	21 Missions Meeting—6 pm, LL #106  Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	22 Women's Group—6 pm, Library (NC)	23 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  Awana Kicks-Off: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T- 6:15 pm	24 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, 103	25 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	26 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
27 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC  Pipeline & Sunday School—9 am  Ignite Begins—4-6 pm Fusion Begins—6-8 pm	28 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	29	30 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T- 6:15 pm			



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1 Indy Garchie  
2 Charles Champlin  
Faith Richardson  
3 Ramona Johnson  
Gladdy Scheppele  
5 Nancy Larson  
Anna Ritschard  
6 Nate Ackerman  
Rick Hartwig  
Madeline Pals  
7 Russell Meyer  
Scarlett Reed  
8 Josh Montgomery  
Ezekiel Ritschard  
Samuel Roidt

8 Tom Skoumal  
Helen Tuttle  
10 Austin Kramer  
11 Isaiah Ritschard  
12 Maggie Holverson  
Aiden Pleindoux  
13 Caden Montgomery  
15 Keziah Reed  
16 Robin Nafzger  
19 Andrea Brunner  
Greg Dyer  
Yvonne Heinbaugh  
20 Peter Rische  
21 Abigail Rhoe  
22 Deb Hauri

23 Nathan Botteron  
Bob Hauri  
25 Jacob Whyte  
26 Cree Schadewaldt  
27 Joe Thoman  
Emma Turkelson  
William Turkelson  
28 Ellie Rische  
Steve Schwarze  
Violet Schwindt  
29 Norma Funk  
Chris Morris  
30 Roman Dechtiarenko  
Larry Hermanson

Awana will be starting on **Wednesday, September 23, 2020** and would like your help in planning for the new year. We would like to know what age your child will be and what class they will be in, if you are interested in having them participate in Awana. Start times are the same as last year: Wednesdays at 6:15 pm for 3 1/2-year-old Cubbies through sixth grade T & T, and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Trek and High School Journey will start at 5:30 pm.

Please let us know if you would be more interested in an in-church club, virtual club (and what kind of virtual club you would desire), or if either one would work for you. We are trying to start a virtual club, but are not sure if or when that will happen. If anyone has some expertise to launch this new alternative to in-church club we could desperately use you. We could use help in all areas. Don't forget, anyone helping in Awana needs to take the Child Protection Class. Contact Kristi at the church office. You must be recertified every year.

If your Awana clubber has finished a book from last year and has not turned it in yet so they can receive an award for it, there is a box on the floor by the table behind the sanctuary.

Please contact Awana Commander Kim Markham at 608-558-0936, or my **new** email [kmarkham872@gmail.com](mailto:kmarkham872@gmail.com). The sooner you reply the better start we can have for the Awana year.

Serving Christ Together,  
Kim Markham, Commander





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## Healthy Relationships Women's Recovery Workshop

### Find Freedom, Hope, & New Beginnings

- ◆ Do you feel like you are trapped cycles of painful relationships?
- ◆ Do you feel it's your part in relationships to hold things together?
- ◆ Have you ever wondered why you always felt "not good enough"?
- ◆ Are you a people pleaser?
- ◆ Do you ever feel if you don't do it yourself, things will never get done?
- ◆ Do you put others' needs and desires before your own?
- ◆ Do you want to experience more from life, but you don't know how to access intimacy with God and others?
- ◆ Do you feel like you struggle setting healthy boundaries?

We all grew up with families and experiences that helped us develop our sense of identities, and set "rules" to life which carried with us throughout adulthood. Messages and belief systems began to be imprinted upon us that taught us about ourselves, what to expect from people, how to live our lives, what roles to play, and how to care about the people around us. We also developed our concept of God or our lack of belief in Him. As we approached adulthood, our lives played out on the basis of those acquired beliefs. **The Christian Codependence Recovery Workbook: From Surviving to Significance** by Stephanie Tucker is designed to help you find who God created you to be.

