



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

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# Newsletter—December 2024

## Joy



You've probably heard me say it, and I've probably written it as well, Christmas is not a favorite holiday of mine. That's sad, and I'm not proud to admit it. What could be more important to celebrate (other than Easter) than the holiday set aside to celebrate the arrival of the Son of God on the earth to be our Savior? I've allowed the commercialization of Christmas to skew my attitude. The extra busyness of parties and presents that don't reflect what should be the joy of Christmas too easily takes my attention sideways.

In my through-the-Bible reading, the word "joy" jumped out the other day. Perhaps it was partly because the Christmas season is upon us. I was in John 17, "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves." (John 17:13, NASB95). It jumped out because I had read of Jesus using the word "joy" the two previous days in chapter 16, and in chapter 15. This would have all been during His last evening with them, the cross literally only hours away, and two of the three times in these chapters Jesus called it "My joy"!

In John 17 Jesus is praying to the Father, presumably in a way that the disciples overhear it. His prayer is that His joy be "made full" in them. In John 15 Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:11). Jesus is telling His disciples that it is having His joy that will bring fullness to their joy. What kind of joy is this, He's going to die an excruciatingly painful death!

The context of John 15:11 is abiding in Christ for fruitfulness. It is abiding in His love by keeping His commandments, and His commandment to love one another in particular. His sacrificial love is their example. The context of John 17:13 is His desire for the disciples to bring glory to God by following His Word while living in the world.

So, what is His joy? Hebrews 12:2 seems to pull it together. The author is encouraging the brethren to lay aside the things that hinder their endurance in the race set before them by, "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2). The joy of Jesus is opening the door to eternal life for whosoever will come, even though it's at great personal cost to Him. This is what Jesus will do in only a few hours from making the statements in John's gospel!

Jesus called it His joy, He said it was a full joy, and He wanted His disciples to have it. The gospel message has made it to our day because they carried forth its message. That means the John 16 joy verse, "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full." (John 16:24), means ask for the Lord's help to live a fruitful life of pointing people to Jesus and helping them follow Him!

Should helping others find their way into God's kingdom be our joy as well? I believe so. In fact, if I make that my greatest joy, greater than the temporary joy of presents, food, and Christmas parties, perhaps I can rescue some joy for my Christmas! If the Lord wants us to ask His help it could be a pretty exciting season! Perhaps that can also help me better focus on the real celebration of Christmas and rejoice in that! How about you and your joy at Christmas?

Rescued to rescue,

*Pastor Dan*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am  Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am  Christmas Program Rehearsal—Noon-1 pm, NC  Leader Development Class—1-3 pm, NC  No Ignite or Fusion	<b>2</b> Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Sr. Growth Group—1:00 pm, NC  Awana: Trek/Journey—5:15 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm  Women's Study - 6:15 pm, LL #106	<b>5</b> Missions Ministry Meeting—5:00 pm, LL #102  Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, NC  MBC Worship Practice—7:00 pm, S	<b>6</b> Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S  Spiritual Warfare 201 class—6:15 pm, NC  Comedian Daren Streblow—general admission doors open 6:00 pm, show begins 6:30 pm, at 18 & 8th	<b>7</b> Men's Breakfast—8-10 am, NC/K  Iglesia Biblica Vigil—7:00 pm, all church
<b>8</b> Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am  Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am  Directory Photos—10:15 am-1:05 pm, LL #104  Christmas Program Rehearsal—Noon-1 pm, S  Ignite & Fusion Cookie Party—Noon-6:00 pm  Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S	<b>9</b> Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102  Elder Board Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #106  Deacon Board Meeting—6:00 pm, NC  Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7:00 pm, S	<b>10</b> Women's Christmas Party—6:00-8:00 pm, NC/K	<b>11</b> Sr. Growth Group—1:00 pm, NC  Awana: Trek/Journey—5:15 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm  Women's Study - 6:15 pm, LL #106	<b>12</b> Blood Drive—Noon-6:00 pm, NC  Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #101  MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S	<b>13</b> Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S  Spiritual Warfare 201 class—6:15 pm, NC	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am  Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am  Directory Photos—10:15 am-1:05 pm, LL #104  Christmas Program Rehearsal—Noon-1 pm, NC  Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S  Ignite Christmas Party—4-6 pm, NC Fusion Christmas Party—6-8 pm, NC	<b>16</b> Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Sr. Growth Group—1:00 pm, NC  Awana: Trek/Journey—5:15 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm  Women's Study - 6:15 pm, LL #106	<b>19</b> Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, NC  MBC Worship Practice—7:00 pm, S	<b>20</b> No Primitimers Pizza Hut Lunch  Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S  Spiritual Warfare 201 class—6:15 pm, NC	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am  No Sunday School, Pipeline, Ignite, or Fusion  Christmas Program Rehearsal—Noon-1 pm, NC  Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S  Children's Christmas Program—6:30 pm, S/NC	<b>23</b> Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102  Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7:00 pm, NC	<b>24</b>  Candlelight Worship Service 4:00 pm	<b>25</b>  Christmas Day	<b>26</b> Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, NC  MBC Worship Practice—7:00 pm, S	<b>27</b> Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	<b>28</b> Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6:00-7:30 pm, NC
<b>29</b> Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am  No Sunday School, Pipeline, Ignite, or Fusion  Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S	<b>30</b> Prayer Meeting—6:00 pm, LL #102	<b>31</b>  New Year's Eve		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <b>MBC Office Hours:</b>  <b>Monday—Thursday 8 AM—4 PM</b>  <b>&amp; Fridays 8 AM—Noon</b> </div>		



