



# MRBC Messenger

Fall 2022

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## From Your Pastor's Heart

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...*  
Psalm 107: 1-2

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas, this is the season to give thanks. When we consider the loving way in which the Lord has blessed us, we cannot help but join in David's song. Notice, just in case we need some help, David tells us why we should give thanks. He doesn't say we should give thanks because the road before us is smooth and easy. Nor does he say we should give thanks because we have everything that we might want. He says we should give thanks because the Lord is good and because His love endures forever. Those aspects of God's character are true no matter what our personal circumstances might be.

God is good all the time. All the time God is good. These dates on our calendar help us to declare this truth personally and corporately. Let us be busy in the witness of God's faithfulness.

Last week our choir provided music for the City of Garden City's Veterans Day program. We will have a float in the Thanksgiving parade and hand out hot cocoa to the crowd. We are working with our local schools to help families at Christmas, as well as raising funds to send others around the world with the Gospel.

Let me encourage you to invite family and friends to join you at the Adult Choir presentation on December 4. Then, on December 18 and 19 we will host "Christmas with Friends." This is an enjoyable evening with desserts and good music. All three evenings will bring to your guests a clear explanation of the Gospel message and a compelling call to faith in Christ. Prayerfully invite people who need Christ.

Each Sunday morning as we gather for worship, we remind ourselves that the Lord is good, and we have reason to be thankful. In Psalm 107, David also reminded us..."let the redeemed of the Lord say so." Join with me in giving thanks and telling others of God's faithfulness.

It is a joy to be your pastor,  
Wayne

To keep up with the activities at Merriman Road Baptist Church, follow us on Facebook or at [mrbc.us](http://mrbc.us)

To contact us:  
Phone: 734-421-0472  
Fax: 734-421-1859  
[info@mrbc.us](mailto:info@mrbc.us) / [mrbc.us](http://mrbc.us)

Please notify us of any updated contact information so that we can keep our records up to date.

## Children's Ministry

(1<sup>ST</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> Grade)

By Jessica Kogelmann  
Minister to Children

We have had a great year in the Children's Department. We have enjoyed many new faces joining us on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Our numbers are growing, and we have been able to see many kids come through our church who have heard the Gospel message, a great deal of them for the very first time.

Throughout this year, we have had several great opportunities to share the love and salvation of Jesus with dozens of children from our community. It has been so exciting to watch God work and see some of those kids join us regularly. We know, too, that the months coming up will be just as exciting for us. With the church's recent approval of the construction project contract for our department, we are hoping for work to start sometime in the next few months and we are certainly praising God for that!

Thank you to all who have given so generously. It is a blessing to help in letting the children come to Jesus, as He commanded, and I am so glad you get to share in that blessing with us. Your contribution to Children's Ministry, whatever it may be, will always fuel world change as the harvest is always, always, so very plentiful with children.

### Upcoming Events

- **Friday, November 18, 6-8:30PM:** Kids Gym Night. Come for a night of fun, games, and sports. Snacks and water will be served. Bring your friends! *There is no cost for this event.*
- **Wednesday, November 23, 6PM:** *No Pioneer Clubs.* Please come to the Thanksgiving Service in the Multipurpose Room. Pie will be served afterwards.
- **Sunday, December 25, 11AM:** *Merry Christmas!* We will not meet for Bible Study or Children's Church. Families will be together in the Sanctuary for the worship service. Please join us!
- **Saturday, December 31, 12-2:30PM:** New Year's Eve party for all 1<sup>ST</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> graders and their friends. Join us for lunch, snacks, games, party favors, and a balloon drop at "midnight" (which will be at 2PM), and more! *There is no cost for this event.*
- **Sunday, January 1, 11AM:** *Happy New Year!* We will not meet for Bible Study or Children's Church. Families will be together in the sanctuary for the worship service. Please join us!

-  Lucas Ralph  
Parents: Brian & Autumn Wade
-  Lydia Kay  
Parents: Ethan & Ashley Jones
-  Charlotte Ann  
Parents: Christopher & Casey Babb
-  Sophia JoyAnn  
Parents: Zach & Malorie Vera-Burgos

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Since our last newsletter we were blessed to celebrate with the following families in the birth of their child.



