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Newsletter—January 2024

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Embrace the Family!



My family finished our Christmas gatherings on Christmas Eve, so Christmas Day was pretty low key. That's what happens when you become empty nesters. It was just fine this year since Christmas Eve was a Sunday – what a busy day! Christmas Day my son Erich and Heidi stopped over for a visit. I had 4 oxygen sensors to put in my truck and he came to help. When we finished, I thanked him and he said, "Even when you can do something yourself, it's always more enjoyable to do it with someone else." How true (although I really did need his help).

At our last Elder meeting one of the Elders asked me what I thought the church most needed. My response went something along the lines of – be brought together. We're very separated as a body of believers. Our calendars are full of activity. Some are very isolated from others in the church, many are living their lives pretty much independent of their brothers and sisters in the church and only see each other in passing on Sunday morning.

The centerpiece of our vision for making disciples is building families. This is not only the immediate family in each household, but also the family of God, and especially the church family called Monroe Bible Church. To build a family, there must be time together. The word in the Bible is fellowship. It was a core value of the early church, "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42, NASB95). Paul closed his letter to the church in Corinth with a trinitarian benediction, emphasizing Holy Spirit empowered fellowship in 2 Corinthians 13:14, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." Paul opened his letter to the church in Rome highlighting the need even he had for growth through fellowship in Romans 1:11–12, "For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; ¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you **while among you**, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine." It is the faith of one that helps the faith of another.

The time under the truck with my son reminded me, in a way, of the Christian life. It's more enjoyable, and we're more likely to succeed, when there are others with us. I said "a" way, because, let's be honest, fellowship isn't always enjoyable. Since we are a diverse group of sinners in various stages of sanctification, disappointments, dislikes, and hurts, are part of fellowship. Our culture, sometimes called "cancel culture," promotes separating oneself from those with whom you dislike or disagree. While nobody likes to be around difficult people, it's often those relationships that have the potential to grow us the most! Think about it, how much more do you stand to grow in character qualities like unconditional love, forgiveness, patience, tolerance, unity, generosity, humility, service, etc., among people you don't especially like, versus those you do like? I'll answer for you, A LOT! I think that's why God places a high value on fellowship.

So, here's my challenge to you in the year ahead, **embrace the family**. Spend more time with your immediate family, and the family of God. Look for opportunities to build family members by spending time together, working together, and speaking God's Word with love to one another. If you make a commitment to spend some time with some people you would rather not spend time with, you stand to grow – significantly!

Still growing through fellowship,
 Pastor Dan





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January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p><i>Pick up your 2024 Bible Reading Plan today!</i></p>	<p>1 New Year's Day</p> 	<p>2 No Primetimers Games & Lunch</p>	<p>3 No Sr. Life Group Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p>	<p>4 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S</p>	<p>5 No Homeschool Co-op Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>6 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>	
<p>7 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am 2024 Mission Trip Meeting—10:15 am, LL #106 Choir Practice—Noon-1 pm, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S Ignite—4:00-6:00 pm Fusion—6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>8 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Elder Meeting—6 pm, LL #106 Deacon Meeting—6 pm, NC</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm Women's Study begins—6:10 pm, LL Cry Room</p>	<p>11 Moms & Girls' Study begins—10 am-Noon, LL #106 Missions Meeting—5 pm, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>12 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S What's Up With Israel? A History of the Middle East Conflict—6:30 pm, NC Fusion to Districts—leaving at noon for Green Bay, WI</p>	<p>13 Women's Brunch—10 am-2 pm (All church) Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC Fusion at Districts—Green Bay, WI</p>	
<p>14 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am 2024 Mission Trip Meeting—Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S No Ignite or Fusion—Returning from Districts Baptismal Service—4:30 pm, 18 & 8th</p>	<p>15 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm Women's Study—6:10 pm, LL Cry Room</p>	<p>18 Moms & Girls' Study—10 am-Noon, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC No MBC Worship Practice</p>	<p>19 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL Primetimers—11:30 am, Monroe Pizza Hut lunch Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>20 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>	
<p>21 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am Next Steps-Step 1—Noon, NC, lunch provided Choir Practice—Noon-1 pm, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S Ignite—4:00-6:00 pm Fusion—6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>22 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>23 Choir Practice—7-8:00 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>24 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm Women's Study—6:10 pm, LL Cry Room</p>	<p>25 Moms & Girls' Study—10 am-Noon, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>26 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL Islam: What You Need to Know—6:30 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>27 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>	
<p>28 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am Choir Practice—Noon-1 pm, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S Ignite—4:00-6:00 pm Fusion—6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>29 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm Women's Study—6:10 pm, LL Cry Room</p>	<p>MBC Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, & Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon</p>			



