



2613 8th Avenue
 Monroe, WI 53566
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 www.monroebiblechurch.org

Newsletter—December '23

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Prince of Peace



One of the prophecies concerning Jesus that we generally recite at Christmastime is, "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6, NASB95). That last title, "Prince of Peace," seems so significant today as we watch the war in Israel rage on. The resulting possibility of a terrorist attack within our borders seems inevitable. The unrest in multiple countries, turmoil in governments, college campus protests, and divisiveness in our country are leaving many people fearful, and longing for peace. People are wondering if the end of the world, the apocalypse, is near.

Are we in the "last days"? Biblically, yes, the last days began with the arrival of Christ Jesus, "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you" (1 Peter 1:20). People usually mean the very last days, so are we in them? The sequence, as we believe the Scriptures indicate is as follows, the rapture (all true believers taken up to meet Christ in the air), a seven-year tribulation period, Christ's return for judgment and to reign over the earth for 1,000 years, then the final judgment and ushering in of the new eternal heavens and earth. Obviously, the rapture hasn't happened. Jesus gave signs of the nearing of the rapture in Matthew 24. Scholars agree, everything the Bible says will happen before Christ's return has happened, so literally any day could be the day of this final sequence of events.

Some wonder if the war in Israel is the Gog and Magog battle of Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 20:7-10. It is not clear who Gog and Magog are, nor if the Old and New Testaments are talking of the same battle. Ezekiel speaks of a future battle when nations will gather against Israel to attempt to wipe it off the face of the earth. Revelation speaks of a battle led by Satan at the end of the Millennium. A careful reading of those Scriptures shows that many more nations than Israel's immediate neighbors will make up those who wage war against God and His people. Thus, while we may be seeing the stage set, that battle has not begun either.

So, let's not be shaken. Instead, let's be excited, for the return of our Lord is drawing near! Here's two suggestions to help us replace fear with eager expectation. First, make sure your hope is securely set where it should be – on the Prince of Peace and being in His presence, not on the things of this world which will all pass away. If we could gain all the earthly joys possible it would still be quite pale in comparison to what lies ahead. The more we know Him in this life the more our hope gets placed upon Him. Secondly, the anxiety people feel gives us the opportunity to tell them about the Prince of Peace! Let's be ready to tell people about the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15). It will be in stark contrast to the messages of fear and hopelessness that those without Christ know.

The Prince of Peace has secured for us, once and for all, peace with God. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5:1-2). Secondly, the Prince of Peace is our source of peace amid the uncertainties of an unstable and hostile world. "Peace I leave with you; **My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." (John 14:27). "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). We need not fear what we may face for He will carry us through. Thirdly, the Prince of Peace, the only One who will ever be able to secure lasting peace, will one day establish it when He rules over all the earth. "And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And **never again will they learn war.**" (Isaiah 2:4).


For Such a Time,
 Pastor Dan





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December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>MBC Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, & Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon</p>					<p>1 No Homeschool Co-op Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>2 Men's Breakfast—8-10 am, NC/K Pastoral Candidate Meet & Greet—1-2 pm Light refreshments, NC Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>3 We welcome our Pastoral Candidate & family to MBC! Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am Congregational Meeting— Noon, NC Skit Rehearsal— Noon, S Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm</p>	<p>4 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>5 Primetimers Games & Lunch—10 am-1 pm NC/K Men's Ministry Nativity Building—6:30-9:00 pm, 18 & 8th Easter Choir Rehearsal—7-8:30 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>6 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p>	<p>7 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Prac- tice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>8 No Homeschool Co-op Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Men's Ministry Nativity Building—6:30-9:00 pm, 18 & 8th</p>	<p>9 Women's Ministry Christmas Cookie Exchange—10 am- noon (All church) Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>10 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am Youth Group Cookie Party—12:30-4:00 pm, NC Set Up/Take Down for Christmas Program 1:00 pm-9:00 pm Sunday School Christmas Program 7:00 pm No Ignite or Fusion</p>	<p>11 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Elder Meeting—6 pm, LL #106 Deacon Meeting—6 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Men's Study—7 pm, S</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana & Store Night: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p>	<p>14 Blood Drive—Noon- 6 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #101 MBC Worship Prac- tice—6:30 pm, S</p>	<p>15 No Homeschool Co-op Primetimers—11:30 am, Monroe Pizza Hut lunch Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>16 Birthday Party Open House for Betty Siedschlag—2-4 pm, NC/K Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>17 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S Christmas Parties for: Ignite—4-6 pm (Reed's) Fusion—6-8 pm (Roidt's)</p>	<p>18 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>19 Easter Choir Rehearsal—7-8:00 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>20 No Sr. Life Group No Awana</p>	<p>21 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Prac- tice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>22 No Homeschool Co-op Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>23 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>24 <i>Christmas Eve!</i> Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am No Sunday School, Pipe- line, Ignite, or Fusion Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—4:00 pm</i></p>	<p>25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>  (No Prayer Meeting)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 No Sr. Life Group No Awana</p>	<p>28 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Prac- tice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>29 No Homeschool Co-op Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>30 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>31 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am No Sunday School, Pipe- line, Ignite or Fusion</p>						



