



MONROE
BIBLE
CHURCH

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

In This Issue

- Pastor's Pen 1
- Calendar 2
- Birthdays 3
- Anniversaries
- Sympathy
- Congratulations
- Missions Ministry - 4
- Fish Eyes Play
- Thank YOU!
- Fall Kick Off 5
- Awana
- Vanilla Fire
- Growth Groups 6
- Prayer Ministry 7
- Next Steps at MBC
- Primetimers
- Activities Page 8

Newsletter—September 2024



“Little Things”

The parable of the unrighteous steward always leaves me scratching my head and feeling convicted, but this time also encouraged. Scratching my head because the unrighteous steward cheated his master and is commended for being shrewd, and mammon (money and material goods) are called unrighteous. How does mammon act unrighteously? I can't come up with a good answer.

Shrewd, however, can mean something good. Here's the definition from merriam-webster.com: "a: marked by clever discerning awareness and hardheaded acumen; *shrewd* common sense; b: given to wily and artful ways or dealing; a *shrewd* operator."

In the parable, Luke 16:1-13, a manager uses his position to win the favor of some of his master's debtors so that he will have their favor when he is fired. Jesus makes the application in 8b, "for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light." (Luke 16:8, NASB). He explains the "good shrewd" in verse 9, "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails, they will receive you into the eternal dwellings." (Luke 16:9). Obviously, the "friends" would be believers who with gratitude welcome you into heaven. The parable, then, is an exhortation to make disciples!

The convicting part is verses 11-13, "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? **12** "And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? **13** "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." (Luke 16:11-13). I haven't been nearly as faithful in my use of money for my Master as I could have been. I have material wealth that the Lord has entrusted to me to "manage" for Him as a good steward and all too often I don't think of it in that way. The Pharisees scoffed at Jesus for saying this because they were "lovers of money" (verse 14). I don't want to be like them!

What are the "true riches" of verse 11? Most call it spiritual responsibility in the kingdom of God. Isn't this what we all want, even though we might not know it? It would be in proportion to the gifting and ability God has given and will give. Not a burden but a sense of fulfillment in life! This is encouraging! The part that stood out to me this time though was the short phrase, "in a very little thing," in verse 10. Here's the verse, "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much." (Luke 16:10). It's the little things, the "very little," that we can all begin to see and work at! Just being faithful in those daily opportunities we have, to give, to share, to speak, to give testimony, is what the Lord longs to see in us.

In September we'll be focusing our ministries on how we make disciples, so, let's all be thinking about the little things, and not allow our mammon to be our master!

For the little things,
Pastor Dan





September



MBC Office Hours:

**Monday—Thursday 8 AM—4 PM
& Fridays 8 AM—Noon**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Growth Group Sign-ups are at the Welcome Center today! Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S</p>	<p>2 Labor Day (Office Closed)</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7 pm, NC</p>	3	<p>4 Sr. Growth Group—1 pm, NC</p>	<p>5 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC</p> <p>MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S</p>	<p>6 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:45 pm</p> <p>Women's Ministry Vanilla Fire! - 6:30 pm, MBC campfire area</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>7 NC in use—10 am—3 pm</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>8 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Next Steps—Step 3 (1s.)—9 am, Library</p> <p>Awana Pre-Registration after each service</p> <p>Growth Group Leader Training—Noon-4:00 pm, NC</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S</p>	<p>9 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>Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7 pm, NC</p>	<p>10 Missions Ministry Meeting—5 pm, LL #102</p> <p>AV Team Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>11 Sr. Growth Group—1 pm, NC</p>	<p>12 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC</p> <p>No MBC Worship Practice</p>	<p>13 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:45 pm</p> <p>Play "Fish Eyes"—7:00-8:30 pm, S</p>	<p>14 Women's Brunch—10 am-1 pm, NC/K</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p> <p>Growth Group Sign-up closes today.</p>
<p>15 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Awana Pre-Registration after each service</p> <p>Next Steps—Step 4 (s.1)—9 am, Library</p> <p>Sunday School & Pipeline Kicks-Off! 9 am</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S</p>	<p>16 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7 pm, NC</p>	17	<p>18 Sr. Growth Group—1 pm, NC</p> <p>Awana Kick-Off! Trek/Journey—5:15 pm</p> <p>Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p>	<p>19 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC</p> <p>MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S</p>	<p>20 No Homeschool Co-op</p> <p>Printimers Pizza Hut Lunch—11:30 am, Pizza Hut, Monroe</p> <p>Church in use for Wedding decorating & rehearsal</p>	<p>21 Church in use for Wedding</p> <p>Cheese Days Cooling Center at 18 & 8th—Upper Level, 9 am-6 pm</p>
<p>22 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Next Steps—Step 4 (s.2)—9 am, Library</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S</p>	<p>23 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	24	<p>25 Sr. Growth Group—1 pm, NC</p> <p>Awana: Trek/Journey—5:15 pm</p> <p>Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p>	<p>26 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC</p> <p>MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>27 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:45 pm</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>28 Outdoor Wedding—church reserved as back up</p>
<p>29 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S</p>	<p>30 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p> <p>Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7 pm, NC</p>					