-  Lillian Sky  
Parents: Emmanuel & Zuri Middleton
-  Jonah Scott  
Parents: Jeremy & Hilary Kane
-  Braxton Lee  
Parents: Ian & Kourtney Bramigk

## Youth Ministry

By Pastor Chris Babb

I am very excited for what the Lord has been doing in our Youth Group. We have several events coming this winter that you will want to participate in:

- **Friday, December 9, 6:30-9PM :** *Open-Gym Night!* We will have basketball, volleyball, and other various activities available to get us moving.
- **Wednesday, December 14, 6PM:** *Annual Secret Santa Christmas Party!* Join us in the Fellowship Hall where we will have games and food. Be sure to join us for this fun event. See the New Life Student Ministry FB Page to sign-up.
- **Sunday, December 25, 11AM & Sunday, January 1, 11AM:** We will not meet for our normal Sunday morning Bible studies as all Life Groups will be canceled those days in honor of the celebration of Christmas and New Years. Plan to attend our joint worship service on those days.
- **Winter Retreat:** Youth Leaders are looking into the possibility of attending a Winter Retreat this year. We have nothing finalized as of yet, but research has begun and we love suggestions! If you have a camp that you are familiar with, or know of one we should check out, please let us know! We will promptly provide the details as soon as we have them.

Please be sure to check the New Life Student Ministries Facebook page for updates and events.

Parents, please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

## College Ministry

By Pastor Rob Parsons

One of the many joys of ministering outside the walls of our church building is meeting new students. This morning, here at the *Friends in Faith Coffee House* at Wayne State, I've already chatted with one of our newer friends, Kevin, who brought one of his friends, Christian. Later today, we will have a Bible study here and hope to see Julie, another student we met this semester.

Isaac will probably be joining us soon, as well. We're always praying that God will bring more students across our path so we can share the Gospel, if they're not already saved, or encourage them in their walk with the Lord if they are. Isaac has also been faithful when inviting friends in and often talks about fellow students he's sharing his faith with. We met a girl named Danielle today, too, and invited her to Bible study.

But perhaps you're wondering how you, or a college student you know, might plug into this ministry. We offer four main opportunities for students to join a group.

1. 11:00AM Sunday mornings we lead a College Life Group at MRBC.
2. Tuesdays you'll find us hanging out on the campus of Schoolcraft College, in Livonia, where we offer a Bible study with free pizza at 1PM.
3. Thursdays, we're on the campus of WSU in Detroit, running the evangelistic coffee house and hosting a Bible study at 1PM. (Thank you for your continued support through donated gift cards and K-Cup pods that allow us to offer this coffee house free of charge to students.)
4. Thursday evenings, our College Life Group meets, which is our biggest weekly event. Here we study the Bible, fellowship, and have a time of prayer. New relationships are always forming! It runs from 7-10PM in our home each Thursday evening, and draws students from numerous campuses around Metro Detroit, as well as many students from MRBC.

Of course, none of these ministries would be possible without the continued support of our church and individuals who contribute faithfully, both in prayer and financially. If you or someone you know, would like to get plugged in, Kelley and I would love to help. You can reach us a [parsonsministry@yahoo.com](mailto:parsonsministry@yahoo.com) or call/text us:

Rob: 734-751-1662 or Kelley: 734-751-4803

As always, it's a joy to be a part of Christ's local body at MRBC and serve with you.



**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering ~ MRBC Goal \$16,000**

**National Goal ~ \$185 Million**

## Discipleship Notes

By David Ferraro

Ever have a sense that you're missing something in life? If you have come to know Jesus, then you know what you were once missing was Him! Once you come to know Jesus personally, you come to realize what your life is meant for – loving and serving Him. But perhaps you are a believer and you're struggling with your purpose, or maybe you know people who are. We want you to know and grow in that purpose. We can discover that purpose more in the context of a real community of faith.

A Life Group is a great place for you to begin. In Life Groups, we can come to more fully know and live out our purpose as disciples of Jesus Christ. We do this by *sharing our lives in close community around the Word of God*.

In a Life Group, we focus on doing four things together in a small group context.

