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Newsletter—April 2024



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What Does Pastor Kevin Do?



This may be a question you have, and perhaps have even asked since Pastor Kevin started. First, Pastor Kevin was hired to help Pastor Troy and me. We intentionally weren't detailed in Pastor Kevin's job description when we hired him. We wanted to put all the pastoral responsibilities on the table and sort out who would be responsible for what, based on experience, gifting, and ministry passion. We hired Pastor Kevin based on strong Christian character, theological and philosophical alignment, and skill and experience in ministry. We believe we made a good hire in that respect.

Where is help needed? Pastor Troy's title had been Family Ministry Pastor. He has spent a lot of time helping build two student ministries' leadership teams, teaching/facilitating the Pipeline class Sunday mornings, and providing leadership and direction to the new and unforeseen ministries at 18 & 8th. My weeks are full with weekly sermon preparation, and the day to day business of church leadership and congregational and administrative needs. Thus far Pastor Kevin has been sitting in on classes, getting to know people, and evaluating our ministries with "fresh eyes." He is rightly asking how we are approaching our mission of making disciples in our various ministries and giving thought and prayer to how we might take the next step of improvement.

Our mission is to make disciples (Matt. 28:19). We make disciples of Jesus by bringing people to Him for saving faith (evangelism), and by helping them follow Him in sanctification (spiritual growth). We are to do this as individuals but also by joining together with others into teams, and as a whole body of believers. As pastors our responsibility is to equip you for the ministry of disciple-making (Eph. 4:12). It's this "equipping" that we've had to set aside too often because of other urgent ministry needs. As we move forward, we hope to help equip those in our congregation who desire to be disciple-makers, whether as individuals or as team members.

I like the way Pastor Kevin keeps asking about our goal(s) and mission. He asked me how we define a disciple last week. My short answer, "A disciple is someone who has an overflowing walk with Jesus." By that I mean his or her walk with the Lord spills out in every area of their life; everything they do points to Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Disciple-making (evangelism, sanctification, worship, Christian service) isn't a program, it's the product of a vibrant walk with Christ.

At this point in our process of discerning who takes which responsibility, we've decided Pastor Kevin's focus areas will be small groups (including Life Groups, Bible studies, and mentoring), Men's Ministry, and Pipeline. He will also preach with some regularity. Pastor Troy's focus areas will be children's and student ministry (including Sunday School, Awana, Ignite, and Fusion), and Outreach (including missions - local and beyond, and 18 & 8th). I will continue to do most of the preaching, give overall leadership, and develop what we hope to be an ongoing leadership development curriculum.

Pastor Troy and Pastor Kevin will both have the title Associate Pastor. Building families will be something we all intentionally integrate into our ministry focus areas. We hope and pray that this reorganization will also alleviate the heavy ministry loads on our Elders, and free them up to fulfill some of the Elder responsibilities they are called to do.



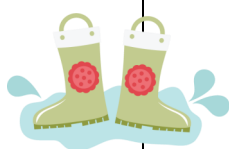
As pastors, our emphasis will be to help equip you for what God has called you to do. We want to help each of you walk closer with Christ so that you have an overflowing life. If you already have an overflowing life, we're glad you're on our team! If not, please join us, I think you will find there is no greater joy and satisfaction in life than living the life you were meant to live.

