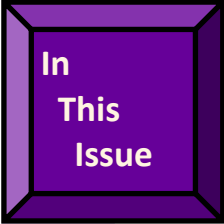




2613 8th Avenue
 Monroe, WI 53566
 608-325-3966
 office@monroebiblechurch.org
 www.monroebiblechurch.org

Newsletter—April 2023



- Pastor's Pen 1
- Calendar 2
- Birthdays 3
- Anniversaries
- Next Steps
- Good Friday Service 4
- Easter Services
- VBS Actors/Actresses
- Blood Drive
- Class of 2023 Seniors
- Brewers Game 5
- Prayer Ministry
- AWANA
- Primetimers
- Missions Ministry 6
- Coloring Page 7

What is a Sabbatical?



The pastoral sabbatical is based on the biblical concept of the sabbath rest. The sabbath rest was first demonstrated by God, who obviously did not need it, on the seventh day of creation when He rested. "By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." (Genesis 2:2-3, *NASB95*). God affirmed the importance of this rest when the Old Testament Law was given. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹"Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. ¹¹ "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:8-11). The Lord even prescribed rest for the land in the Law. "Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop, ⁴ but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard. ⁵ 'Your harvest's aftergrowth you shall not reap, and your grapes of untrimmed vines you shall not gather; the land shall have a sabbatical year." (Leviticus 25:3-5).

The purpose of the sabbatical is rest and refreshment - physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. Ministry is a lot of giving and depletion is often the outcome. Sometimes extended time away from ministry is important for refreshment or for preparation for future ministry. Some examples of God's servants taking extended time away are Moses (Exodus 24:18;34:28), Elijah (1 Kings 19:8), Jesus (Mark 1:13; 9:2), and Paul (Galatians 1:17-18). Time away from the demands of ministry and in spiritual renewal are God's prescription for those subject to burnout.

I am not considering leaving pastoral ministry anytime soon. However, I am not ashamed to say that I am tired. Ministry, which tends to be exhausting anyway, was especially stressful during the two years of COVID. The symptoms that I'm experiencing tell me I'm in, or entering burnout, include difficulty staying focused, decision fatigue, not sleeping well, higher than normal irritability/anxiety, and spiritual dryness. Your Elders suggested a sabbatical for me several months ago. I asked to begin in late spring when daylight is longer and temperatures are warmer because I get refreshed most when I am outside. I am still passionate for Monroe Bible Church to be a healthy disciple-making church and I desire to help in every way I can. I know that this church will be fine while I am away, it is not dependent on me but on Christ. You have several very capable leaders whom I trust fully while I am away.

You will be asked not to contact me during this time. Please know that it isn't because I don't care about you. Think of it as if I'm in the hospital and will be back when I get out. The Elder and Deacon boards are giving me 12 weeks. Jennifer and I will begin by taking a long trip. The first segment I will just try to disengage and rest. The second phase I will focus on getting refreshed so I plan to take a mentally challenging course, and tackle a project or two at home that I never seem to have time to do. The third phase will be a refocus phase. I will begin to establish the rhythm and plans I will need to begin my ministry at the church again. I will be spending a lot of time in my Bible and prayer, and read several books, books that relate to the purpose of each phase. I also plan to take a personal spiritual retreat each phase as well.

Your prayers will be much appreciated!
 With a Shepherd's Love,
 Pastor Dan





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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Iglesia Biblica Worship Night — 6-8 pm, S Open AA Mtg.—6 pm, 18 & 8th
2 Palm Sunday Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	3 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 CareNet Spaghetti Supper—4:30-7:30 pm, Hope Comm. Center	4 Primetimers Games & Lunch—10 am-1 pm, NC/K	5 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	6 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S	7 Good Friday Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Good Friday Service—7 pm, 18 & 8th 	8 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
9 Easter Sunday Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am No Sunday School, Pipeline, Ignite, or Fusion	10 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Deacon Mtg.—6 pm, NC Elder Mtg.—6 pm, LL #106	11 Missions Ministry Meeting—7 pm, LL #106	12 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm Verses need to be completed!	13 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S	14 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	15 Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
16 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 1—Noon, NC Next Steps-Step 5 (s.1)—Noon, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	17 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102	18	19 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Store Night! Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	20 Blood Drive—Noon-6 pm, NC  Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #101 MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S	21 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Weekend to Remember Madison, WI	22 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC Weekend to Remember Madison, WI
23 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.1)—9 am, LL #100 Next Steps-Step 5 (s.2)—Noon, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm Weekend to Remember Madison, WI	24 EFCA Spring Conference - Office Closed Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102	25	26 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana Closing Ceremony 6:30 pm	27 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S	28 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	29 OneMeal Packing Event—9 am-Noon, 18 & 8th Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
30 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.2)—9 am, LL #100 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm						

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



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Newsletter—April 2023



2 Crystal Hartwig

3 Steve Fowler

Devin Long

4 Karen Brunner

5 Micah Brunner

6 Carson Eddy

7 Anika Figi

Raelynn Hartwig

Jesse Petersen

8 Walter Botteron

9 Brian Baer

11 Tanner Ils

11 Tonya Reed

12 Jaxon Covert

Ed Demianiuk

Tessa Hurlbert

13 Violet Ohlrich

14 Marlys Isely

16 Neva Schultz

18 Luke Morris

19 Cheryl Gilley

Oliver Hardacre

Sharon Kubly

19 Olivia Witt

21 Preston Krauss

Matthew Setterstrom

Ray Wyss

22 Christian Ohlrich

24 Simon Rische

25 Isaac Welsh

28 Libby Swenson

29 Caleb Figi

Ewan Miller

30 Jane Thoman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

14 John & Dawn Jordan

19 Kevin & Angie Geiwitz

19 Randy & Lorna Schindler

30 Tim & Nicole Wilcox



Next Steps at MBC

Next Steps are ways to learn more about and become involved at MBC.