# Newsletter—December 2024



3 Shane Schulte  
Bill Westphal  
4 Gavin Eddy  
Lauren Erdmann  
5 Kevin Clark  
6 Michael Figi  
7 Evan Bartelt  
8 Ann Italiano  
Peyton Jordan  
Reuben Kawinzi  
9 Victoria Fowler

9 Crystal Watson  
10 Amelia Haworth  
12 Evan Grossmann  
Ralph Johnson  
Margarite Kawinzi  
Rose Larson  
13 Betty Siedschlag  
14 Shannon Allbaugh  
Jeff Italiano  
16 Kaya Holverson  
18 Henry Kuenzi

19 Jonah Ohlrich  
21 John Bartelt  
22 Jacob Brunner  
Dan Krahenbuhl  
Troy Watson  
24 Joe Phillipps  
25 Chris Faith  
27 Pat Hawkinson  
29 Eli Elgin  
31 Rylie Hartwig



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



## With Sympathy

We'd like to offer our sympathy to Pastor Kevin & Ashley Clark & their family. Pastor Kevin's mom, Kathryn Clark, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.



May God comfort you and  
bless you with His peace.



No Pizza Hut lunch this month with  
Christmas just around the corner.

**Merry Christmas!**





# Newsletter—December 2024



## *Marriage Ministry Mentor Couple of the Month: Chris and Elise Morris*

Of course, we know many of you and we would like to know you better. Here is a little more about us.

We have been married 22 years. Our first year of marriage was perfect. We had some money to spend, no children, and lots of free time. Then we bought a house and in no time our first child was on the way.

With the starting of a family and becoming homeowners, it became very clear to us that we had terrible communication skills and we had very different parenting styles. Our marriage suffered and we began to wonder if it would ever get better. Thankfully a couple at church offered to sit down with us and help us sort some things out. That was the turning point in our marriage. Not just the things that we talked about, but that another couple cared enough to sit down with us and come alongside of us.

That is why we have entered the Marriage Ministry at MBC. We would like to pass on the love and care that we received all those years ago, from that wonderful couple that came into our lives and marriage. We can honestly say now that we are each other's best friend and that we are fully committed to each other, come what may. God be praised for the gift of marriage!



The next 10-week session of Growth Groups will be starting on December 1 and running through February 22 (with two weeks off for Christmas and New Year's). Sign-ups are at the Welcome Center now and will be available through the start of the session.

*The purpose of our Growth Groups is to foster authentic Christ-centered relationships in the church.* Everyone is invited to join a Growth Group where you will experience connection with other believers, applicable sermon-based discussion, prayer and support in your walk with Christ.

Contact Pastor Kevin with any questions.



Get  
your  
tickets  
today!

