

Inside this issue:

Children's Ministry	2
Youth Ministry	2
Opportunities for Worship	2
TIF Update	2
Christian Sympathy	2
College Ministry	3
Discipleship Notes	3
Events & Announcements	4

*Let us hold on to
the confession of
our hope without
wavering, since
he who promised
is faithful.*

Hebrews 10:23

To keep up with the
activities at Merriman
Road Baptist Church,
follow us on Facebook
or at mrbc.us

*Our 6pm worship
service is interpreted
for our deaf friends
on our live-stream*

To contact us:
Phone: 734-421-0472
Fax: 734-421-1859
info@mrbc.us / mrbc.us

From Your Pastor's Heart

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In recent days our lives have been gripped by grief as we have had to say goodbye to Sisters and Brothers who have graduated to the Kingdom of Heaven. Being separated from ones we love, and those who have played an important part in our lives, brings a heaviness to our hearts. Oh, how precious it is to have a living hope. Paul, writing to the church in Thessalonica says, "We do not want you to be uninformed brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have not hope." Because we walk with Christ, we have a living hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

In the coming weeks will begin a new sermon series from first and second Thessalonians. The title of the series will be *Words of Hope*. In this unprecedented season where the nightly news reports the number of deaths for the day, we need these words from God's Word to grip our hearts with Hope. Throughout this sermon series I want to encourage you to read through these epistles several times so that we might learn to "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give things in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

As we prepare to celebrate holy week, the large pavilion at Garden City Park has been secured so that we will be able to hold an out-of-doors Good Friday Service of worship. The public crucifixion of our Lord is such a central aspect of our redemption, we thought that a service of remembrance in a public venue could be a powerful witness to our community. The service will be at noon.

Next month, April 23-24, I have invited Pastor Phil Box, and his wife, Melody, to come and lead a marriage conference here at MRBC. Phil has been a pastor and counselor, both here in Michigan and in Texas. He and his wife will lead sessions Friday evening and Saturday morning providing encouragement, instruction, and practical helps for strengthening your marriage. Every marriage requires investments. This investment of time can bring help and strength to your home. Please make plans to join us.

It is a joy to be your pastor,
Wayne

As a church we were blessed to hold two ordination services,

Pastor Christopher Babb

was publicly ordained to The Gospel Ministry on February 7, and

Brian F. Craft & Joseph H. Kogelmann

were publicly ordained to the office and work of Deacon on March 7.

Pray for these men as they seek and serve God, our church and community.

Children's Ministry (1ST-6TH Grade)

By Jessica Kogelmann, Minister to Children

Greetings from the Children's Department! We have had a low-key winter, as seems to be the norm now-a-days. In spite of this, we've been able to meet online and in person, and are thankful for the time we have gotten to spend with the amazing kids here at MRBC.

In November we began an online meet-up via Zoom called *Cocoa with the Kogelmans*, which is our version of "tea time." We connect each Thursday at 4pm to fellowship, play games, to read God's Word and pray together. We will continue each Thursday throughout the winter months, or as needed. We have also posted an online video Bible devotion each week for kids.

On Wednesday, January 20, we began to meet in person. At 6pm, the boys meet for Royal Ambassadors and the girls meet for Girls in Action. Both groups are missions-focused and teach about missionaries, the work that they do and the places in which they serve. They also will have opportunities to work on mission projects. Then, at 7pm, all the children come together for a time of Bible study, worship, fellowship and fun.

For children who attend the in-person worship services on Sunday morning, please notice the kid's table set up in the lobby. There you will find sermon notes, along with coloring and/or activity pages, plus the occasional surprise. Please check each week for new items.

Although it is different from what we've been used to in the past, we are enjoying our time online, and in person, and praying God uses all of this to draw children, their families, and the Children's Department Team closer to Him.

Opportunities for Worship

Sunday Services: 9:30am | 11am | 6pm

The 6pm service is designated for seniors
and those with compromised immune systems

*In-person & Live-stream
on Facebook and YouTube*

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Live-stream on Facebook and YouTube

Monday-Friday Morning Devotions: 7:45am

Live-stream on Facebook

Devotions with Pastor Wayne,
Pastor Dave, Pastor Rob, and Pastor Chris

We request masks be worn to enter and
walk throughout the building. Masks may be
removed when you reach your worship venue
where we offer social-distanced seating.

Together in Faith Update

Pledged	\$912,000.00
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Paid on pledges through 1/31/21	\$434,285.26
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Including \$100k left from FIF	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
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	\$534,285.26
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Christian sympathy

is extended to the families
of these who recently
when home to be with the Lord,

Annette Melton

Larry White

Youth Ministry

By Pastor Chris Babb

I am pleased to announce, for Sunday and Wednesday evening activities, we once again are meeting in the Youth Room. Due to this change, please have your students enter and exit through the main doors of the building (John Hauk entrance). We will still be taking precautions such as student check-in and temperature scans. Masks are welcomed, but not required, during Bible study and worship times. (*Sunday evenings 6-7:30pm & Wednesday evenings 6-8pm*)

Camp is right around the corner! For the students who've signed up, this year we are heading to *Crossings at Cedarmore* which is in Lebanon, Kentucky, just south of Louisville. There will be fundraising opportunities to help our students offset their cost. Please watch for more information. If your student did not sign up, there will be additional opportunities throughout the summer for fellowship and the study God's Word.