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- 1 Dorothy McNett
Victor Paske
Bernie Roidt
- 2 Jeff Wunschel
Crystal Zimmerman
- 3 George Ohlrich
- 4 Ari Petersen
- 5 Shannon Ackerman
Cheryl Hartwig
- 6 Katelyn Schmitz
- 8 Hunter Hancock
Margie Johnson
- 9 CJ Erdmann

- 10 Kevin Geiwitz
- 11 Deb Meyer
Tim Wilcox
- 12 Ronald Bernhagen
- 14 Carson Montgomery
- 15 Cynthia Kitchell
Curt Wytttenbach
- 16 Shane Figi
- 20 Julia Figi
Amy Haworth
Joram Hurlbert
Erich Krahenbuhl

- 21 Richard Thoman
Larry Young
- 23 Gene Schultz
- 24 Isla Borke
Oscar Chiquito
Lynn Klitzke
Brinley Roidt
- 25 Angie Geiwitz
- 26 Deb Hendrickson
- 27 Avery Bartelt
- 28 Tyler Hartwig
- 31 Kay Bloom



- 1 Austin & Hannah Kramer
- 6 Tom & Jill Skoumal
- 17 John & Nicole Bartelt
- 18 Kevin & Linda Samson
- 22 Oscar & Karla Chiquito
- 29 Duang & Crystal Zimmerman



Pizza Hut Lunch:
Friday, January 19th
 (weather permitting)
 11:30 AM at Monroe Pizza Hut
 Contact Carol Hasselmann
 with questions at 815-505-3324

No Tuesday Games & Lunch in January!

Baptism

We will have a Baptismal Service on Sunday, January 14th at 4:30 PM at 18 & 8th (1802 8th St, Monroe).

If you would like to be baptized, contact the office for a copy of the short study on baptism. Be sure to talk to either Pastor Dan or Pastor Troy and confirm your intention to be baptized.



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Missions

Many here at MBC have been involved in the Retreat and Training Center project in Guatemala from the earliest days. Whether it was cutting grass with machetes, hauling dirt in wheelbarrows, pulling and straightening nails, praying that the hand dug well would find water, or many other tasks, MBC was there. Even if you haven't physically been there, most have invested in the project through prayer, fundraising carwashes, garage sales, pizza and Culver's events, helping with VBS crafts, etc. Oscar, our missionary in Sumpango, recently sent a very encouraging newsletter where he reviewed the center's purpose and how it will be used to care for and better equip pastors and church leaders in Guatemala. They in turn will be able to shepherd their churches with healthy Biblical leadership. Oscar wrote how it was a step of faith to begin with only 30% of the needed funds available. Over the last 17 months God has been providing what was needed precisely when it was needed each step of the way. Currently they are working on the third floor multipurpose room, trusting God to bring the \$25,000 needed for its completion. When the multipurpose room is completed, installation of the walls, doors, and windows on the first and second floors will begin. The goal is to have the first floor completed by the end of July 2024! Would you like to play a part in achieving this goal? You can by joining the 2024 short-term mission trip to Guatemala! Plans are to return June 8-15th. Expertise in construction is helpful, but not required. Besides construction, there are also opportunities to minister to Guatemalan families. If you are hearing God's call, plan to attend one of the informational meetings scheduled January 7th at 10:15 OR January 14th at noon. If you are unable to attend either meeting, please contact Crystal Zimmerman for information.

