



2613 8th Avenue
 Monroe, WI 53566
 608-325-3966
 office@monroebiblechurch.org
 www.monroebiblechurch.org

Newsletter—February 2022

Reflecting



Many years ago, a woman with a Muslim background interviewed me for a college, I think graduate level, class on the subject of Christian forgiveness. In the conversation she made the comment that she could never be a Christian because of the way women dress in America. She equated American culture with the Christian faith because America is a "Christian nation." I tried to explain that that was not really true. My point is that what people see is what they use to form their belief about different subjects. What people see in Christians is what they use to form their opinion about the Christian faith.

Our culture is disintegrating, at least in terms of our Christian values. On one hand sexual immorality, dishonesty, greed, character defamation, etc., are more and more rampant, even in the highest levels of society. On the other hand, those who state opposing views are "canceled," i.e., relationships and opportunities to participate are cut off. People "defriend" others in social media. Businesses are boycotted, people are fired from their jobs, college campuses disallow those with certain dissenting views to speak, and cities cancel sporting events.

In the midst of all of this is the rise of *Christian Nationalism*, i.e., the belief that America is a Christian nation and therefore our beliefs must be central to our culture and government. The first amendment to our constitution actually says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," which includes establishment of the Christian faith. Christian Nationalism is subtle, it is rapidly creeping into the church, and taking us on a crash course of cancelation in our culture. For example, what do you think someone contemplating the Christian faith thought when they saw Christian symbols among the Capital rioters a year ago? Isn't it amazing there are no New Testament instructions to "Christianize" your nation, and that it was written when the Roman government, as immoral and corrupt as any in history, was in power? History actually proves the Christian faith can thrive in any form of government!

Our faith ought to influence our culture, absolutely, but not dictate it. Are we to be silent while the nation descends deeper and deeper into depravity? No. But unfortunately, some are throwing away the opportunity to speak for Christ because of the things they speak about and the ways they speak. When our faith is tightly aligned with political parties, non-moral issues, immoral people, etc., we will be canceled, and have sacrificed our God-given mission for a temporary cause. It is prudent to speak up against abortion, immorality, poverty, and injustice, and in favor of religious freedom, in a respectful and intelligent manner. We ought to be known for compassion and not hate, in what and how we address issues. Even asserting an opinion on the basis of an authority or science, can come back to bite us. Today's science has shown yesterday's science wrong in many areas.

Confirmation bias is another pitfall that is taking a huge toll on our culture and the church. It is basically looking for, and interpreting information, to support one's existing beliefs, and consequently, giving credibility to one side of an issue. It hinders our ability to objectively evaluate something. News media and internet feeds capitalize on this human tendency and feed us steady streams of biased information. We fall into it because it gives us a certain inner harmony, confirming what we want to believe to be true. It's hard to not be guilty of this.

How do we navigate this cultural war without losing our faith or opportunity to speak for Christ? Here are three practices I want to work on, and invite you to join me in.

1. *Refocus* our passion on Christ and His mission. I want knowing Christ better to be more important than any other issue in my life. Jesus said, "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8, *NASB95*). I want His mission to be my first mission.

2. *Refrain* from speaking, writing, or posting on social media, comments about divisive, non-eternally important issues, and especially from all sarcastic, condemning, critical comments. We need to think about how our words and actions reflect on not only our own reputation, but that of the church, and on Christ! Paul wrote, "Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world," (Philippians 2:14–15). We are called to be lights and live above reproach.

3. *Repair* relationships. Paul wrote, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men." (Romans 12:18). Jesus said, "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. (Matthew 6:14–15). He said, "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. (Matthew 5:23–24). Relationships are more important than opinions on issues so we have to sometimes agree to disagree, commendably.

I wasn't surprised when I was told that the professor told the woman who interviewed me her paper was the best he had ever seen on forgiveness. God's ways are trustworthy. Let's be careful that we are living according to His ways and not the world's ways, so that what people see, accurately reflects our Lord and Savior.

