



MONROE
BIBLE
CHURCH

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Newsletter—March 2022

Reset



I'm asking you to join me in a fast for Lent. Surprised? To my knowledge our church has never promoted a Lenten fast like many mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic churches do, even though it has its roots all the way back to the early church. Fasting is a discipline that has been with the church from its beginning, its practice is also recorded in the Old Testament. While fasting is not prescribed in the New Testament, there are passages which indicate it was assumed that people fasted (Ex: Matt. 6:16).

Fasting for spiritual purposes can be an expression of grief, penitence, humility before God, pursuit of a deeper experience with God, or to seek an answer from God. It is typically refraining from food for a period of time, up to 40 days. A more modern practice is a partial fast, which is abstaining from a certain food, drink, or other activity. The idea is to reduce a distraction and allow a physical feeling (hunger/denial) to keep a spiritual goal at the forefront of your thoughts. It also allows the person to take the time they would spend with the food or activity, and give it to time with God.

Reset is a media fast I'm suggesting for our congregation. Media, especially through the internet and cell phones, is occupying considerable amounts of time for a lot of people. It is also contributing to the division that is taking place in our nation and between believers. Social media and newsfeeds use algorithms to feed new stories or posts that line up with what we've looked at. What ends up happening is called confirmation bias, the development of a potentially divisive and unhealthy thought pattern. I wrote about it in last month's Pastor's Pen.

Everything related to COVID-19 and politics the last two years has been a stressor on everyone that media has capitalized on. I don't think I'm exaggerating to say that it has surfaced some things in us, whether in words, actions, or just internal thoughts and feelings, that are not pleasing to the Lord. Thoughts and emotions from anger to hate, and depression to isolation, have hurt many. The result is division and hurt in individuals, families, the church family, friends, the workplace, and even our neighborhoods. Sadly, it has reflected poorly on our Lord Jesus and His church. **Reset** is an intentional effort to right the ship by replacing those inputs with input from the Lord.

The goal is a reduction of anxiety, anger, and stress, the increase of inner peace and harmony, a deepening relationship with the Lord, and the restoring of relationships that have been strained or damaged. A few weeks ago, I decided I would do this kind of fast on my day off and found some of these benefits in my own life. I spoke with a couple recently who said they experienced the same benefits after disengaging from social media. Willing to give it a try?

Here's the three parts of my suggestion: **1) Refrain** - stop watching or listening to media for the 40 days of Lent; **2) Replace** - use that extra time for Bible reading, prayer, and meditation; **3) Restore** - bring back the habits and relationships that have suffered or fallen by the wayside.

You choose the media(s) and degree to which you will **refrain** - all social, news, and entertainment media, or certain ones. I see the most value in choosing to fast from social media since that seems to be what has brought out the worst in people. Secondly, news media which includes TV news, internet news, and talk radio have added fuel to the rise of negative emotions in many of us. Thirdly, entertainment and gaming can also stir up frustration or discontent, and engulf large amounts of time. I realize that some of us use internet or social media for business or education so the challenge there will be to avoid the extra click on the feeds that pop up. One strategy, for those who fear withdrawal would be too difficult, might be to add another form of media to your fast with each passing week.

We have selected 4 passages of Scripture along a theme for each week to help you **refocus**. Spend some time reading the passage, thinking and praying about it, and journaling your thoughts. The themes will begin with Scripture on who God is and end with Scripture for coming off the fast. Each week there will be an insert listing the readings in the bulletin (also online). We trust the working of the Holy Spirit, along with your willingness to be guided, to bring about the **restore** you need.

Lastly, here are three tips that will help you: 1) Pray. Bathe this in prayer. Seek God's help every day. This is a spiritual battle and the enemy does not want you to start or stay on track. 2) Find a partner to check in with at least once a week, and be an encouragement to each other. 3) Give yourself grace but not license to quit. When you fail, old habits are hard to break, recommit to your goal, and get back on track. In the end it is progress, not perfection, that counts.

I am quite confident you will notice and appreciate the difference reset will make. Will you join me for a reset?