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



**On-Going Group Workshops are  
formed throughout the year.**

**Groups are anonymous  
and confidential &  
follow Celebrate Recovery  
Guidelines.**

**To find out more & when the next group  
starts, contact Tracy Signer: 214-4976 or  
[tracysnhy7@gmail.com](mailto:tracysnhy7@gmail.com)**





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If you have not saved **October 10-11** for Harvest Weekend (*\*please note the date change*), be sure to add these dates to your calendar today! You do not want to miss this opportunity to learn how the financial and prayer support from MBC is helping spread the Gospel message and equip the saints beyond the walls of our church!

On Saturday a representative of Shepherds College in Union Grove, Wisconsin will join us for both the Men's breakfast and Ladies' luncheon. For 24 years we have supported this ministry to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Come hear how Shepherds College came to be through the caring and obedience of a Milwaukee Sunday School class. Learn how God has blessed their step of faith and how the ministry evolved into what it is today--a school where students can find hope and fulfill their dreams. Sign-up sheets for both events will be at the Welcome Center. Meals are provided through the Missions Ministry.

Sunday we welcome Alex Pashkovets of Slavic Gospel Association to both Sunday School and our worship services. Alex will share the faithful ministry of Viktor and Lena Schpits in Kazakhstan. In Sunday School our young people will find out what it is to be a Christian in a place very different from here, and in our worship services we will be blessed by the way God is working through Viktor's work. This is a great opportunity to personally get to know some of the missionaries we pray for and support. Plan now to welcome our guests to Monroe Bible Church.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry



## Did You Complete Your Training?

**Child Protection Training Required (3 part process)** – 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. **\*Please Note:** when your annual certification date expires, you won't be allowed to work with the youth until you get re-certified.

**1.** Contact the church office ([office@monroebiblechurch.org](mailto: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'll receive an email from [message@mobilizemyministry.com](mailto:message@mobilizemyministry.com) requesting information. *Don't wait, the email links do expire!*

**2.** After completing the first email with your information, you'll receive a second 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 if you don't see the emails you're expecting.**

**3.** You will also need to read and sign the **MBC Policy & Rules for Child Protection Certification**. You can pick that form up from your ministry leader or the office, or the office can email it to you. Sign it and return it back to the office.



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**Step 3**  
**"Our Commitments"**  
**Sunday, September 20th**  
**at 9:00 AM,**  
**Lower Level**  
**Room #100**

**NEXT STEPS**

*\*Steps 2 & 3 are required for membership.*  
*(You can take Step 3 before Step 2)*

Sign up on our church website  
or at the Welcome Center!

## *Military Memorial Plaque*

We have a Memorial Plaque that will carry the names of past and present Military Personnel. The stipulations are: 1) They must be a past or present Member of Monroe Bible Church, or 2) A past or present Regular Attender of Monroe Bible Church. Please contact Mike Westcomb, 608-576-4046, so we can gather the proper information that will be engraved on a plate for the plaque.

*Thank you for your service!*

## *Fall Kick-Offs!*

**Sunday School** will begin September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. For ages 2 years old through High School.

**Pipeline** Adult Sunday School classes begin September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the Nehemiah Center.

**Awana** – We will be starting Awana on **Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.** Please contact Kim Markham if you are interested in serving in this ministry at 608-558-0936, or note my **new email** [kmarkham872@gmail.com](mailto:kmarkham872@gmail.com) Child protection certification is required each year. Please contact the church office to get started on certification.

**Ignite & Fusion** – will kick-off on **Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**! Ignite (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) will meet from 4-6 pm. Fusion (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) will meet from 6-8 pm. There will be an Ignite & Fusion Leader's Meeting Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm, Lower Level room #106.

## **Prayer**

Are you ever impatient when waiting in a checkout line at the store? Have you ever been impatient waiting for an important phone call? Do you ever get impatient with God when you want an answer to prayer? In Psalm 86:1 David says that he is poor and needy and wants the Lord to hear his prayer and answer. God is compassionate and gracious (vs.15). He is loving (vs.5) and He answers prayer in His timing (vs.7). Make sure you remember all the prayers that God has answered in the past. Be very thankful for answered prayers. Remember that God wants us to communicate and fellowship with Him. Have a quiet time with God. Make it a priority.