Another of our missionaries serving in a closed country, has shared the release of a deluxe 2024 wall calendar featuring his amazing photography. The proceeds from its sale supplement his support needs. If you are interested in helping with his support by purchasing one of these high quality 11 x 17 inch wire bound calendars for \$30, please contact Crystal Zimmerman. If we order several in one order, shipping is reduced.

Pipeline

January - Spiritual Warfare 102:

We have "armored up" in our ability to "resist the devil" in semester one through our study of the book of Ephesians. Now join us as we learn about how to "walk worthy of our calling" and give "no ground to the devil" in semester two. During the month of January, we will explore the wounded heart and how wounds can lead to strongholds. We will learn how to take thoughts captive to Christ and how to build joy along the way. We will discover how Christians give ground to the devil and how we can take that ground back. We will see how the world, the flesh, and the devil can conspire to push us off of our walk with God. We will learn how to walk in obedience and in victory on the path that God has laid out "in Christ, for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

February - Marriage Ministry Series:

Research shows that happy couples think in a way that unhappy couples don't. What if you could ensure your thoughts were setting you up to love well? You can!

In this six-session series entitled, "Us In Mind: How Changing Your Thoughts Can Change Your Marriage" with Ted Lowe, you will discover through Scripture, research, and neuroscience a simple way of rethinking about your marriage. We will focus on just Five Thoughts which are designed to help you love well, even when it is not easy. Be assured this series is not a bunch of stuffy lectures. It's full of humor, real-life examples, and practical application. We will have a lot of fun while we work together to strengthen all our relationships.

If you are married, engaged, dating, or even considering dating, mark your calendars now, to begin February 4th through March 10th. Join us to learn how you can change your marriage by changing your thoughts. It's simpler than you think.



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Prayer
MINISTRY



I've been thinking about the prayer ministry as I was in a hospital room for over a week. I remembered the song, "His Eye Is on the Sparrow". When Ray Jones (one of our Elders from a few years ago who now is in heaven) used to visit my father in the nursing home, Ray would approach my dad's room singing, "I sing because I'm happy. I sing because I'm free. His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me."

Since God is concerned about the sparrow as Scripture tells us, He surely is more concerned about those who have received Him as Savior. Proverbs 18:10 tells us "the name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and are safe." Psalms 46:1-2 says "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed and though the mountains be carried into the sea."

So what do all these verses have to do with prayer? These verses are the foundation of our faith. Our trials test us to believe what He says is true, even when we can't see. So, as we pray, we think about His Word to guide our prayer. Thank you for your prayers for me. Together the body of Christ in prayer, strengthens us all.

Everyone at Monroe Bible Church can be a prayer warrior. Prayer is a great privilege. Set time aside each day to pray. Pray throughout the day.

Dan Keen
Prayer Ministry Leader

What's Going On?!

With all that's going on in the world today, you may be asking, "What's going on?!" MBC will be presenting:

"What's Up With Israel? A (brief) History of the Middle East Conflict" on **Friday, January 12th** at 6:30 PM in the Nehemiah Center.

Come join us as we talk about what is going on in Israel. We will explore the roots of the problem with a short history beginning with the Ottoman Empire and moving to the present day. We will examine the roots of the conflict and ponder why peace has been so elusive in this holiest of lands. We will explore how to answer our friends when they ask if this is the "end of times". Most importantly, we will learn what God would have us do as we represent Christ on this issue.

"Islam: What You Need to Know" will be on **Friday, January 26th** at 6:30 PM in the Nehemiah Center.