Grateful for His Grace,
 Pastor Dan

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February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Sr. Life Group—1:00 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	3 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	4 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	5 Men's No Regrets Simulcast, 8am, Hope Church Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—4-7pm, NC Open AA Mtg, 6-7 pm, 18 & 8th
6 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School—9 am Pipeline—9 am Next Steps-Step 3—9am, LL #102 Life Group Leader Meeting—Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4 pm Fusion—6 pm	7 Elder Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #106 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	8	9 Sr. Life Group—1:00 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	10 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC Missions Meeting—6 pm, LL #106	11 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	12 Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4-6 pm, #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—4-7pm, NC
13 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School—9 am Pipeline—9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S No Ignite or Fusion Family Superbowl Party—5pm, 18 & 8th	14 Deacon Meeting—6:00 pm, NC Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	15	16 Sr. Life Group—1:00 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	17 Blood Drive—Noon-6 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL 101	18 Awana Girls T&T overnighter—begins 6pm, all church	19 Awana Girls T&T overnighter—ends 11 am, all church Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—4-7pm, NC
20 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School—9 am Pipeline—9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite 4-6 pm Fusion 6-8 pm	21 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	22	23 Sr. Life Group—1:00 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	24 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	25 Awana Boys T&T overnighter—begins 6pm, all church	26 Awana Boys T&T overnighter—ends 11 am, all church Iglesia Biblica Vigil—7 pm-Midnight, all church
27 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School—9 am Pipeline—9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite 4-6 pm Fusion 6-8 pm	28 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102					

MBC Office Hours:
 Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM,
 & Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon





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Happy Birthdays!



2 Aaron Holverson
4 Milt Sherman
6 Julie Paske
7 Nate Bloom
8 Justin Rhoe
10 Mark Setterstrom
11 Al Ostenson
12 Timothy Kramer
Anita Peach
Braden Williams
13 Deb Hurlbert
14 Josiah Hauri
Jake Watson

15 Gabe Kuenzi
Jaclyn Miller
Jack Richardson
16 Felicity Eddy
Liz Garchie-Schulthess
Devan Schulte
17 Marie Wunschel
19 Brigham Holverson
20 Randy Whyte
21 Darlene Bartelt
Emmalynn Brunner
Jim Hurlbert

21 Sarah Olmstead
Lillie Rische
22 Lauren Baer
23 Jo Figi
Scott Larson
26 Betty Anderson
27 Beth Figi
Gloria Huffman
Harold Pieper
Oliver Ragan
28 Kathy Markham
Deb Westphal

*Congratulations
to the family of
Kyle & Amanda Ohlrich
on the birth of their son!
George Matthew Ohlrich
was born Monday, January 3, 2022.
He weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and
was 19 ½ inches long.
May God bless your family!*



HAPPY anniversary

1 Peter & Katelin Rische
12 Dale & Lynn Klitzke
13 Roger & Kathy Krauss



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Prayer Ministry

I recently re-read an article called "Why Christians Must Pray". I shared it at prayer meeting. I will list the seven reasons given why believers must pray.

1. It's a great privilege. Matthew 6:5-8, 9-13. Gives us an example on what we should pray about.
2. Pray to cultivate humility and dependence on the Lord. Matthew 6:9a. Realize God is sovereign.
3. We must pray if God is to be the supreme focus of our lives. Matthew 6:9b-13. God must come first in my life.
4. Pray to join in what God is doing on earth. Matthew 6:10. It's a great privilege to be a part of what God is doing.
5. Pray because our physical lives are fragile. Matthew 6:11. We are dependent on God to sustain our physical existence. He takes care of us.
6. Pray so we can enjoy intimacy with God. Matthew 6:12. Confess sin regularly and pray for those who have sinned against you.
7. Pray to have victory over sin. Matthew 6:13. Ask God to guide us away from things and places that tempt us.

Sit down and make a list of reasons believers should pray. There are many more. Make prayer a personal discipline. God wants us to communicate with Him.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

Thursday

February 17th

Noon—6:00 pm

Nehemiah Center



*We Would Like to Offer Our
 Sympathy to the Families of:*

*Steve & Aleta Craif
 Aleta's son, Del William Blue,
 passed away Thursday, January 6th*

*Harold Pieper
 Harold's wife, Shirley Pieper,
 passed away Monday, January 10th*

*May God comfort
 each of you and
 bless all of you
 with His peace.*



NEXT STEPS AT MBC

Pick up a 2022
 Next Steps brochure
 at the Welcome Center
 for a listing of all classes.

Step 3— "Our Commitments"

Sunday, February 6th at 9:00 am, LL #102

**In this session, we will address the topics
 of eternal life, spiritual growth, baptism,
 and church membership.**

****This step is required for membership.***

Sign up for all Next Steps classes on our
 website, use the Chromebook at the
 Welcome Center, or contact the
 church office (608-325-3966).