Newsletter—September 2024

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Indy Garchie
- 2 Charles Champlin
Lila Kramer
- 3 Ramona Johnson
- 5 Nancy Larson
Anna Ritschard
- 6 Nate Ackerman
Levi Erdmann
Rick Hartwig
Madeline Pals
- 7 Russell Meyer
Scarlett Reed
- 8 Josh Montgomery
Ezekiel Ritschard
Samuel Roidt
Tom Skoumal
- 10 Austin Kramer

- 11 Isaiah Ritschard
- 12 Oscar Chiquito
Maggie Holverson
Aiden Pleindoux
- 13 Caden Montgomery
- 14 Caleb Schmitz
- 15 Keziah Reed
- 16 Robin Nafzger
- 17 Ophelia Hardacre
Keeleigh Thostenson
- 19 Andrea Brunner
Greg Dyer
- 20 Anne Keegan
Shannon Long
- 21 Abigail Rhoe
- 22 Deb Hauri
- 23 Nathan Botteron

- 23 Bob Hauri
- 25 Jennifer Matranga
- 26 Cree Schadewaldt
- 27 Joe Thoman
- 28 Violet Schwindt
- 29 Chris Morris
- 30 Roman Dechtiarenko



- 9 Chris & Laura Holverson
- 13 Steven & Gritly McNett
- 18 Jeff & Marie Wunschel
- 19 Steve & Shannon Allbaugh
- 21 Jesse & Gracie Petersen
- 22 Jeff & Ann Italiano
Darryl & Kim Wheeler
- 25 Rich & Anita Peach
- 27 Bill & Deb Westphal
- 28 Dan & Deb Hendrickson
- 29 Larry & Jeanne Hermanson

With Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to Rich & Anita Peach & their family. Anita's mom, Ethel Ramsey Murphy, passed away on Tuesday, August 6th.

We offer our sympathy to Jim & Deb Hurlbert & their family. Jim's dad, David M. Hurlbert, passed away on Sunday, August 11th.

May God comfort each of your families and bless you with His peace.

Wedding Congratulations!



Devan Schulte & Kayleigh Nesbitt were married at Monroe Bible Church on Saturday, July 20, 2024.

Lukas Andersen & Kaitlyn Elgin were united in marriage on Saturday, August 3, 2024.

May God bless your marriages with joy!



Newsletter—September 2024

MISSIONS

Missions ministry has several events scheduled for September. On **Friday, September 13th** we will host a two man play here at church titled "**Fish Eyes**". Kontaktmission USA offers this hour long presentation as a way for local churches to fund mission work, but it is also an excellent reminder that the disciples were ordinary people responding to Jesus' invitation to follow him. In a lighthearted and entertaining way, it will invite you to consider Peter and Andrew's confusion, questions, and conflicted thoughts as they walked with Jesus. Does this sound like anyone you know? Maybe they sound like us sometimes. We urge you to invite those who have not yet accepted the Gospel but are curious. We guarantee it will open doors for deeper discussion and thought. The play is free to attend but a free will offering will be taken to cover the group's expenses. Whatever is above that amount will be used for MBC missions. We look forward to a packed church as we use this opportunity to reach others for Christ.