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**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Shane Schulte | 13 Betty Siedschlag |
| Bill Westphal | 14 Shannon Allbaugh |
| 4 Gavin Eddy | Jeff Italiano |
| Lauren Erdmann | 16 Kaya Holverson |
| 6 Michael Figi | 18 Henry Kuenzi |
| 7 Evan Bartelt | 19 Jonah Ohlrich |
| 8 Ann Italiano | 21 John Bartelt |
| Reuben Kawinzi | 22 Jacob Brunner |
| 9 Victoria Fowler | Dan Krahenbuhl |
| Crystal Watson | Troy Watson |
| 10 Amelia Haworth | 24 Joe Phillipps |
| 12 Evan Grossmann | 25 Chris Faith |
| Ralph Johnson | 27 Pat Hawkinson |
| Margarite Kawinzi | 29 Eli Elgin |
| Rose Larson | 31 Rylie Hartwig |



- 1 Roy & Karie Nafzger
- 18 Michael & Corrine Webber
- 20 Larry & Pam Young
- 22 Bernie & Beth Roidt

90th

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION HONORING

Betty Siedschlag

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023
Open House 2pm - 4pm

Monroe Bible Church
2613 8th Ave
Monroe WI 53566

No Gifts Please

If you cannot make it & would like to send
a card to Betty - her address is:
317 3RD AVE
APT 9
MONROE WI 53566



We would like to offer our sympathy to the many friends of Marianne Hoffman. Marianne went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 8th. May God bless you with His peace that surpasses all understanding.



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**MBC Women's Ministry
Christmas Cookie Exchange**

Saturday December 9th
10 am - 12 pm
Nehemiah Center

Bring at least 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas treats. We want your cookies, bars, mini pies, cupcakes, candies, fudges, festive popcorn, seasoned crackers, or chex mix.

Spend time with other MBC women over cozy Christmas puzzles and share stories or swap recipes. Enjoy hot chocolate, decorate a sugar cookie, and take home 2 dozen of your favorite treats in a goodie box!

Children are welcome!

THANK YOU church family for your prayers and willingness to participate in the Easter Worship Choir! We're excited to announce that we have enough people to form a choir for Easter and our first two practices are on the calendar! Please plan on attending both practices if you've signed up to participate.

* First choir practice: Tuesday, December 5, 7pm-8:30pm in the lower level, room #106

* Second choir practice: Tuesday, December 19, 7pm-8:00pm in the lower level, room #106

If you didn't sign up for the choir but are still interested in participating, join us for our preliminary practices in December where we'll be going over team introductions, music basics, singing as a group, music reading, and more! Anyone 16 years of age or older who can carry a tune is welcome to join us.

Remaining practice dates for January, February, and March will be announced soon. Most practices after December will be taking place on Sundays after the second service, but we had to do Tuesdays for December. Practices will resume shortly after New Year's in January, after the holiday season is over. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

(Joshua Schwenk at: mrjoshuaschwenk@gmail.com)

In Christ's Service,
Josh

WORSHIP CHOIR



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**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**



Please join us!

Saturday, December 2

8 AM - 10 AM

Nehemiah Center

Prayer Ministry

Christmas is quickly approaching. Don't get lost in the commercialization of Christmas. Remember the real meaning of Christmas, Jesus Christ.

We give presents at Christmas, but what do we give Jesus? I will suggest we give Him our time, our money, and control of our life. He wants a relationship with you. Spend time reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word. He speaks to us through His Word. Spend substantial time in prayer each day. It's the best way to find direction in your life and discern God's will for your life. Daily give yourself to Him and serve Him as He leads.

A gift you can give relatives, friends, and neighbors is prayer. Pray for the salvation of those who haven't accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. There are a variety of needs that most people have. We can pray for those needs as well. Pray for the believers you know to grow spiritually. The holiday season is a great time to tell others about Jesus.

I really enjoy seeing Christmas lights during the Christmas season. Jesus is the One who brought Light to this dark world. Let your Light, the Light of Jesus shine through you.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



We are having a Christmas musical play with the Sunday School group! The presentation will be at 7:00 PM on **Sunday December 10th**. Please come and cheer on the youth of our church. If you don't regularly attend Sunday School, maybe you'd be interested in coming for the holiday season and being a part of the fun. Practices are at the beginning of Sunday School on Sunday mornings from 9-9:15. There will be one big practice with the skit and songs together as we get closer to the presentation. We have 4 small characters that would only have 2-4 lines; if you're interested, please contact Sue Newberg at 815-601-1277. If you need a CD for your kids to listen to and practice at home, just let Sue know. Please put December 10th on your calendar and come out to bless the Christmas season with all of our youth!



