



# MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

January 3, 2021

## A Word from Our Pastor

A few years ago, my rear view mirror came off of the windshield of the expedition I was driving and I had to glue it back on in order to see what was behind me. I got to looking at that small mirror and the large windshield that I was gluing it to, and I realized that the designers of that car wanted me to be able to see much more of what was out in front of me, than what was behind me. The rear view mirror is very small in comparison to the windshield that you look through as you drive forward. That tells me that where I am going is much more important than where I have been! The same is true in life. We have a brand new year folks, a new year with endless possibilities, and with God's help, we should make the best of it, for where we are going is definitely more important than where we've been!

As we begin a new year together, especially after the tough year we just experienced, I'm reminded of the Psalmist's words...<sup>1</sup>"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?" <sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.<sup>4</sup>Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.<sup>5</sup>The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. <sup>6</sup>The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. <sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.<sup>8</sup>The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." (Psalm 121 ESV)

Maybe you are like me; over the holidays I reflect over the past year by taking an account of my progress in the important areas of my life. Then, I begin to set some reasonable goals for improvement, keeping in mind that growth in my spiritual life has got to be a priority for me to be successful in all the other areas. Someone has said, "Whoever wants anything more than Christ will ultimately forfeit Christ." So, as we look towards the NEW YEAR...I would like to share the process I went through for setting GOD-GIVEN GOALS for 2021. The writer of Hebrews said, "...we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it." (Hebrews 2:1 ESV)

Have you ever written down some God-given goals to keep you from being a drifter? For you see...without goals, you're a ship without a rudder. What kind of ship is that? One that is doomed to failure. It has been said, "Most people don't plan to fail...they simply don't plan." How can you tell whether or not your GOAL is a God-given goal? You need to ask yourself a few qualifying questions: First, have you PRAYED OVER IT and asked for God's blessing? Second, does it create in you enough SPIRITUAL ENTHUSIASM and excitement to see it fulfilled? Third, does it DEMAND THE VERY BEST IN YOU? Fourth, does it TOUCH EVERY AREA OF

YOUR LIFE? There is no area of your life that is out-of-bounds from God. Take some time this week to write down some goals and even a mission statement focused on the following areas of your life: first and foremost, your SPIRITUAL life, second, your PHYSICAL life, third, your RELATIONAL life, fourth, your INTELLECTUAL life, and finally, your FINANCIAL life.

Romans 12:1-2 ESV

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>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."*

Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV

*"<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup>that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

Ephesians 4:1 ESV

*"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."*

Philippians 4:13 ESV

*"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*

**Weekly Goal: \$8,562**

**Giving This Week: \$9,691**

## 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
- Please be in prayer for Gary Cox, friend of Keuhn and Hasselbring families, will be at UM Hospital on December 28 for surgery due to bladder cancer.
- Betty Stralnic, recovering from pacemaker surgery and comfort following the passing of Gus
- Pray with Kanna and Julie Vladaj for baby daughter Nora, home now but still struggling with some digestive issues
- Emma Jane Hall, in isolation recovering from COVID
- Cami Ratliff, recovering from knee surgery
- Arthur Avery, recovering at home
- 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)
- 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.

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 3	Genesis 7-9	Matthew 3
January 4	Genesis 10-12	Matthew 4
January 5	Genesis 13-15	Matthew 5:1-26
January 6	Genesis 16-17	Matthew 5:27-48
January 7	Genesis 18-19	Matthew 6:1-18
January 8	Genesis 20-22	Matthew 6:19-34
January 9	Genesis 23-24	Matthew 7
January 10	Genesis 25-26	Matthew 8:1-17

Birthdays	Anniversaries
January 6 – Freda Baughey	
January 7 – Carole Glaser	

## Human Sanctity of Life

We will be celebrating Human Sanctity of Life Day on January 17. As we did last year, we are looking to make a donation to Family Life Services in honor of this day. Beginning January 3, we will be taking the following donations:

1. Monetary (please indicate Family Life Services on your envelopes).
2. Wipes
3. Diapers (size 3 or larger)

All donations can be brought to the MAC and placed in the bins available January 3.