On the Friday and Saturday of Cheese Days, we once again will have a tent on the square selling bottles of water. This is not just a way to earn money for KATW One Meal food packing next spring. It has been a good way to make MBC visible to the community and invite unchurched locals. It also provides awareness of Kids Around The World and the many ways they reach children and families for Christ. Perhaps you haven't had the means to give financially for the Meal packing, but when you give a few hours of time to work in the water tent, you ARE giving in a very impactful way. If you enjoy talking with people, please sign up at the Welcome Center for a shift or two. We welcome teens, families, seniors, everyone!

Also on Cheese Days weekend we welcome Nate Ackerman for the Sunday message. Many of you have heard Nate preach and know he always brings a meaningful message from God's Word. MBC has supported Nate, who is originally from Monroe, since 2005. His missionary work has taken him from Campus Crusade for Christ at a U.S. university, to foreign soil for a decade, back to the U.S. and the Jesus Film Project with Cru, and now back to a foreign country. Along the way God has given Nate his wife and three little daughters. We know it is a busy weekend but please bless Nate and Shannon with your presence at church to hear where God is leading them for this next phase of missionary service.

Looking ahead, October brings the annual Harvest Weekend when we honor all the missionaries supported by MBC. This year we will hear from Randy and Shirley Haglund as well as Trevor who serves in a closed part of the world. Don't forget to save October 12-13th for this very special time.

Crystal Zimmerman, Ministry Leader

thank you!

Thanks so much to all who volunteered and who donated at the Missions Fundraiser Garage Sale in June. We were able to raise over **\$7,151.15!**

Over fifty volunteers worked hundreds of hours to make the sale happen.

Many people came to the church building, had conversations, found good deals, and were invited to VBS.

Leftovers went to Family Promise, Monroe Clothes Closet, Green Haven, 18&8th, Greenco Industries, Goodwill, St. Vincent, Prom for Pennies, Awana store, and In the Name of Jesus Outreach Ministry (inner city Chicago).



Newsletter—September 2024

9:00 AM on September 15
Sunday School & Pipeline Begin!

FALL MINISTRY
 EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

KICK OFF

Wednesday, September 18
AWANA Begins!

AWANA Pre-Registration after each service on Sunday, September 8th and 15th

Awana is starting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. **We could use the congregation's help in making cookies or bars for that night and prayer for the new Awana year.** Thank you for helping make resilient disciples!

****Note the new time for Trek & Journey!***

Trek & Journey begins at 5:15 pm
 Cubbies through T & T from 6:15-7:50 pm



Join us Friday, September 6th, for a night of vanilla extract making with a campfire to follow, starting at 6:30pm.
 \$5 donation requested for the vanilla



Newsletter—September 2024



Growth Groups are an essential part of accomplishing our God-given mission as a church. The elders believe the most-consistent place for growing in Jesus is in the authentic relationships of a small group of believers.

The purpose of our Growth Groups is to foster authentic Christ-centered relationships.

We invite and encourage everyone to join a Growth Group where you will experience connection with other believers, applicable sermon-based discussion, prayer and support.

These home gatherings are made up of 10-14 people who meet weekly to grow in their walk with Christ and with one another. A trained leader will facilitate each group.

The groups will meet for three 10-week sessions from mid-September through mid-May, taking a break during the summer months.

Sign-ups for the first session of Growth Groups will be available September 1 – September 14 at the Welcome Center. Group spots are first-come, first-served with a hard cap of 14 adults. Don't wait!

Contact Pastor Kevin with any questions.



Newsletter—September 2024

Have you read a good book on prayer lately? Consider reading "Prayer Coach" and "A Journey to Victorious Praying". They are both in the church library as well as many other books on prayer.

The Bible has many passages that can give us guidance on prayer. I will give you four passages to read: Ephesians 1:15-23, Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 1:9-11, and Colossians 1:9-12. Set aside time this month to read these passages. You can find time to read these passages by turning off the television, setting aside your phone, and making a goal to learn more about prayer.