Classes Coming Up!

Sign-Ups for Steps 1, 2, 3, and 5 are online now.

***Note the time change for Step 5** meeting at noon instead of 6:30 PM. We will then take a break from all Next Steps classes until August.

Steps 1, 2, & 3 are required for membership.

Sign up for all Next Steps classes on our Website, contact the church Office, or use the Chromebook at the Welcome Center. Pick up a 2023 brochure with a listing of all classes at the Welcome Center.



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THE
CROSS OF CHRIST

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
April 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM
18 & 8th Event Center – 1802 8th Street, Monroe

Come & see short enactments of Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, & Pilot as they condemn Jesus. Reflect on the trials of Jesus preceding His crucifixion through song & drama put on by area churches.

Everyone Welcome!

RISEN

Join Us!

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 9, 2023
Monroe Bible Church
(2613 8th Avenue)
Services at 9:00 & 10:30 AM
Everyone Welcome!

VBS - Calling All Actors & Actresses

Do you have an acting career that was stifled just stirring in your soul? Do you like to work with kids? Do you want to serve the Lord this summer? We are looking for four gentlemen of various ages and two ladies, one young and one could be most any age to act out some skits. If you are interested in helping VBS the week of **July 24-28**, please contact Sue Newberg at sueshealthieryou@gmail.com or 815-601-1277.



BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, April 20th
Noon - 6:00 PM
Nehemiah Center

Attention All Graduating Seniors!



Are you, or is your son or daughter, graduating from High School or College this spring? If so, please email the church office a jpeg photo of the graduate, along with their date/place of graduation, any party information you'd like to include, and what their future plans are. Please submit these to the church office **by May 1, 2023**



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Milwaukee Brewers Game!

Game is **Thursday, June 8th** at 1pm vs Baltimore.
 Carpooling from MBC at 8 AM to tailgate before the game.
 Tickets are \$21 each. Limit of 30 total tickets.
 Tickets are in lower level section 109.
 A sign-up is at the Welcome Center.
 Contact Bernie Roidt with questions at 608-558-3293



Do you remember to confess sin when you pray? Unconfessed sin will hinder prayer. Hopefully you remember fellow believers in your prayers, it is called intercession. Satan wants to keep believers from praying. Satan is a defeated foe. Believers should be involved in spiritual warfare praying. Ephesians 6:10-20 informs us about the whole armor of God. I would encourage you to read Karl Payne's book on spiritual warfare and "A Deeper Walk" by Marcus Warner. Do you have a son or daughter that has walked away from the Lord? Pray for them daily, giving them to the Lord, and asking Him to draw them back to Himself. Keep loving them. Prayer changes things. We don't always get the answer to prayer that we want, but God always knows what is best. We don't always get the answer to prayer in the time frame that we want. Keep praying. Don't give up. God is always at work.

I also encourage you to pray for our missionaries regularly. Our church publishes a booklet with all of our missionaries in it that explains where their mission work is taking place, etc. Subscribe to the missionaries newsletters received by email or snail mail. All of our missionaries would greatly appreciate your payers.

You're invited to the weekly prayer meeting on Monday evenings at 6 PM. See you there! Prayer is powerful and a privilege.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



AWANA Closing Program!

Wednesday, April 26th

6:15 PM

Everyone is Invited!



Primetimers Games & Lunch

Tuesday, April 4th

10 AM - 1 PM

In the Nehemiah Center

Come Join Us!

**Questions? Contact Carol Hasselmann
 at 815-505-3324**



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Have you ever asked someone serving full time on the mission field how and when they were called? A recent article states that nearly 70% of people called to missions felt initial stirrings between the ages of 4 to 14! Worldly forces in education, entertainment, and secular organizations seize every opportunity to influence young lives during these critical formative years. How is the Church preparing children to become Kingdom workers? You may be encouraged to know that the kindergarten through second graders in Sunday school are learning that they can be missionaries right now where they are. Crystal and Tyler Hartwig are also planting seeds by teaching about each of the missionaries supported by MBC. The children see pictures, hear about their work, and pray for them. Stop in room 102 to see their impressive map and wall display. Perhaps God will begin stirring some of these children to the mission field in the future!

One of the "perks" of serving in the Missions Ministry is the opportunity to read newsletters from missionaries supported by MBC. One can be discouraged by things happening in the world, but seeing how God is working when reading these newsletters is encouraging. Recently Brad Reardon shared there are hundreds of thousands of pastors in a closed country who desire training. The plan is for some lead pastors to receive training from Pathways outside this closed country, then return home to begin training others who eventually can train others -- the ripple effect. Pastor Reardon reports over 50 Pathways trainings are scheduled for this year! In another newsletter Oscar Chiquito reports continuing progress on the Retreat and Training Center for Pastors in Guatemala. The concrete roof for the first floor will soon be poured. This is the project the Guatemala mission trip crew will be working on in June.

You can be part of missions through Kids Around The World One Meal Food Packing scheduled for April 29th at 18 & 8th. This project provides both physical and spiritual food for the world's most destitute. Please give generously and sign up to help pack. It is a fun Saturday morning activity for your whole family. See you there!

Sign up on our website or at the table in the foyer to help with the OneMeal packing! If you would like to make a financial contribution, place your donation in the box labeled for One Meal on the table in the foyer. ***Make checks payable to Kids Around the World.**

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader



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He Is Risen!