For the Walk,
Pastor Dan



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March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Primetimers Lunch & Games—10 am-1 pm, NCK	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 Sabina Movie Event—6:30 pm, NC	5 Men's Breakfast, 8am, NC Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—4-7pm, NC Open AA Potluck Mtg, 5-9 pm, 18 & 8th
6 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Cafe 10:30 am Sunday School—9 am Pipeline—9 am Next Steps-Step 4 (s.1)—9am, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4 pm Fusion—4 pm	7 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	8 Missions Meeting—6 pm, LL #106	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	11 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Harry & Company—Doors Open 6:00 pm Show Begins 6:30 pm, at 18 & 8th	12 Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4-6 pm, #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—4-7pm, NC
13 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Cafe 10:30 am Sunday School—9 am Pipeline—9 am Next Steps-Step 4 (s.2)—9am, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4 pm Fusion—4 pm	14 Deacon Meeting—6:00 pm, NC Elder Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #106 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 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	18 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	19 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—4-7pm, NC
20 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Cafe 10:30 am Sunday School—9 am Pipeline—9 am Next Steps-Step 1—Noon, NC Next Steps-Step 5 (s.1)—6:30 pm, LL #106 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 No Awana—Spring Break	24 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	25 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	26 Men's Outdoor Pursuit Conference, Park Hills Church—4:30 pm Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4-6 pm, #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—4-7pm, NC
27 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Cafe 10:30 am Sunday School—9 am Pipeline—9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Next Steps-Step 5 (s.2)—6:30 pm, LL #106 Ignite 4-6 pm Fusion 6-8 pm	28 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	29	30 Sr. Life Group—1:00 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	31 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC		

MBC Office Hours:

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





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1 Harper Polhill
2 Megan Thoman
4 Emmett Prahl
5 Ruth Joy Tuttle
7 Carol Botteron
9 Kate Baer
John Jordan
Roger Krauss
Michael Newberg
Joshua Skoumal
11 Roxanne Geisler
Sarah Rische

12 Gabrielle Ils
Oliver Kuenzi
13 Kadin Paske
Duane Zimmerman
14 Karena Figi
16 Rylan Kelley
23 Heidi Rische
Luca Wilcox
24 Dorothy Jensen
Cora Polhill
Christina Tuttle
25 Marissa Hurlbert

26 Regan Bartelt
Erik Haworth
Craig Signer
27 Natalie Reed
Austin Zettle
28 Asher Kuenzi
Libby Thoman
29 Dale Klitzke
30 Eloise Ackerman
Joan Coppes
Amanda Ohlrich



*Congratulations to
these Families on the
Birth of their Children!*

*Eric & Nicole Stendahl
daughter, Adelynn Rose Stendahl,
born on Tuesday, February 8th.
She was 9lbs. 8 oz. & 21" long.*

*Peter & Katelin Rische
son, Mason Lee Rische,
born on Tuesday, February 8th.
He was 8lbs. 7oz. & 20" long.*

*May God bless
your families!*



*HAPPY
Wedding
ANNIVERSARY*



1 Stan & Sharon Johnson
6 Doug & Nancy Larson
8 Ron & Sharon Kubly
11 Joe & Libby Thoman
23 Adam & Grace Anderson
23 Ray & Pauline Wyss
24 James & Debra Hurlbert



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Newsletter—March 2022

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

Online movie event. Watch the story of an incredibly brave young woman carrying out kingdom work during Nazi oppression. Everyone Welcome!

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

Private Movie Screening

Invite Family & Friends!

Hairy & Company



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.



Bring
the
Family!

Join Us!

Friday, March 11

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!



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Newsletter—March 2022



Missions Ministry would like to announce the team for our 2022 Mission trip to Glory Reins Ranch in Virginia. Participants are Wade, Braden, and Lily Williams, Eric and Natalie Reed, Mike and Wendy Westcomb, Duane and Crystal Zimmerman, Vicki McNett, Lukas Andersen, Faith Richardson, Katie and Jady Elgin. The team looks forward to how they will be used by God in assisting Kevin and Robin Warren with their ministry. It will also be exciting to see God stretch each one spiritually during the week. You can be part of the team as you pray for each participant and for preparations for this mission trip. There is much to accomplish in a short length of time and we need your prayer support!