Unless we know Muslims, or have read the Koran, It is hard to know what Islam is all about. As a result, we are confused by the mixed images and tag lines we witness across the multiple media outlets. Jim Kampa has worked closely with Muslim immigrants, has studied the Koran and the Hadith, and has been watching Islam's move into America. Come find out what it is all about so you are ready to "give an answer" to the religion that is the second largest in the world, and third largest in America. Come join us as we "explore Islam"

Come join us, all are welcome. Contact Jim Kampa with questions, 920-757-9551 or jrkampa44@gmail.com



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Women's Ministry

A Study for Girls & Their Moms

"Lies Girls Believe: And The Truth That Sets Them Free"

You can't change the world, but you can prepare her for it. Today's girls face a number of challenges we never dealt with at their age. From skyrocketing anxiety rates to bullying on social media, the Enemy's lies are everywhere. How do you help the girl you love walk in freedom? Equip her with Truth. Dannah Gresh brings you "Lies Girls Believe". This fun, easy-to-read book engages your daughter in the twenty most important truths she needs. She'll help solve problems using fun sidebars, and it's packed with wisdom, quizzes, games, exploded quotes, and graphics to help her absorb the message. Prepare your daughter for the difficult challenges she'll face in the world today with sections addressing:

Lies about God—Lies about Friendship—Lies about the Future—Lies about Myself—Lies about Boys—and more!

"Lies Girls Believe" is designed to help your daughter fully understand the Truth so she can live the way God meant for her to live—free! For the best results, use the accompanying "A Mom's Guide to Lies Girls Believe" which invites you to critically examine the lies girls believe and discover how to set your daughter free. It also helps facilitate discussion between you and your daughter.

This study will start Thursday, January 11th, from 10 AM-Noon, for girls ages 8+ with their moms or female adult mentor. Cost is \$15, this would include the girl book and the mom companion book. We are also looking for someone who would have interest in leading this study at night. If that is you, please contact Mia Kelley, Amanda Ohlrich, Chelsey Simler, Gabi Gruber, or Jill Skoumal

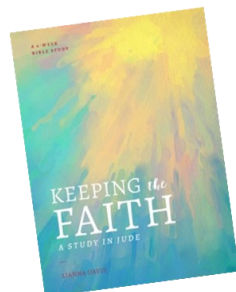


Introducing an Upcoming Women's Study...

In a culture of subjectivity and "speaking your truth," we need to know how to lovingly fight for our biblically-based, truth-filled faith. That's where Jude comes in. With a striking combination of humility, genuine love, doctrinal faithfulness, and directness, the biblical writer Jude teaches you how to treasure the gifts of salvation, the faith, the Church, and—most of all—Jesus Christ. By unpacking Jude's meaning-laden words, we can learn to keep ourselves for Christ, even as Christ is ably keeping us for Himself.

You'll be amazed at how much you can learn as you walk verse-by-verse through this small epistle. In this study, you'll learn why Jude uses metaphors like waterless clouds and wild waves, what was going on in Jude's time theologically and why it matters, why the warning passages can be a deep comfort to the believer, and to appreciate new dimensions of your belonging in Christ. Get to know the oft-neglected voice of Jude, be comforted and challenged in your faith, and build community as we gather and study His Word together in "Keeping the Faith".

**This study will meet Wednesday nights, starting January 10th at 6:10pm
in the lower level Cry Room & Kitchenette, and meet for 7 weeks.**



Keeping the Faith:
A Study in Jude
By Lianna Davis
Go to <https://liannabdavis.com>
for more information about the author

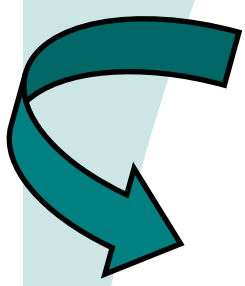
*When this study concludes we will be starting "Included in Christ" by Heather Holleman.



