



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

November 1, 2020

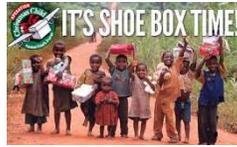
Operation Christmas Child

Fill a box for Operation Christmas Child to send to a needy child.

Return your box by Sunday, November 15th.

Or you may choose to fill a box online for \$25 at the organization's website.

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>



A Word from Our Pastor

Last week, we began a four part series on living in a “pleasure-crazed culture.” Scripture tells us that this will be common place in the last days before the second coming of Christ. So, my goal is to be an encouragement to you and help you in your pursuit of holiness while living in this pleasure-crazed world.

This week I would like to suggest to you “Five Dangers of Making Pleasure Your God.” **First**, IT WASTES MY LIFE. You weren’t put here on earth to simply lay out by a pool and be on your smart phone or watch TV. God has a greater purpose for your life. He wants you to be productive, not just take up space and have fun. Luke’s gospel says, “*And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature (produce).*” (Luke 8:14 ESV) America used to be the most productive nation in the world, but not anymore. We seem to be the most entertained nation in the world. You can have a lot of fun and never accomplish anything. It doesn’t matter if you’re the social butterfly on the Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous, or you’re a skid-row bum. The bottom line is, both of them are living for pleasure and neither of them is making any contribution to life. It’s a waste of your life to build it just on pleasure. **Secondly**, IT CAUSES CONFLICT WITH OTHERS. The Book of James says, “*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this that your passions are at war within you?*” (James 4:1) Have you ever watched two kids argue over a piece of candy? Have you ever argued with your spouse over what you’re going to do on your day off? When pleasures take priority over people you’re going to have friction. The Bible says that the pursuit of pleasure causes conflict in relationships. **Thirdly**, IT TEMPTS ME TO DO WRONG. The writer of Hebrews says, “*Choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.*” (Hebrews 11:25 ESV) Have you ever heard the phrase, “ugly as sin”? Sin is not ugly. It’s attractive. It’s seductive. If sin were no fun, if sin were a bummer, nobody would do it. The Bible is very honest. It says there is pleasure in sin, but it’s only for a short time. It’s almost as if we’ve slipped into a mode where pleasure is the most important thing in your life. You’ll do anything to experience it, even if it’s wrong, even if God says, “Don’t do it.” Pleasure tempts us to do wrong without thinking of any consequences. **Fourth**, IT LEADS TO BOREDOM. If you want to know the end result of living a lifestyle solely for pleasure, just read Solomon’s biography. It’s called Ecclesiastes... ^{2:1}“*I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with*

pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity...2:10-11 ¹⁰*And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.* ¹¹*Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.* (Ecclesiastes 2:1, 10-11 ESV) Solomon is telling us that self-indulgence leads to despair. If you don’t believe it, go check today’s suicide statistics. Life was meant to mean more than simply one party after another, one pleasure after another. When you make pleasure your ultimate goal, two laws go into effect: 1) THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURN. This law says the more you repeat something the more you have to do it to get the same amount of buzz or thrill (that’s true with anything). This principle is true in any area of your life. God never meant for you to find your ultimate purpose in life in pleasure. 2) THE LAW OF BALANCE. This law says that too much of a good thing ruins it. Whether it’s eating a steak or whatever, too much of a good thing ruins it. We need balance. So the inevitable result of the pursuit of pleasure is boredom and despair. **And finally**, IT WILL DESTROY MY CHARACTER. Paul warned Timothy, “*but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.*” (1 Timothy 5:6 ESV) The person who is making pleasure their goal is not living, they’re just existing. They are existing from fix to fix, from fun time to fun time, from pleasure to pleasure. Someone has said, “The self-indulgent life is a suicidal life.” Scholars have told us that Rome fell apart as an empire not from external forces, but from the internal decadence of people who had just begun to live, to self-indulge themselves. Next time I would like to discuss how this happens...

Weekly Goal: \$8,135

Giving This Week: \$4,379

C4M Total to Date: \$5,678

Literature Drop Off

Next week we will be taking Christian books, Bible study material and Christian booklets to Fowlerville where they are given to missionaries for their use. If you want to add to what we already have, please have all items in to the church office **no later** than Monday, November 2.

Giving

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. Contact the church if you have any questions.



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Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension and for our elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- All those who have lost loved ones
- Church leadership, as they make decisions moving forward
- Steve Meggitt, recovering at home from quintuple by-pass heart surgery
- Ratliff Family, Craig went home to be with the Lord last week
- Pray for our missionaries John & Carol Pierce, Carol's mother, Joan, went to be home with the Lord.
- Jamie Scott, tumor growing on her pituitary gland, going through tests to see which type, could lose her eye sight
- Lee Hayward, in a care facility
- Noah's cousin, Tiffany, awaiting next steps
- Cliff Kuhn, recovering from a stroke
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer (PRAISE: Carolyn's cancer in liver is gone)
- Elli Robins, in "maintenance" stage
- Camp Barakel, as they make plans for the winter
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenчук, Stralnic, Van Orman, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

Ministries/Services

We will be LIVE and in-person at 10 a.m.

"Call 2 Prayer" Prayer Meeting, 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

Other Ministry Meetings:

- **First Friday (November 6) at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.**
- Men's Bible Study on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m.
- SeniorLife Community Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (Worship Only)
- **Church Library (Sundays & Wednesdays) following services**
- **Special Prayer Gatherings on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**
 - Chapel side of MAC
 - Special prayer every Sunday until the election

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
November 1	Jeremiah 24-26	Titus 2
November 2	Jeremiah 27-29	Titus 3
November 3	Jeremiah 30-31	Philemon
November 4	Jeremiah 32-33	Hebrews 1
November 5	Jeremiah 34-36	Hebrews 2
November 6	Jeremiah 37-39	Hebrews 3
November 7	Jeremiah 40-42	Hebrews 4
November 8	Jeremiah 43-45	Hebrews 5

Birthdays	Anniversaries
November 6 – Kurt Heinold	November 6 – Les & Lynn Brooks

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!



Nominating Committee

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2020-2021 Milan Baptist Church Nominating Committee from our members. Please submit your nominations to our Church Clerk, Jaime McDonald, by Sunday, November 1 either in person (on Sundays) or by email (mcdonald.jaime@gmail.com). Requirements are that they must be a church member, in good standing, for at least one year; Board members are exempt from this nomination process.