Make it a goal to set aside more time to pray each and every day. Make a prayer list to remind you of the many requests you can pray for. The National Day of Prayer organization has made seven categories of prayer to pray for: 1.Church 2.Government 3. Family 4. Education 5.Business 6.Military 7. Media You may find this a helpful tool in making your prayer list. We should always remember to pray for our unsaved relatives, neighbors, and friends. Make time each day to pray. Many preachers have stated that we make time for what we believe is most important. Prayer is very important.

Our spiritual life is important. We are advised to take care of our physical body by eating properly and exercising. We must be careful of what we hear, see, and do as it affects us spiritually. Neglecting daily Bible reading and daily prayer times will lead to spiritual weakness. You can pray while you exercise, walk, mow your lawn, or when you're driving to work.

You're welcome to join us at 6 p.m. on Monday for prayer meeting at the church. See you there!

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

NEXT STEPS

What's Your Next Step?

Through each of the Next Steps classes you will learn more about MBC, how to get involved, become a member, and grow personally in your relationship with the Lord. Pick up a 2024 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 3 (1s.) – "Our Commitments"
September 8th at 9:00 AM in the library. We'll address the topics of eternal life, spiritual growth, baptism, and church membership.

Next Steps-Step 4 (2s.) – "Our Equipping"
September 15th & 22nd at 9:00 AM in the library. Learn about spiritual gifts, serving together, and explore how God has gifted you!



Pizza Hut Lunch
Friday, September 20th
11:30 AM

Monroe Pizza Hut

**Contact Carol Hasselmann with
questions at 815-505-3324**

Activites Page



Reachin for the Goal

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philipians 3:13-14 (NIV)

Complete the Activity

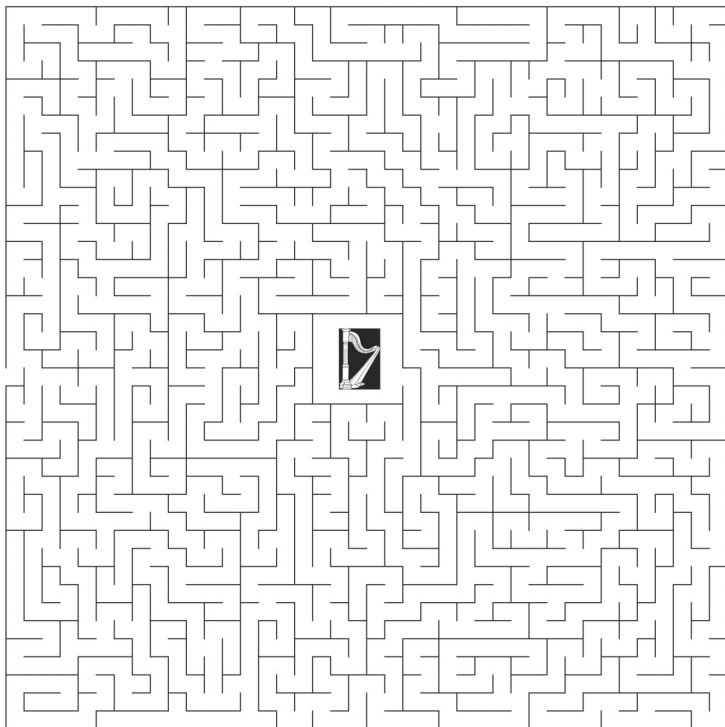
The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the numbers on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided.

S	Z	K	J	R	L	M	H	F	U	B	Q	N	W	T	Y	V	I	E	A	O	P	G	D	C	X
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 9-20-18-15-8 _____ 22-21-14-19-5 _____
- 22-5-18-2-19 _____ 11-19-8-18-13-24 _____
- 9-21-5-23-19-15 _____ 8-19-20-17-19-13 _____
- 25-8-5-18-1-15 _____ 20-8-19-20-24 _____
- 24-19-20-15-8 _____ 22-19-5-9-19-25-15 _____
- 1-10-9-9-19-5-18-13-23 _____ 23-21-20-6 _____

- GOAL POWER PERFECT PRIZE
- SUFFERING AHEAD FAITH FORGET
- HEAVEN CHRIST BEHIND DEATH

Maze—Delight in God's Word



Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. Psalm 1:1-2 NIV