In Service to Christ,
 Pastor Dan





hello, april

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Primitimers Games & Lunch—10 am—1 pm, NC/K</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC</p> <p>Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p> <p>Women's Study—6:15 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Moms & Girls' Study 10 am- Noon, LL #106</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC</p> <p>MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Homeschool Co-op - 8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p> <p>Voice of the Martyrs—6:30 pm, NC</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Men's Breakfast—8-10 am, NC/K</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am, at MBC</p> <p>Café Service & Baptism, 11:00 am at 18 & 8th Potluck following</p> <p>Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am, MBC</p> <p>NC/K in use Noon-3:30 pm</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S</p> <p>Ignite—4:00-6:00 pm</p> <p>Fusion—6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p> <p>Elder Board Meeting—6 pm, LL #106</p> <p>Deacon Board Meeting—6 pm, NC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Missions Meeting—7 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC</p> <p>Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p> <p>Women's Study—6:15 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Moms & Girls' Study 10 am- Noon, LL #106</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC</p> <p>MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p> <p>Wounded Heart Study begins—6:30 pm, NC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am</p> <p>Step 1—Noon, NC</p> <p>Step 5 (s.1)—Noon, LL #106</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S</p> <p>Ignite—4:00-6:00 pm</p> <p>Fusion—6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Forest Lakes District Spring Conference</p> <p>Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC</p> <p>Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p> <p>Women's Study—6:10 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Moms & Girls' Study—10 am-Noon, LL #106</p> <p>Blood Drive—Noon to 6 pm, NC</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC</p> <p>MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL</p> <p>Primitimers Pizza Hut Lunch— 11:30 am</p> <p>Wounded Heart Study— 6:30 pm, <u>at 18 & 8th this night</u></p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Anniversary Celebration— 6-9 pm, All Church</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Anniversary Celebration— 9 am-6 pm, All Church</p>
<p>21</p> <p>LORD'S TABLE</p> <p>Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am</p> <p>Step 2 (s.1)—9 am, Library</p> <p>Step 5 (s.2)—Noon, LL #106</p> <p>AV Ministry Mtg.—Noon-2:00 pm, NC</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S</p> <p>Ignite—4:00-6:00 pm</p> <p>Fusion—6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC</p> <p>Awana Store Night: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p> <p>Women's Study Ends—6:10 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Moms & Girls' Study—10 am-Noon, LL #106</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC</p> <p>MBC Worship Practice—7:00 pm, S</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p> <p>Wounded Heart Study—6:30 pm, NC</p> <p>Weekend to Remember begins—Madison</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Weekend to Remember—Madison</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Weekend to Remember Concludes</p> <p>Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School & Pipeline—9:00 am</p> <p>Step 2 (s. 2) 9:00 am, Library</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S</p> <p>Ignite/Fusion Sundae Fun Day with Primitimers—4:00-6:00 pm, NC</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>30</p>	 <div data-bbox="852 1738 1404 1927" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f0ff;"> <p style="text-align: center;">MBC Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM & Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon</p> </div>			



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Happy Birthday!

2 Crystal Hartwig
 3 Steve Fowler
 Devin Long
 4 Karen Brunner
 5 Micah Brunner
 6 Carson Eddy
 7 Raelynn Hartwig
 Jesse Petersen
 8 Walter Botteron
 11 Tanner IIs
 Tonya Reed

12 Jaxon Covert
 Ed Demianiuk
 Tessa Hurlbert
 13 Violet Ohlrich
 Chelsey Simler
 14 Marlys Isely
 15 Aaron Roidt
 16 Neva Schultz
 18 Luke Morris
 19 Cheryl Gilley
 Oliver Hardacre

19 Sharon Kubly
 Olivia Witt
 21 Preston Krauss
 Ray Wyss
 22 Christian Ohlrich
 24 Simon Rische
 25 Issac Welsh
 28 Libby Swenson
 29 Ewan Miller
 30 Joan Howe
 Jane Thoman

HAPPY anniversary

14 John & Dawn Jordan
 19 Kevin & Angie Geiwitz
 Randy & Lorna Schindler
 30 Tim & Nicole Wilcox



Games & Lunch:
Tuesday, April 2nd
10 AM-1 PM, NC

Pizza Hut Lunch:
Friday, April 19th
11:30 AM at Monroe Pizza Hut
Contact Carol Hasselmann
with questions at 815-505-3324

Welcome Baby!

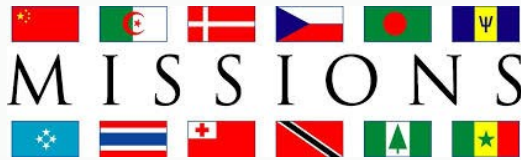
Congratulations to Tyler & Crystal Hartwig on the birth of their baby boy! Paxton Francis Hartwig was born on Saturday, February 24th. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20" long.

May God bless your family!





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April showers bring May flowers as the old saying goes. It also means the Guatemala mission trip is only a couple months away! Please be praying for each team member, as well as Oscar and Karla Chiquito. Support letters will be sent out this month. We truly covet prayer as well as financial support for the trip. Both are essential for the mission work God has entrusted to the team. Team members are Jim, Marissa, David, and Joram Hurlbert, Wade, Lily, and Braden Williams, Anna, Daniel, and Joshua Skoumal, Todd and Tanner IIs, Kaitlyn and Jadyn Elgin, Brinley Roidt, Aleigh Zettle, Weston Prien, Lukas Andersen, Luke Morris, and Jacob Watson.