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February 6th is the application deadline for the 2022 short term mission trip to Glory Reins Ranch in Farmville, Virginia. If you attended one of the informational meetings in January and did not pick up an application, they are available in the office, but do not delay. Applications will be reviewed at the February Missions Ministry meeting and participants will be notified soon after as to what the next step in the process will be. Although much of the time will be spent helping Kevin and Robin Warren get the Ranch ready for their busy summer ministry time, this year we are building in personal time with God and His Word as well. There will be time for quiet prayer and reflection as well as devotions with the Warrens, similar to time at a retreat. The team may return physically tired but hopefully refreshed spiritually after uninterrupted time with the Lord each day, away from usual daily routines. Please be praying that whoever God wants on this team will respond and that God will lead as planning goes forward.



Planning for a OneMeal Food Packing event is moving forward but may look different from past events. Kids Around The World (KATW) has been forced to make some changes because of supply chain demands and increasing prices, which in turn increases the cost for us to hold an event. We may need to partner with another church or hold a fundraiser. The need for food, both physical and spiritual, has not changed for the destitute served by KATW and we still desire to help if God makes it possible. Watch for more information as plans develop.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader

Pipeline Class

National Marriage Week USA begins each year on Feb. 7th through Valentine's Day Feb 14th.

Each Sunday in February, Marriage Ministry Leaders Jeff and Marie Wunschel will be leading a marriage enrichment session to help us refresh and strengthen our marriages. Plan now to join the **Pipeline** sessions at **9:00 AM** beginning February 6th and invite another couple to join you!

NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE

Simulcast
Saturday, February 5th
Hope Evangelical Free Church
 (2902 13th Street, Monroe)

Registration & Continental Breakfast
 from 8:00-8:30 AM

Conference & Snacks until 1:30 PM

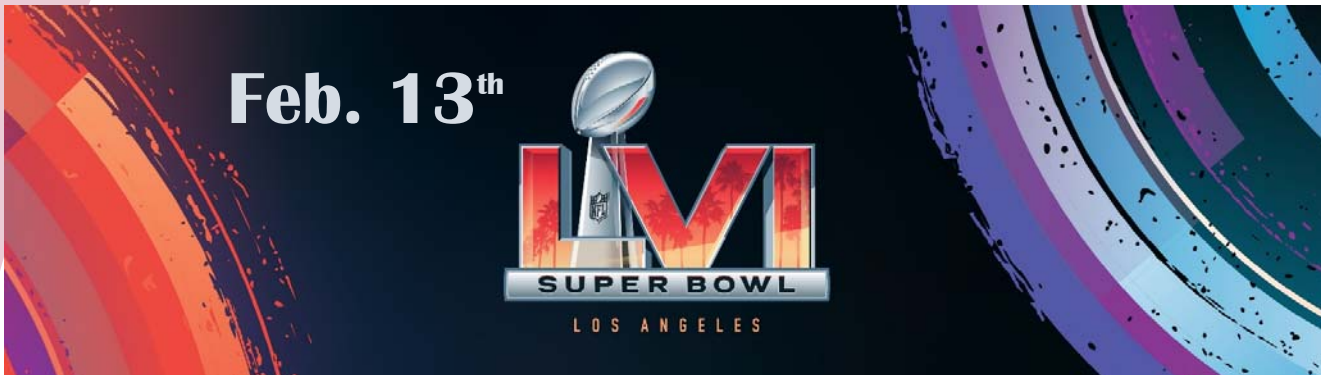
Registration is \$15 per person at the door



