



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

April 25, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor 04/25/21

As Christians, we all have a need to understand the answer to this question:

“What is the true meaning of our existence?”

In the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus, he begins to help us understand when he wrote, *“For we are his **WORKMANSHIP** (who we are as Christians), created in Christ Jesus for **GOOD WORKS** (what we were created for), which God **PREPARED BEFOREHAND** (when it all took place), that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10 ESV)

The Bible makes it very clear: **“WE ARE NOT HERE BY ACCIDENT.”** There’s a purpose and a plan for your life. David the Psalmist wrote, *“¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!”* (Psalm 139:16-17 ESV) Every Christian must understand that even before we were born God planned who we were going to be and what you were going to do. The apostle Paul confirms it when he wrote to the church at Corinth, *“He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”* (2 Corinthians 5:5 ESV) Also, in the Book of Proverbs it says, *“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.”* (Proverbs 19:21 ESV)

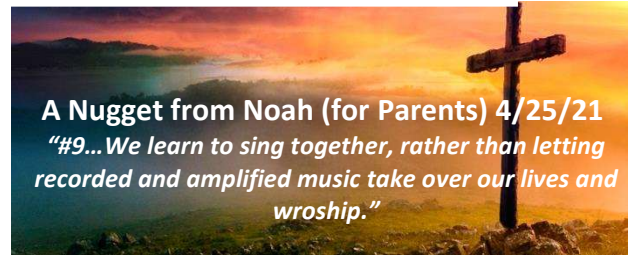
The choice is ours; we can get in on God’s plan or we can be on the outside looking in. We, as Christians, have a TWO-FOLD purpose: (1) To serve **GOD**, (2) To serve **OTHERS**.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT... Matthew 22:35-40 ESV

“³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-28)

THE GREAT COMMISSION...Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

“¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:44-53; John 20:19-23)



My older boys love music. Whether they are singing the old Spiderman theme, Disney songs, or even just attacking their dad with a sing-song voice saying, “I’m going to tickle you,” music is in our home. Beyond the sillies, though, I love hearing my children sing Christian and Worship songs. They love some of the old Bible School songs (check out Listener Kids on Youtube), and I personally love listening to Jack botch the lyrics of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” when he sings “if you’re happy and you know it, then your life will *shimmy* show it...”! And then there’s those moments while lying in bed and listening to worship songs before we sleep, I get to hear my boys join in on songs like “He Will Hold Me Fast,” “Is He Worthy,” and “Jesus Strong and Kind.” That’ll melt a heart, I tell you what!

Singing...I understand that some of us are not musically gifted, and we may even sound more like a cat dying in the back alley, but what a blessing it is to know that we are called to **“Make a joyful NOISE to the LORD, all the earth (Psalm 98:4)”** There was a lady at my church growing up who would have given that dying cat a run for its money, but man! She sang her heart out to the Lord! If you haven’t caught on yet, this chapter of *The Tech-Wise Family* was all about singing—or more appropriately, worship. Crouch begins by giving a brief history of the necessity for musicians and singers to play and/or sing in order to provide music in the household; but now, we’re just a few clicks away to all sorts of music (183-86). Comparing today to families in the past, he says, *“We can consume more music than they ever did; [but] we create less music than they ever could have imagined (186).”* Crouch then begins to address the heart of the matter—the need to rediscover worship—stating that *“singing may be the one human activity that most perfectly combines heart, mind, soul, and strength (187-191).”* Crouch also points out the “elephant in the room”: that several churches have adopted a more concert-like worship, drowning out the voices of the congregation, and training church members to be consumers of worship over producers of worship (192). He wraps up his chapter sharing an experience of his children, and his concluding thoughts reflect the heart I long to have for my children: *“...our kids can grasp more easily that they matter to the life of the church—that worship won’t happen unless all the generations show up with their heart, mind, soul, and strength (195).”*

What about us? When the music starts playing, do we join in on the worship? Is our home filled with songs that praise God, or songs that praise the Top Charts and their artists? Do we just turn on Spotify and pop in the Air Pods, or do we turn on K-Love or Proclaim and sing together? Do we play any instruments, and are we using these gifts for His glory? Our lives are full of choices...let’s choose to worship! Let’s choose to love God whole-heartedly **(Mathew 22:34-40)!**



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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.
- Pete Belford, home dealing with health concerns
- Marlon Hall, home dealing with health concerns
- Liam McDonald, Mark & Linda's grandson, in hospital with health concerns. Prayer for quick healing
- Carolyn Sackett, on medication for blot clots in her lungs and awaiting start for chemo
- Debby Russ, diagnosed with breast cancer, started chemo
- Tiffany, Noah's cousin, prayer for upcoming plans for cancer treatments
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Gerri Beehler's sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Pete Belford, dealing with health concerns
- Jamie Scott, tumor on her pituitary gland. Another MRI in Fall to determine if surgery is needed.
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer
- All those recovering from COVID
- 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)

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$38,152

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 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.

Mask Update

Given the vaccination rates in our local counties, the leadership of Milan Baptist Church has made a change in our existing policy where masks must be worn indoors at any church activity. Going forward, masks may be removed at individual discretion during the Sunday morning worship service while the pastor is preaching. Masks must continue to be worn during this service before/after and while worshiping/singing. We are excited to take this step and thank our congregation for complying with policies as we serve and worship God together.

Through the Bible in a Year Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
April 25	2 Samuel 21-22	Luke 18:24-43
April 26	2 Samuel 23-24	Luke 19:1-27
April 27	1 Kings 1-2	Luke 19:28-48
April 28	1 Kings 3-5	Luke 20:1-26
April 29	1 Kings 6-7	Luke 20:27-47
April 30	1 Kings 8-9	Luke 21:1-19
May 1	1 Kings 10-11	Luke 21:20-38
May 2	1 Kings 12-13	Luke 22:1-20

Birthdays	Anniversaries
April 25 – Sharon David	April 25 – Ron & Jan Hasselbring
April 27 – Ava Swaney & Steve Meggitt	April 27 – Kevin & Karen Johnson
April 28 – Wilma Luurtsema, Ron Hasselbring, & Don Curtis	April 29 – Ron & Carolyn Sackett
May 1 – Joanne Mazzola	

Preliminary Board Posing

Please see the preliminary board nominations below. Church members have until **May 2** to give any feedback (**in writing**) about the following nominees to one of the Nominating Committee Members: Chuck Bushart, Chuck Gates, Bill Cassell, Mary Gable, Bonnie Tew, or Barb Collins.

Preliminary Board Nominations

Deacon: Clark Barton

Trustees: Victor Michaels and Roger White