One Meal food packing for Kids Around the World is scheduled for May 11th at 18 & 8th. Sign up at the Welcome Center or on our church website to join in the packing fun! It costs \$9,600 to hold this event which provides 30,000 meals and the gospel to the world's poorest people. If the Lord lays it upon your heart to contribute to this project, please look for the labeled wooden donation box behind the sanctuary beginning this month. Checks need to be made out to **Kids Around the World** (KATW), not MBC. This is a big step in faith to seek such a large sum, but our God is able to do far more than we can imagine, and we believe it is pleasing to Him when we provide food for the starving, along with the Good News, and that He will bless our efforts.

A day trip to visit Shepherds College is in the planning, hopefully before the end of this semester. Kevin Phillips recently let us know that the College was honored to be featured on a national broadcast called Small Town Big Deal. You are strongly encouraged to watch this uplifting 19 minute show! You can find it on either YouTube or the Small Town Big Deal website. It will leave you blessed to know MBC supports such an impactful ministry to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Watching the show is a few minutes well spent.

A one time gift was recently sent to Decision Point, the organization Devin and Shannon Long serve under, for a new campaign titled "I Have Decided". The funds will be used to help Christian students lead a weeklong outreach at their school. The gift we sent will go toward students' training, Bibles, t-shirts, flyers, and other resources. Students as young as 12 years old and some who haven't even been saved for a whole year boldly tell their whole school that they have decided to follow Jesus, sharing their testimony with their peers. This student evangelism campaign seeks to equip 10,000 students in 25 cities to win peers for Christ as well as launch podcasts and online gospel distribution through social media internationally. Join us in praying that God bless the efforts of these students, giving them boldness and courage, and that many of their peers will decide to follow Jesus.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader



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Attention Class of 2024 Graduating Seniors!

If you (or your son or daughter) are graduating from high school or college this spring, please email *both* the church office *and* Beth Roidt (office@monroebiblechurch.org and bethroidt@gmail.com) 5 jpeg photos of yourself “through the years” from birth through senior photos, along with your date/place of graduation, any party information you’d like to include, and what your future plans are. Please submit these to both email addresses **by April 21st!**



We will be recognizing all of our Graduating High School Seniors at Worship Services on Sunday, May 12th.



As we approach our celebration of Easter, I was thinking of all the things Jesus went through for mankind. Jesus was betrayed by Judas with a kiss and Judas was given 30 pieces of silver for doing that to our Savior. Peter denied knowing Jesus. Jesus was mocked by the soldiers. He was beaten severely. Jesus was brought before the Council, then before Pilate, also before Herod, and then returned to Pilate. Pilate wouldn't stand up to those who wanted Jesus crucified, so Jesus was crucified. Jesus gave His life to pay for the penalty of our sins.

Jesus gives us many examples of the importance of prayer. He prayed on the Mount of Olives to His Father "Remove this cup from me if you are willing, nevertheless, not My Will, but Yours be done". While He was praying, His disciples were sleeping. Jesus proved His belief in the importance of prayer. With this great example in God's word, we should make prayer an important part of our life.

Pastor Dan encouraged the congregation to go on a media fast. A good way to do that is reading through the Bible in a year. Read good books like "Prayer Coach" by James Nicodem or "A Deeper Walk" by Marcus Warner. Spending more time in prayer is another great way to replace media.

In closing, as we approach Easter, read and meditate on the life of Jesus. Thank Him for all He is doing for us and all He has done for us.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



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MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, April 6th
8:00-10:00 AM
Nehemiah Center

Come Join Fusion & Ignite for a...

Sundae FUN DAY!



We want to have a
Hymn sing-a-long
and eat Ice Cream Sundaes
with our Primetime friends on...

Sunday April 28
4-6 pm
@ MBC

We hope to see you there!



With Our Sympathy

We would like to extend our sympathy to Angel Prien and her children. Alan Prien passed away on Wednesday, February 21st in a tragic accident. May God's peace that surpasses all understanding comfort each of you during this difficult time.

Thursday, April 18th



Noon-6:00 PM

In the Nehemiah Center of MBC

NEXT STEPS

Next Steps at MBC

Next Steps are ways to learn more about and become involved at Monroe Bible Church. Sign up for all Next Steps classes on our website, contact the office, or use the Chromebook at the Welcome Center.