1. Reaching: we work together to engage and invite our community, personally, to encounter Jesus and the love of God in the context of a community of believers.
2. Teaching: we work together to share the Good News about Jesus, and instruct and equip disciples for life with Him.
3. Ministering: we work together to identify and meet one another's needs with Christian love.
4. Multiplying: we work together to raise up, and send out, leaders for new Life Groups so that more people can be impacted with the love and Word of God.

If you are already a part of a Life Group (formerly known as Bible Study Group), we encourage you to continue to be faithful to your group by working together to fulfill this purpose. Some facilitate instruction, others can help with outreach ideas. Some focus on keeping in touch with group members and sharing prayer concerns, while others may open their home for meetings. God uses the varied gifts of His people to build up His people. He has given you a gift to serve Him and bless others!

If you are not in a Life Group, we would love to help you connect with a group. We have groups meeting Sunday mornings at Merriman Road (for all ages) and almost every other day of the week. Some groups meet on campus and others meet in homes in our community. Here are just a few of the newer groups that are meeting...

**Stand Firm** (led by Daryl Johnson & John Walsh) Sundays, 9:30AM

**Adult BSFL** (led by Dale Morris) Sundays, 9:30AM

**Real Moms, Real Jesus** (led by Bridget Julian) Wednesdays, 6PM

If you'd like to receive a full list of group opportunities or would like help joining a group, please e-mail us at [groups@mrbc.us](mailto:groups@mrbc.us), call the church office, or stop by the Welcome Desk or Next Step Tables on Sunday morning.

When you join a Life Group, you will know more fully the purpose that God has for you as you share life together in close community around the word of God!

## Together in Faith

By Janet Gallo

Sunday, August 28, found us enjoying the blessing of fellowship as we gathered for a very special *Together in Faith Celebration (TIF) and Update Luncheon*. It was great to be back together for a family meal. An enthusiastic crowd of 150 enjoyed a spaghetti lunch with all the trimmings. Pastor Wayne Parker, along with TIF co-chairs, Terry Crouson and Kevin Crouson, helped us celebrate the results of the successful TIF campaign and shared the next phase of the campaign, along with the upcoming construction work. Also, our first-ever MRBC narrative report was distributed at the luncheon. It highlights the events, ministries, and testimonies that blessed our church in 2021.

The initial TIF campaign began in mid-2019. This allowed us to renovate the Fellowship Hall in 2020 and also kickoff the Children's Department transformation. The country-wide Covid shutdowns delayed progress, but did not derail our projects. In December 2021, work began to install sprinkler systems in the older part of our facility that includes the Children's Department and Youth areas. Earlier this fall, MRBC volunteers started demolition and reconfiguration of office space near the library to get ready for the Children's Department renovation.

In 2019, members faithfully pledged \$912,624 to fund the TIF vision. Although these pledges allowed work on the renovation to begin, cost increases caused by a global pandemic prompted an additional need for \$310,000 in new pledges. These funds will cover the Children's Department work, refresh our Atrium, and construct a storage building on the parsonage property to give us much needed storage space. Our members accepted the challenge and by Dedication Sunday, September 25, pledges to TIF increased by \$175,848 taking us to \$1,088,472.

At the October 2022 Business Meeting, we voted to hire Hicks Construction Company as the general contractor on the Children's Department upgrade. Building plans are complete, and we have received approval from the city to begin the process. Construction is slated to begin later this year.

What can you do? Pray that the Together in Faith projects will follow God's plans and bless our community and membership for decades to come. Secondly, prayerfully consider how you may donate to the TIF campaign in the next three years. Pledge cards are available near the Welcome Desk and there is a TIF designation on all our offering envelopes and in our electronic-giving platform. We thank you for your faithfulness to our church family.

### Welcome

Since our last newsletter we voted to welcome these people into our church family. We are excited to be serving with them.