Dan Keen,  
Prayer Ministry Leader



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## Women's Group



**Verse:** "...that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine" Romans 1:12

**Mission:** A place for like-minded women, who, feeling a sense of urgency, crave a space to go (unhindered by season or circumstance). A space to learn, to discuss, to encourage, and to grow in our faith; in this uncertain time, with an uncertain future. We implore God to lead us, shape us, teach us, correct us, and guide us. Coming together, in whatever season we are in (old or young, with children or none), to be a community to know God more and to seek and follow after Him.

**Time:** We will meet in a four week rotation (this would allow everyone the opportunity to attend at some point, catering to various work and home schedules):

- week one- Monday at 10am, September 14th
- week two- Tuesday at 6pm, September 22nd
- week three- Saturday at 10am, October 3rd
- week four- Thursday, at 1:30 pm, October 8th

**Location:** Monroe Bible Church Library, with children in the Nehemiah Center. If we need more space we will meet in the Nehemiah Center with children in the NC or the large nursery. There will either be an older child or paid sitter when needed.

**Agenda:** NO HOMEWORK! We will start and/or end with prayer. Each meeting time would vary (reading a book or chapter from the Bible and discussing it (using study tools and resources), sharing a section from a book, video, or other media that was a great source of encouragement or growth). The time would be flexible in that if someone has a great need (for prayer or sharing) then that would be the focus. We would hold one another accountable when necessary. The focus will be growing in our relationship with the Lord.





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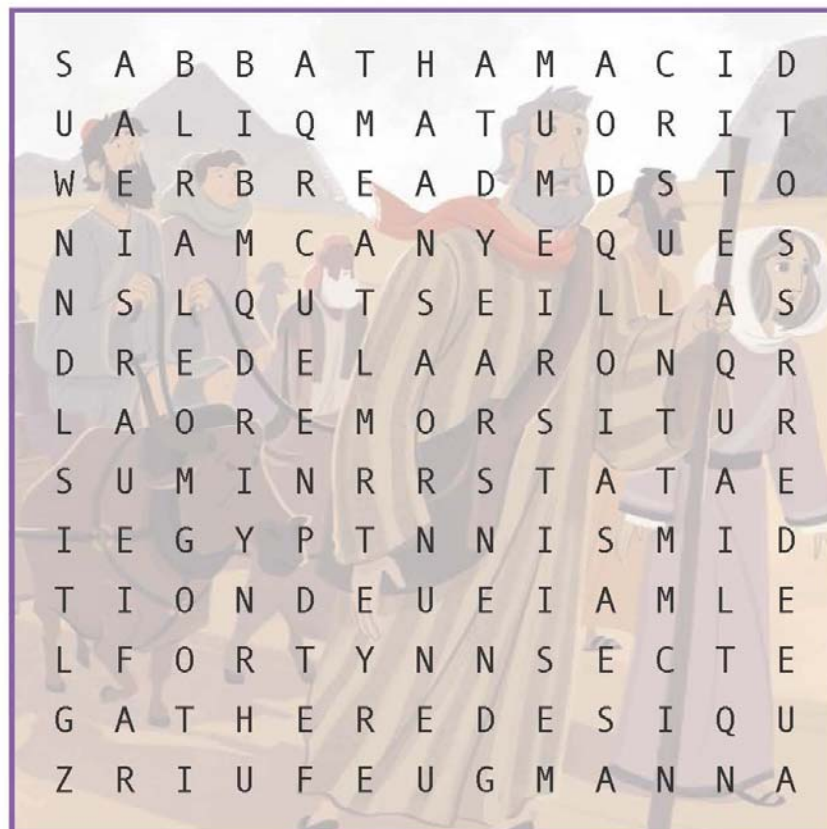
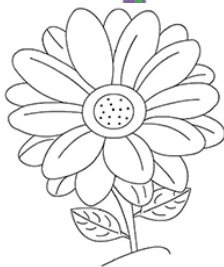
# Newsletter—September 2020

## Kid's Page



### God's People Wandered in the Wilderness Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



AARON  
BREAD  
EGYPT

FORTY  
GATHER  
MANNA

MEAT  
MOSES  
QUAIL

SABBATH  
WILDERNESS  
YEARS