Step 1 "Our Mission & Vision" *This Step is required for membership.
Sunday, April 14th, Noon—lunch provided

Step 5 "On Mission" *This is required for those who go on mission trips that our church sponsors.

Session 1—Sunday, April 14th, Noon, LL #106 (BYO Lunch)
Session 2—Sunday, April 21st, Noon, LL #106 (BYO Lunch)

Step 2 "Our Core Beliefs" *This Step is required for membership.
Session 1—Sunday, April 21st, 9 AM, Library
Session 2—Sunday, April 28th, 9 AM, Library

The next **Awana Store** will be April 24. Your donations of gifts would help make the store night a success.



The **Awana Closing Ceremony** is Wednesday, May 1st at 6:15 PM. The whole church is invited for the Awards Ceremony and snacks afterwards. Donations of cookies or bars would be appreciated. Thank you!

Kim Markham
 Awana Ministry Director



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***Please Note—April 7th Worship Services!**

Have you been Baptized?

Sunday, April 7th: We will have our regular **9:00 AM** Worship Service at Monroe Bible Church, along with our Sunday School and Pipeline classes. (No 10:30 service at MBC this day).

We will then have an **11:00 AM** Worship & Baptismal Service with Potluck at our 18 & 8th facility (1802 8th St). **If you haven't been baptized and would like to follow the Lord's example and be baptized during this service, sign up at the Welcome Center or contact one of the pastors today!**

Please join us and bring a generous dish to share for the potluck following the 11:00 AM service at 18 & 8th. Everyone welcome!

Understanding the Wounded Heart

The world, and the people in it, can wound our hearts. The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus came to “heal the brokenhearted, binding up their wounds” (Ps 147:3).



Dr. Marcus Warner's book, ***Understanding the Wounded Heart*** is a biblically balanced practical guide to understanding how our hearts get wounded, and more importantly, how to see them made whole again.

- ◆ Gain a stronger understanding of the core causes of emotional wounding.
- ◆ Learn practical tools you can put to work in your own life, and in those you minister to, to gain freedom from wounds.
- ◆ Get better at “tearing down strongholds” in your life, and in the lives of others.
- ◆ Be encouraged and strengthened as you apply what you are learning to your life.

This study will meet each Friday evening from April 12th through June 14th at 6:30 pm in the Nehemiah Center of MBC. **Please note: for one week only, April 19th, we will meet in the upper level Conference Room at 18 & 8th (1802 8th St.)*

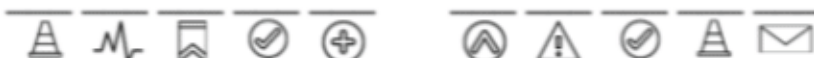
Please purchase your book ahead of time from whichever source you prefer.
Contact Jim Kampa with questions, 920-757-9551.



JESUS' RESURRECTION

Use the clues and the secret code below to figure out the answers to the questions. Then, see if you can find each of the words that you wrote in the word search.

I was told to watch the tomb containing Jesus' body. I thought it would be easy, until I felt the earth quake and saw an angel. Later, I was paid a lot of money to lie and say that Jesus' disciples had stolen His body while I slept. *(Matthew 28:2-4 & 11-15)*



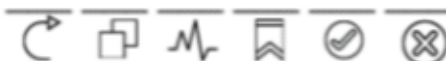
I was crying because I thought someone had moved Jesus' body, but then I heard Jesus say my name and saw Him standing before me! *(John 20:1, 11-16)*



I spoke to some women and told them, "Do not be afraid; Jesus has risen from the dead!" *(Matthew 28:5-6)*



I said I would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until I could see and touch the nail prints in His hands and the place where the sword had pierced His side. *(John 20:24-29)*



Jesus asked me if I loved Him three times. In this way, He helped me to know that I was forgiven for denying that I knew Him three times before His death. *(John 21:15-17)*



A	D	E	G	H
L	M	N	O	P
R	S	T	U	Y

D	M	N	N	A	A	A	R	
A	A	D	U	Y	A	E	M	A
N	G	N	P	N	A	E	G	D
G	D	A	T	E	A	A	S	A
S	A	M	O	H	T	R	M	Y
M	L	O	A	M	U	E	R	A
D	E	R	D	G	U	A	R	D
A	N	G	E	L	M	E	A	A
H	E	D	U	L	A	H	A	O