**the DAREN STREBLOW comedy show**

**AN EVENING WITH DAREN STREBLOW**

\$15-general; \$25-VIP/Q&A;  
\$12-group sales (10+)

**DECEMBER 6, 2024 @**  
**6:30PM**  
**18TH AND 8TH EVENT CENTER**  
**1802 8TH ST. MONROE, WI 53566**

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# Newsletter—December 2024

## Children's Christmas Program

Join us Sunday evening, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary!

One of the joys experienced by those involved with missionaries is reading their prayer letters and updates. The following are just a few snippets from some of the missionaries supported by MBC :



Tim and Nicole Wilcox want you to know how thankful they are for our support and prayers during their 17 years serving with YWAM in Madison, and more recently in Baltimore, Maryland. They have returned to Wisconsin where Tim plans to work in construction and Nicole will devote her time to their two children at home.

Daniel Jezowski has returned to New Guinea after a brief time in Michigan. Daniel was able to be with his family during the loss of his mother. A memorial was sent to Daniel and his family by the missions ministry on behalf of MBC.

Brad Reardon recently spent 15 days teaching Pathways to pastors in an Asian country dominated by the Muslim religion. A couple years ago Pastor Reardon asked MBC to decrease his support level because he didn't plan to travel outside the U.S. any longer, but God has other plans for him now! Increased opportunity to teach Pathways has created the need for more support to cover travel expenses. We are pleased to be able to help so that more pastors can learn how to effectively share God's Word.

Viktor Schpits recently sent a report of his ministry over the summer and it is amazing how much was done for the Lord in three short months! There were evangelistic services for nonbelievers, camps and activities for children and teens, baptisms, home fellowships, and visits to the sick and poor to share food, clothing, and the gospel. The children were so enthused about camp that it was extended an extra day! Viktor and his family are very thankful for the support they receive from MBC.

Randy and Shirley Haglund have returned from three weeks in Africa and write in their newsletter how God continues to give them insight into just how big our great God really is. They write "we continue to see the impact God is having in some of the darkest places on earth, and the hope in Jesus we constantly get to see and experience." Part of their time in Togo was spent helping launch Impact Africa, a new OneHope program to plant churches in villages that have no church presence of any kind. It will bring teams from the U.S. to collaborate with young interns across coastal West Africa in order to do so.

As we celebrate Jesus' birth this month, let's remember those who aren't with family or friends because they have been called to serve Him elsewhere. Include them in your prayers and maybe on your Christmas card list. Thank you all for donating at Harvest Weekend so that we can bless them with a small Christmas gift.



# Newsletter—December 2024

## Church Directory



We are updating our online church directory.

Photos will be taken on

**December 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**

in LL room #104,

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** in the Nehemiah

Center, and **January 12<sup>th</sup>**

in LL #104. Sign-up at the

Welcome Center to choose

the date and time that

works best for you!

*No excuses!*

Each Monday evening as the prayer group gathers, we are continuing to discuss each chapter in Dr. Bill Thrasher's book "A Journey to Victorious Praying". This book has great insights concerning prayer.



The Holy Spirit motivates our prayers and empowers them. The Holy Spirit also empowers us to submit to Jesus, resist Satan, to persevere, and to believe God. Faith is a prime target in the spiritual battle in every believer's life. Ephesians 6:10 tells us "Be strong in the Lord in the strength of His might". We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to strengthen us to believe Him as we seek Him. Believers can lean on the Holy Spirit for His motivation, enablement, and guidance.

God places prayer burdens on our heart. Not every person may have the same prayer burden. If God gives you a prayer burden, be sure to pray concerning that burden. The Spirit of God desires to guide you in praying your heart. Ask God to deliver you from anything that is hindering you from praying your heart to God.

Prayer is an important part of every believer's life. Make sure you take time to pray throughout your day. Make it a priority.

## Backpack Buddies



The Backpack Buddies program is having a food drive. We are serving 119 Monroe School District students with food for the weekend. These students are experiencing food insecurity at home. There are totes by the coat rack for donations. Needed donations include fruit cups, applesauce cups, soft and chewy granola bars, oatmeal packets, tuna pouches, peanut butter crackers, graham crackers, and easy mac packets. Cash donations via check would also be appreciated. Checks would be made out to, and sent to, the Monroe School District with "Backpack Buddies" on the memo line. Mail to: 925 16th Avenue, 3rd floor, Monroe, WI 53566. Thank you so much for your support!







# Newsletter—December 2024

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