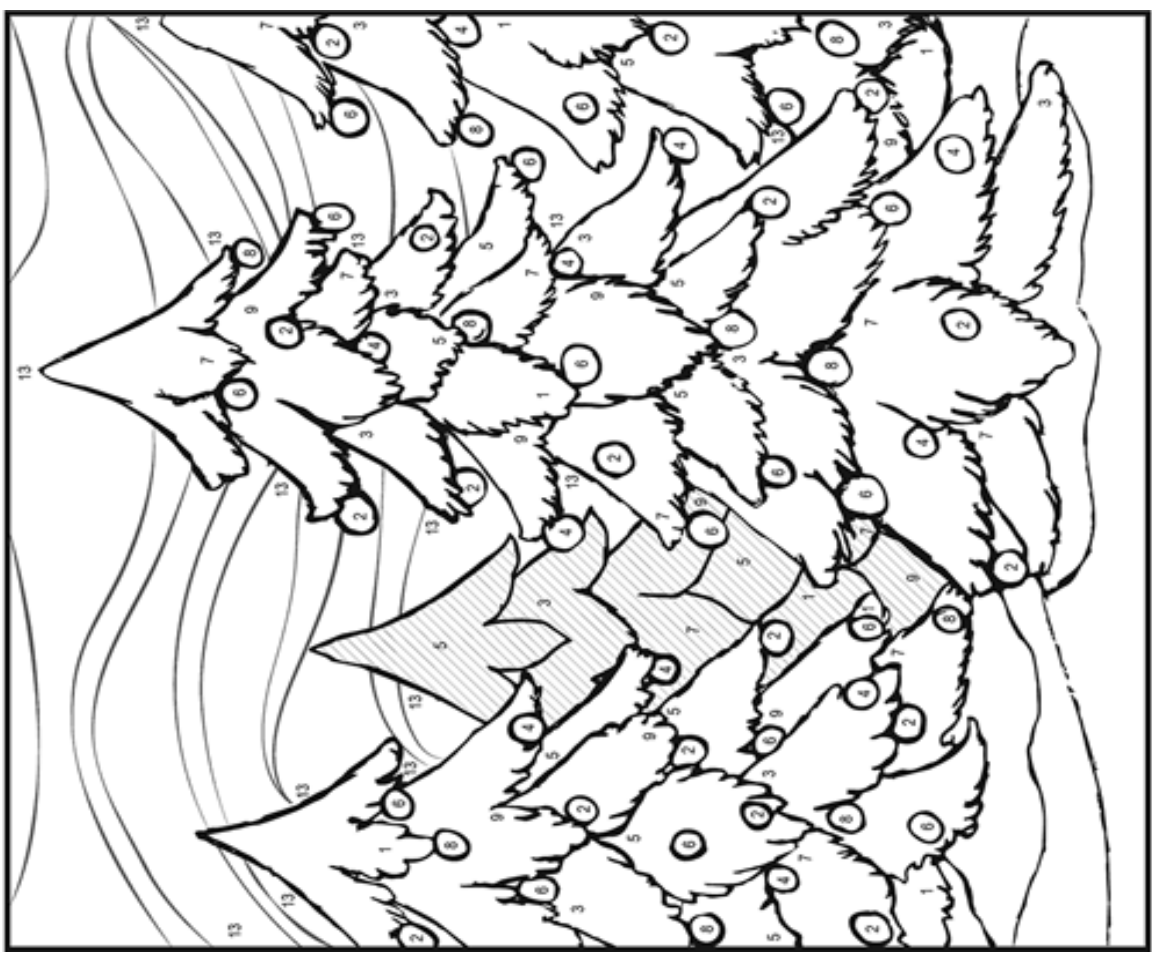
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Coloring Just for Fun!



Holiday Color By Number



Color:
All odd numbers are green, all even numbers are red and all sections numbered 13 are blue.