<i>Mia Adkisson</i>	<i>Kristina Julian</i>
<i>Becca Ashley</i>	<i>Bradley June</i>
<i>Mike Bourdeau</i>	<i>Lee Locke</i>
<i>Marje Bourdeau</i>	<i>Sue Locke</i>
<i>Amy Branton</i>	<i>Darla Long</i>
<i>Wayne Branton</i>	<i>John Minassian</i>
<i>Mike Durbin</i>	<i>Carli McCollum</i>
<i>Shar Durbin</i>	<i>Carmen Miranda</i>
<i>Sue Eves</i>	<i>Haylie Neely</i>
<i>Emmalee Ferraro</i>	<i>Shaylie Neely</i>
<i>Cheyenne Gadsby</i>	<i>Makalynn Pierce</i>
<i>Barb Hard</i>	<i>David Pierce</i>
<i>Craig Hard</i>	<i>Pamela Yu</i>

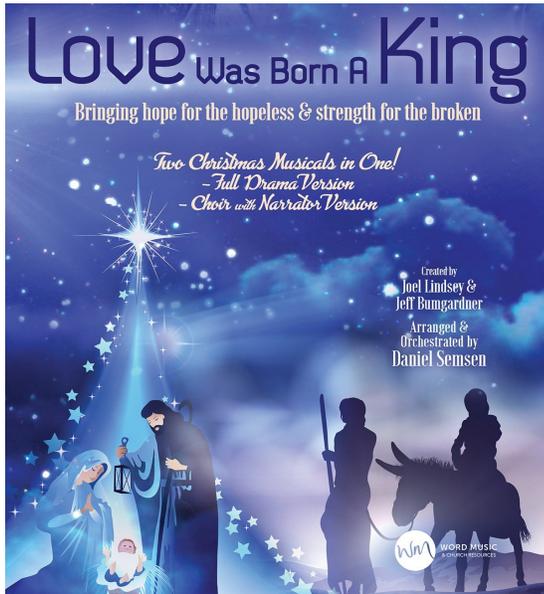
### *Christian Sympathy*

is extended to the families of these who went home to be with the Lord.

<i>Thomas Bigelow</i>	<i>Kathe Morlock</i>
<i>Nadine Burress</i>	<i>Peggy Rice</i>
<i>Robin Case</i>	<i>May Roark</i>
<i>Willie Justus</i>	<i>Jean Smith</i>
<i>John Lewis</i>	<i>Nola Verhelle</i>
<i>Gene Long</i>	<i>Daisy Zuchelkowski</i>
<i>Jean McGill</i>	

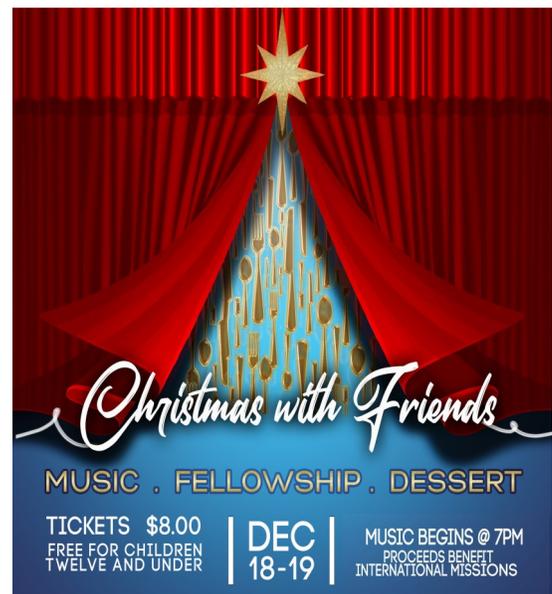


## Upcoming Evangelistic Opportunities at MRBC



Adult Choir Presentation  
Sunday, December 4, 6PM  
*This is a free event*

Christmas with Friends  
Tickets will be on sale  
Sunday, November 27  
(Church lobby and  
Eventbrite)



## Other Holiday Events and Opportunities at MRBC

Thanksgiving Service with Pie, Wednesday, November 23, at 6PM

Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, Sunday, November 27, at 6PM

Adult Choir Presentation, Sunday, December 4, at 6PM

Children's Christmas Presentation, Sunday, December 11, at 6PM

Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24, at 5PM

Christmas Day Service, Sunday, December 25, at 11AM

New Year's Day Service, Sunday, January 1, at 11AM

*Please note: Nursery/Preschool will only be available for the Adult Choir Presentation, and only for children 3 years of age and younger.*