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Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child

God richly blessed the first year of the shoebox drop-off at 18 & 8th. A total of 1,376 shoeboxes were received, including 377 from Monroe Bible Church! Thank you to all those who packed shoeboxes, volunteered their time, and lifted up this wonderful ministry in prayer.



MISSIONS

Over Harvest Weekend \$2,077 was collected for our missionaries so that MBC could give monetary Christmas gifts to those we support on the mission field. Thank you for making it possible to bless them in this way. The Missions Ministry team also encourages you to take a few moments to send a Christmas card or email to one or more of them. It encourages them to be remembered, especially those spending Christmas far from home and those they love. Email and mailing addresses can be found in this year's Missions booklet and on prayer cards in the rack on the Mission wall.

Did you know Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox project of Samaritan's Purse, doesn't end when Christmas is over? They always need help in November and December, but you can also volunteer in January and February to help assemble shoebox gifts which have been donated online. These boxes go to some of the world's hardest-to-reach places where Christmas is unknown. By helping with these special gifts you take part in sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth. If you are interested, find out more at samaritanspurse.org/Aurora.

Tracy and Karen Singleton spent most of November back in Zambia. They wish to thank all who contributed funds for a two-room house for Pastor Malumbi's family. They want us to know enough money was given to build the house and provide for his wife and children for a while after his death. Tracy writes that Pastor Joseph is full of hope in God as he faces his final days and asks that we continue to pray for them.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions



Games & Lunch:
(2nd Tuesday of the month)
Tuesday, December 5th
10:00 AM—1:00 PM, NC

Pizza Hut Lunch:
(3rd Friday of the month)
Friday, December 15th
11:30 AM at Monroe Pizza Hut
Contact Carol Hasselmann
with questions at 815-505-3324



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Candidate Weekend Reminder

You are invited to meet our candidate for Associate Pastor and his family **Saturday, December 2nd** from 1:00-2:00 PM in the Monroe Bible Church Nehemiah Center. This will be a time to hear the testimony of our candidate and responses to those questions submitted by our congregation prior to this meeting.

We have provided a copy of this candidate's written response to a series of questions each applicant was required to answer. **A copy is available for you to review and may be picked up at our Welcome Center.** Certain candidate information has been removed from the questionnaire to maintain a level of confidentiality until the process is completed. We ask you to kindly review the questionnaire packet that our candidate has submitted; this will provide insight into his doctrinal position and give you an opportunity to know more about him in advance.

Snacks/treats will be available during the "Meet & Greet" on Saturday afternoon.

Our candidate will preach at both services on **Sunday, December 3rd**. After the second service, there will be a Congregational Meeting in the Nehemiah Center with our candidate who will share or answer a few questions before the vote. MBC members will then vote regarding our candidate. Remember that you must be an active member of MBC in good standing, 16 years of age or older, in order to vote.

Pastor Search Committee – Monroe Bible Church



The Day of Christmas Eve

Worship Services:

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Service: 4:00 PM

No Sunday School classes,
 Pipeline, or Youth Groups



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Awana Store—December 13th

If you'd like to donate items for the store, label them "Awana Store" and drop them off at church before December 13th.

Thank you!



Men's Ministry Nativity Building!

Men and their kids are invited to 18 & 8th to **cut plywood, paint, and assemble Nativity sets on Tuesday, December 5th and Friday, December 8th** from 6:30 PM-9:00 PM in the lower level of 18 & 8th (1802 8th Street, Monroe). Bring sawhorses and jigsaws if you have them. Contact Jason Elgin with questions at 608-426-1978.

If you want to purchase a Nativity set for your lawn, sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office **by December 1st** to order a set. There are a limited number of Nativity sets available (15) so it will be on a "First Come, First Served" basis. The cost is \$35 per set. You may pick up your Nativity on Sunday, December 10th at MBC; make checks payable to Monroe Bible Church, write "Nativity" in the memo line.



Blood Drive!

Thursday, Dec. 14th

Noon-6:00 PM

Nehemiah Center



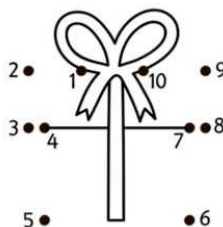
O Come Let Us Adore Him

_____ 's Christmas Coloring Placemat



There are _____ angels on this page

Connect the dots



Fill in the blanks (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Thanks be to _____ for His indescribable gift

