



# MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

November 15, 2020

## A Word from Our Pastor

Over the last 3 weeks we've been discussing... living in a "pleasure-crazed culture," learning about the effects and dangers. Last time we began talking about three important things to remember... 1) We need to REMEMBER THE REAL PURPOSE OF LIFE. We need to continually remind ourselves that the purpose of life is more than being entertained, having fun, experiencing thrills, feeling good. We continue today with 2) We need to ENJOY BALANCED LIVING. Life is not a balancing act. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, that there is a time for everything. Scripture teaches, we are not designed to work all the time. In fact, God put recreation in the Ten Commandments. The 4th Commandment says every 7th day you take off for worship and rest. That's how important rest and relaxation and recreation is. Some of you don't need this sermon. Some of you need more times of rest in your life. You're so stressed out because you're "workaholics". You need more relaxation. The problem is, most of our culture is that way. If you don't plan for healthy vehicles of pleasure, recreation, rest and relaxation in your life, you'll be tempted and seduced by unhealthy ones, and they are everywhere. I believe it's entirely possible that you can enjoy much of what our culture has to offer without compromising your Biblical standards if you don't let it control you. If you don't let it dominate you. If you don't buy into the system and think that the whole purpose of life is seeing the latest movie before anybody else can see it, or having that meal at the newest, hottest restaurant or getting another 18 holes on the newest course. You can truly enjoy those things without being dominated by them. Scripture reminds us that the real purpose of life is to enjoy balanced living.

And finally, we need to AVOID DESTRUCTIVE PLEASURES. There are some activities that God says very clearly in Scripture stay away from. For example:

Ephesians 5:18 ESV says, "*And do not get drunk with wine.*"

2 Peter 2:19 ESV says, "*whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.*"

1 Corinthians 6:18 says, "*Flee from sexual immorality.*"

Titus 2:11-12 ESV says, "*For the grace of God... <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions...*"

Is there hope? Yes there is. The apostle Paul wrote, <sup>3</sup>*For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and*

*envy, hated by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,"* Titus 3:3-5 ESV  
The good news is a new life is available. You don't have to stay trapped. It's not an admission of failure to admit an addiction. It's an admission of courage. It says, "I want to take control of my life and I want it to be under God's control." There's an emptiness in every person's life. There's a God-shaped vacuum that only God can fill. When we don't fill it with God, we try to fill it with other things. You will live your life for something. If you don't live it for God, you'll live it for pleasure or something else. What the world offers are only cheap substitutes for the real thing. Remember these words, "Accept no substitute." The great news is when you come to know Jesus Christ, He not only gives you the capacity to enjoy a relationship to God that you never had before, but He gives you the capacity to enjoy yourself like you've never done before. He gives you the capacity to enjoy His world and others like you've never done before. Because you're in tune with the One who made you. John 10:10 reminds us, "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*" (John 10:10 ESV) Romans 12:2 ESV says, "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*" Don't let our pleasure-crazed world squeeze you into its mold. Be an example of the believers (1 Timothy 4:11-16).

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

**Giving This Week: \$18,630**

**C4M Total to Date: \$5,878**

## 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](http://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
- Pray with Kanna and Julie Vladaj for baby daughter Nora, who has been hospitalized with a digestive disorder. Also pray for Dan Stange, Nora's grandfather, who now has Covid and is home and for Norlaine and Kevin and extended family that they won't come down with it as well.
- Arthur Avery, recovering from COVID at a rehab facility
- Steve Meggitt, recovering at home from quintuple by-pass heart surgery
- 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
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, 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](https://facebook.com/milanbaptist)

Other Ministry Meetings:

- **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.**

o **Room 207**



## 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 15	Ezekiel 1-2	Hebrews 11:1-19
November 16	Ezekiel 3-4	Hebrews 11:20-40
November 17	Ezekiel 5-7	Hebrews 12
November 18	Ezekiel 8-10	Hebrews 13
November 19	Ezekiel 11-13	James 1
November 20	Ezekiel 14-15	James 2
November 21	Ezekiel 16-17	James 3
November 22	Ezekiel 18-19	James 4

Birthdays	Anniversaries
November 18 – Karen Phillips	
November 19 – Michelle Glenon	

## Kids Worship

Children can sit with families until dismissal. Masks are required and social distancing will be in place. ALL ages require pick up by a parent or guardian following the Morning Worship Service.

## Barakel Christmas

Barakel Christmas has begun! If you would like to "adopt" a Barakel staff person this Christmas, please see Jan Hasselbring for available names. All gifts are due back to the church by December 6. Please wrap your gift with the family's name placed clearly on it. You can drop off on Sundays or 9am-12pm Mondays-Wednesdays at the church office.