Slavic Gospel Association is one of the missions MBC supports monthly. Recently they made us aware of great need in the former Soviet Union countries they serve. Economic conditions were fragile before the pandemic, but the global economic disruption from COVID has now created dire circumstances. The more than 800 SGA-sponsored churches are trying to help their members as well as community unbelievers with food, warm clothing, blankets, shelter, and the Gospel. One woman cried in appreciation when a parcel was brought to her and her mother. They had a charcoal stove, but no money for coal and therefore no heat in the bitter cold. These churches have nearly exhausted their resources and there is still a long cold season ahead. The MBC Missions budget has a One Time Gift Account for emergencies like this. We were able to send \$1,000 from this account for Operation Winter Warmth. It seems like a good amount until it is compared with the \$164,300 needed to alleviate suffering and save lives, both physically and spiritually. Your faithful giving and support of missions made this possible. Let us thank God that we have the resources to help our brothers and sisters in Christ and pray that many unbelievers will come to know Him through our gift.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader

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



*Mike & Barb Dietmeier
Mike's mom, Roselyn Dietmeier,
passed away
Wednesday, February 9th*

*Betty Anderson
Betty's dad, Joseph Best,
passed away Saturday, February 12th*

*Dennis Meier Family
Dennis passed away
Wednesday, February 16th*



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

Next Steps at MBC

Through each of the Next Steps classes you will learn more about MBC, how to get involved, and grow personally in your relationship with the Lord. Pick up a 2022 Next Steps brochure at the Welcome Center for a listing of this year's classes. Sign up for all Next Steps classes on our website, use the Chromebook at the Welcome Center, or contact the church office (325-3966)



Next Steps-Step 1 (1s.) – “Our Mission & Vision”
Sunday, March 20th at noon, Nehemiah Center.
Lunch is provided.

Next Steps-Step 4 (2s.) – “Our Equipping”
Sunday, March 6th & 13th at 9:00 am, lower level rm. #102.

Next Steps-Step 5 (2s.) – “On Mission”
Sunday, March 20th & 27th at 6:30 pm, lower level rm. #106.
****This step is required for all mission trips.***



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Newsletter—February 2022

Prayer Ministry

We just celebrated Valentine's Day in February. The world's definition of love is much different than God's definition. God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to take the penalty for our sin and make available salvation to us. I John 3:16

Believers should love God and also love other people. How much time do we set aside each day to communicate with God through prayer and reading His Word? God's Word will help you to love others and pray for them.

We should pray for our wife if we are married. We should pray for our children. This shows that we love them as God's Word teaches us to do. The best Valentine gift you and I can give to our wife, our children, our grandchildren, our pastors, our ministry leaders, and our missionaries is praying regularly for them. All these people will feel God's love through your prayers. Taking time to pray for others shows true love, the kind of love God wants all believers to exhibit. We should pray for those who need to accept Jesus as Savior. God is not willing that any should perish. Give the gift of prayer.

Now unto Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

The Outdoor Pursuit Saturday, March 26th

Men—join us for an evening of raffles (guns, hunting and fishing gear, and other cool stuff), vendors, a catered meal, and an engaging message from our speaker, Jason Cruise. Jason is a pastor, author, and avid outdoorsman featured on the Sportsman Channel.

Tickets are \$30 each and we have limited tickets available. First come, first served. Contact Pastor Troy if you'd like to attend. If you already purchased a ticket from Pastor Troy but can't go, please let us know ASAP so another can go.

Doors open at 4:30 pm
Raffles begin at 5:00 pm (bring cash for raffles—no larger than \$20 bills)
Dinner & speaker follow the raffles

Park Hills Church
2525 W. Stephenson St.
Freeport, IL 61032

Primetimers Reunion!

If you are an empty nester please consider joining us for Games & Lunch on **Tuesday, March 1st.**

We will meet in the Nehemiah Center from 10 AM until 1 PM. Bring your own lunch and enjoy good fellowship. No need for a reservation....Any questions, call Carol Hasselmann at 815-505-3324.

Hope to see you there!

MEN'S Breakfast



You're Invited!

Saturday, March 5th from 8-10 am in the Nehemiah Center. All men & their sons are welcome!
Contact Men's Ministry Leader Kyle Ohlrich with questions, 719-439-1003.



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People welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44