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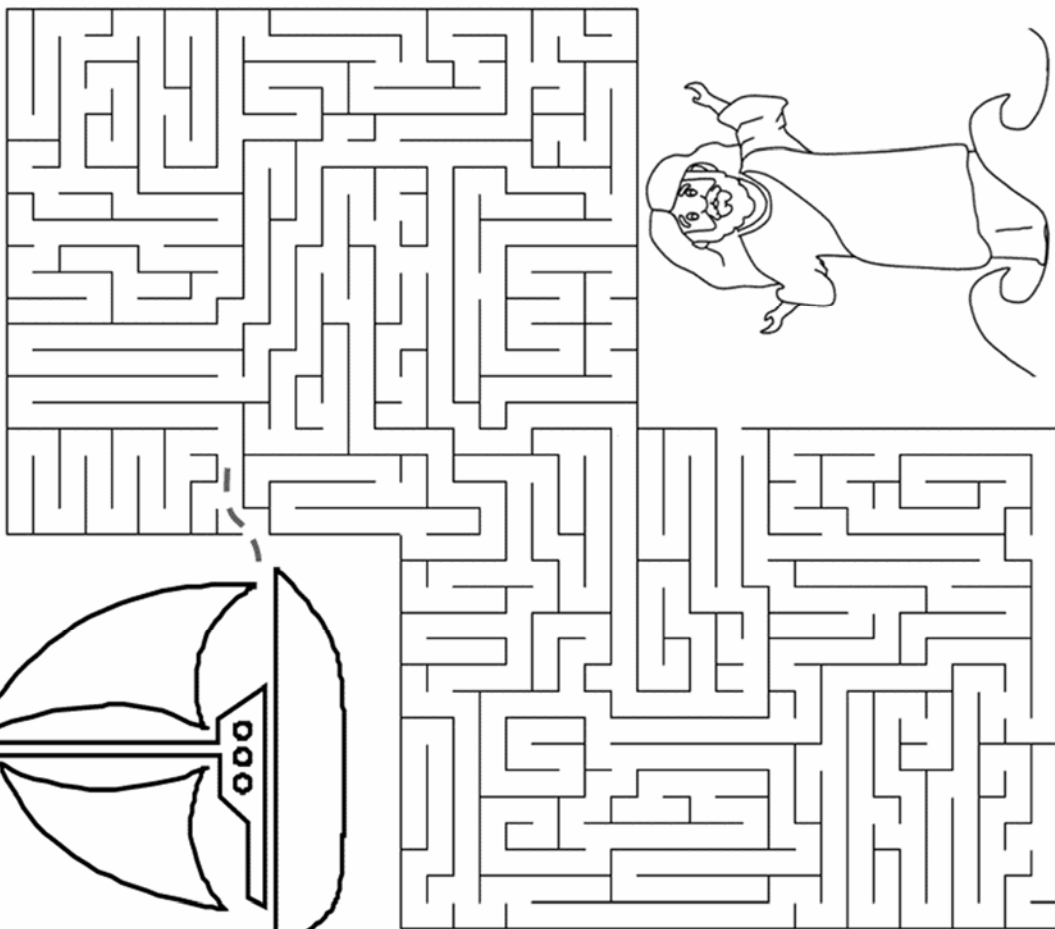
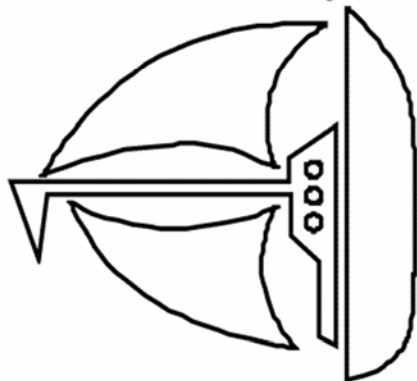
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Superbowl Party for the Entire Family!
Bring a snack and tailgate game or favorite board game to share!
Ping-Pong table, Bean Bag toss, & Lemonade provided.
18 & 8th (1802 8th St., Monroe). 5:00 PM until game ends.

Bible Maze

Help the fishermen find their way to Jesus.





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Coming in March

Friday, March 4th at 6:30 pm, Nehemiah Center

The Voice of the Martyrs

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS FORGIVENESS

SABINA

TORTURED FOR CHRIST
THE NAZI YEARS

PG-13 FOR PARENTAL STRONG CAUTION: SOME MATERIAL MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO CHILDREN UNDER 13

Private Movie Screening

Save the Date!

Hairy & Company



Bring
the
Family!

Join Us!

Friday, March 11

When Hairy and Company take the stage, people of all ages laugh and learn. But behind each performance is a serious message, leaving the audience refreshed and challenged.



John and Diane Windle are an Outreach Ministry of Camp Forest Springs

Friday, March 11, 2022
18 & 8th Event Center
(1802 8th Street, Monroe)

Doors Open 6:00 pm
Show Begins 6:30 pm
FREE Event for the Community!