



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

January 17, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor

In December, nearly half of Americans make at least one resolution for the upcoming New Year. A recent survey conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion revealed Americans' top 21 resolutions. Those 21 resolutions can be grouped into four categories:

1. **IMPROVING YOUR HEALTH:** lose weight, exercise more, eat healthier, improve my health, stop smoking, and stop drinking.
2. **IMPROVING YOUR LIFE:** get a better job, manage my personal finances better, grow/improve as an individual, go back to school, and enjoy life, travel, and get a new house.
3. **IMPROVING YOUR BEHAVIOR:** be a better person, use my time better, set goals, spend more time with family, be kinder to others, get involved politically, and worry less.
4. **GETTING CLOSER TO GOD.**

Fewer than half of those who make New Year's resolutions are successful at keeping them for at least six months. The high failure rate has prompted a slew of columns and articles on New Year's resolutions, with advice on whether or not to make them and how to keep them if you do.

There's little downside in resolving to improve your health, or improve your life, or improve your behavior. And it's hard to argue against resolving to get closer to God. But there's one resolution that, when you keep it, even imperfectly, helps you in all four areas. *It's reading your Bible.* Regular Bible reading improves your health, improves your life, improves your behavior, and gets you closer to God. First, **READING THE BIBLE** improves your health. It's pretty obvious that reading the Bible improves your spiritual health. But what about your physical health? Your emotional health? A recent Mayo clinic study sights that many physical and emotional health issues are the result of stress, which "can affect your body, your thoughts and feelings, and your behavior." In fact, unchecked stress, can contribute to all kinds of health problems. How does reading the Bible help you manage stress? The Bible offers encouragement, comfort, reassurance, strength, peace, and hope. Over the years I've received such encouragement from the words of the Apostle Paul, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV) **Second, reading the Bible IMPROVES YOUR LIFE.** David describes God's Word as *"a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Psalm 119:105, ESV). Whatever path you're on, the Bible can show you the right steps to take. It's the perfect how-to guide for living, for reasons that include:

Third, Reading the Bible IMPROVES YOUR BEHAVIOR. Regular Bible reading improves your behavior. In fact, scripture engagement or the frequency with which you read your Bible, is a more reliable prediction of moral behavior than traditional measures of spirituality, such as church attendance and prayer. *And finally, Reading the Bible GETS YOU CLOSER TO GOD.* God reveals Himself to us in many ways, including the world around us. As Paul wrote, God's *"invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made"* (Romans 1:20, ESV). But the primary way that God reveals Himself to us is through His Word.

Understand this...it's never too late to start regularly reading the Bible! The fact that reading the Bible regularly can have such a positive impact on us shouldn't surprise us. After all, God's Word is described as *"living and active"* and sharp enough to *"divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow"* (Hebrews 4:12 ESV). James says that *"the implanted word"* can *"save your souls"* (James 1:21 ESV), and God says in Isaiah that His Word *"will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it"* (Isaiah 55:11 ESV).

As we head into the New Year, let's resolve to read our Bible's more often. Let me be clear...it's never too late to start. You'll be glad you did.

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$16,586

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
- Please be in prayer for Gary Cox, friend of Keuhn and Hasselbring families, surgery was successful but continue prayer for upcoming treatments
- Pray with Kanna and Julie Vladaj for baby daughter Nora, home now but still struggling with some digestive issues
- Gerri Beehler's sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Les & Lynn Brooks, recovering from COVID
- Emma Jane Hall, recovering from COVID
- Tim Christensen's mother, dealing with COVID
- Cami Ratliff, recovering from knee surgery
- Arthur Avery, recovering at Senior Solutions in Saline
- 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, healing of his incision (continue to heal well)
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer (PRAISE: Carolyn's cancer in liver is gone)
- 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.

Other Ministry Meetings:

- Church Library (Sundays & Wednesdays) following services
- SeniorLife Community Bible Study, Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (Worship Only)
- Call 2 Prayer, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook
- Men's Bible Study, Saturdays at 8:00 a.m.
- Prayer Gathering, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
- Kids Worship (K-Grade 6), Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (Pre-K Coming soon!)

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
January 17	Genesis 41-42	Matthew 12:1-23
January 18	Genesis 43-45	Matthew 12:24-50
January 19	Genesis 46-48	Matthew 13:1-30
January 20	Genesis 49-50	Matthew 13:31-58
January 21	Exodus 1-3	Matthew 14:1-21
January 22	Exodus 4-6	Matthew 14:22-36
January 23	Exodus 7-8	Matthew 15:1-20
January 24	Exodus 9-11	Matthew 15:21-39

Birthdays	Anniversaries
January 18 – Paul Scott	January 18 – Kurt & Maria Dietrich
January 19 – Amy Stinehelfer	January 23 – Jeff & Marti Scott
January 20 – Gerri Beehler	

Summer Barakel

Registration for Summer Barakel starts February 3! You can register at www.campbarakel.org/events. Camps are for students going into Grades 3-12 Fall 2021. MBC is promoting the following weeks:

- June 28-July 3: Grades 4-6 & 9-12
- July 5-July 19: Grades 3-5 & 7-9