



# MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

September 13, 2020

## A Word from Our Pastor

In Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth, we find the three benchmark virtues of biblical Christianity: *"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* (1 Corinthians 13:13 ESV). Of these frequently discussed topics *"faith"* (Hebrews 11) and *"love"* (1 Corinthians 13) seem to be the most talked about. BUT, it is the third virtue *"hope"* that we as believers need to understand the most if we are going to maintain a clear perspective regarding both... this life and the next, especially in spite of our present circumstances.

The concept of spiritual *"hope"* is similar to turning on a light in a dark basement. It immediately illuminates one's outlook, uplifts the soul, and produces joy in the heart. *"Hope"* introduces life and happiness into this sin-stained and death-filled world we live. Yet, sadly enough, most people know nothing of the advantages and privileges that true *"hope"* brings. Unbelievers simply do not have *"...this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,"* as the writer of the Book of Hebrews says (Hebrews 6:19 ESV). In fact, all they have are superficial sources of security: drugs, alcohol, pornography, entertainment, materialism, surface-level relationships, and a man-centered desire for a better future. Here's what Scripture says, *"The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish."* (Proverbs 10:28 ESV). The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, *"remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."* (Ephesians 2:12 ESV)

For the world, *"hope"* is a mere wish based on a desire or plan, but not grounded in the promises of God...who always speaks truth and is faithful to His Word. Here's the contrast...biblical *"hope"* is not a wish but an absolute reality guaranteed by the Lord. Paul says, *"<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."* (Romans 8:22-25 ESV) To be sure, the present joys of salvation cannot compare with the ultimate, surpassing joys that divine hope guarantees for the future, when salvation is fully realized.

## Ministries/Services

Please read our most recent [Reopening Letter](#). **We will be LIVE at 9:30 a.m. In person services will be at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

"Call 2 Prayer", Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Our church family can tune in to Pastor & Lisa as they lead us in a time of prayer. To view, you can go to [facebook.com/milanbaptist](https://facebook.com/milanbaptist)

**Weekly Goal: \$8,135**

**Giving This Week: \$14,402**

**C4M Total to Date: \$3,028**

Many have already asked how our church will continue to meet our financial obligations (utilities, insurance, payroll, and missionary support) during this challenging season. You may provide in your tithes and offerings by one of the following methods:

- If using the U.S. Postal system: Make checks out to **"Milan Baptist Church"** and mail to **P.O. Box 147 Milan, MI 48160**.
- Submit [online](#). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at [www.milanbaptist.org](http://www.milanbaptist.org). Contact the church if you have any questions.

**Parents! Planning on bringing your kids to service with you? Grab a phone/tablet and some headphones and scan the QR code below for kids activities!**





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## Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension
- Prayer for our nation and elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- All those who have lost loved ones
- Church leadership, as they make decisions moving forward
- Kathleen Spencer, pancreatic cancer now on hospice care
- Jim Hendee, recovering from hip replacement
- Noah's cousin, Tiffany, awaiting next steps
- Cliff Kuhn, recovering from a stroke
- Jan Cox, has to schedule hip replacement in the Fall
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer (PRAISE: Carolyn's cancer in liver is gone)
- Pastor's sister, Gail, Stage 4 lung cancer, now on hospice care
- Elli Robins, in "maintenance" stage
- Camp Barakel, following the cancelation of all summer/fall retreats and fire of barn.
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, Stralnics, Van Ormans, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

## HEBREWS 4:12



*"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

**"ONLY 1 IN 6 ADULTS READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY."**

The Word of God is living and effective. It has the power to convict, shape, and inspire us—if we read it. But so often, obstacles like confusion and busyness keep us from reading the Bible and experiencing the life-transforming power of God through it.

Through the Bible in a Year		
Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
September 13	Proverbs 16-18	2 Corinthians 6
September 14	Proverbs 19-21	2 Corinthians 7
September 15	Proverbs 22-24	2 Corinthians 8
September 16	Proverbs 25-26	2 Corinthians 9
September 17	Proverbs 27-29	2 Corinthians 10
September 18	Proverbs 30-31	2 Corinthians 11:1-15
September 19	Ecclesiastes 1-3	2 Corinthians 11:16-33
September 20	Ecclesiastes 4-6	2 Corinthians 12

Birthdays	Anniversaries
September 13 – Linda McDonald & Marcia Hurst	September 13 – David & Grace Stuckman
September 14 – Doug McDowell	
September 17 – Colleen Lopez	

## Christmas 4 Missions (C4M)

You can still donate! All donations will be divided up equally among our missionaries and sent out as a special Christmas gift. You can make note on your tithe envelopes or online if you want to designate any money toward C4M.