I know I speak for all youth leaders when I say we are excited to be heading back in the direction of our normal routine. This year has been a challenging one, but we have seen growth in our students, and we pray that the Lord would allow such growth to continue as we remain flexible during this time.

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

College Ministry

By Pastor Rob Parsons

God is so amazing! Even in the midst of a pandemic, He continues to bring new students our way, and keep our current students involved more than ever. So many things have happened that have encouraged our hearts and we hope that you are encouraged as well.

Using a highbred of online and in-person get-togethers, we've managed to keep numerous meetings going each week. As a result, we are reaching students at church as well as on seven college campuses. While some things have changed, many things have remained the same, like the gospel going out and college students being discipled in God's Word.

Recently, we completed a study through the book of Ecclesiastes where we learned about the utter meaninglessness of life apart from God, and our need to fear God and keep His commands. We are following up that study with a study on missions and God's two greatest commands, to love Him and love others by sharing the gospel (the greatest love of all). We are being challenged each week to see our part, not just in missions at home, but to the uttermost parts of the world.

With our Schoolcraft students we've just completed John Piper's book, *Don't Waste Your Life*. We've seen that our greatest desire in life should be to bring glory to God. The greatest way we can do that is by reaching the lost for Christ. Bringing more people to see His glory and trusting Him alone for salvation will lead to a life of service and adoration of the one true God.

We are hoping to be on campus again soon, but so far, there are no confirmed dates. In the meantime, we continue to work diligently on a daily basis so that more and more young adults can know the joy of following Christ, and giving their lives for His honor and glory.

Another wonderful blessing we recently experienced was starting two new Bible studies with 2 Chinese students named Xiaolu and Efan. Neither of them know Christ (yet) and are meeting with Kelley and I each Saturday morning over Zoom. Your prayers for them, and all of the students, are very much appreciated. Thank you all for partnering with us in this great commission to reach and disciple the lost, especially among our college-aged young adults.



Discipleship Notes

By Pastor Dave Ferraro



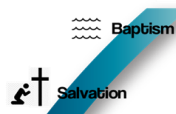
The goal of a follower of Christ is Christlikeness. As followers of Christ, we should be taking steps of faith daily that

help us to think and act more like Jesus. Just as we depend upon Jesus for our salvation to be forgiven of sin (Ephesians 2:8-9), we depend upon Jesus to be shaped and molded into His likeness (Ephesians 2:10). The recent series of messages that we heard from Pastor Wayne, on *Beginning a New Chapter*, are all about the spiritual disciplines that will help us to grow in faith. They are steps along the discipleship pathway that help us to grow to be more like Christ. They relate to our love for God (vertical relationship) and our love for others (horizontal relationships) (Matthew 22:37-39).

We are regularly, as a church, trying to encourage growth through these disciplines. In regard to our **GOING** with the gospel, we ask you, "Who's Your One?" as one who is lost and needs a relationship with Jesus? I hope that you know at least one! If not, look around, it won't take too long to find someone and begin to pray for their salvation! You can use the prayer guide available in the lobby to help you in praying for that one (or two...). Place his/her name on the board so that we, as a church, can pray for him/her with you!



The Discipleship Pathway



Also, we want to let you know of training opportunities that we are **GATHERING** for to help you grow **GOING** with the gospel and **SERVING** others in the Lord. Details below!

Gifted to Serve – explore your spiritual giftedness and begin to serve the Lord Wednesdays, March 10-24, from 6-7pm in the Fellowship Hall



COMING SOON

Foundations in Faith – this course is for those who are new to our church and would like to understand what we believe about God, the Bible and salvation. Participants will also learn how we are organized as a church and how they can get involved or become a member.



You can find a complete list of groups for you to grow in at www.mrbc.us (click on Groups)

Good Friday Service at Garden City Park

April 2, 12 noon

Garden City Park Main Pavilion

(NE Corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill Roads)

Chairs will be provided, or you may bring your own.

**This service will not be live-streamed*

Easter Morning Services

April 4

9:30am & 11am

Join us!

Reflect and worship with us, and
celebrate the Risen Savior!



Upcoming Events

Mugs & Muffins, March 20, April 17, May 15, & June 19

Red Cross Blood Drive, March 30 & April 20

Good Friday Service, Garden City Park, April 2 @ 12pm

Easter Sunday, April 4

Marriage Conference, April 23-24

Secret Church, April 23

Biker Blessing, May 15

(check our website, www.mrbc.us, for additional details)

Real Moms, Real Jesus is a group for anyone who is a mom. It's a time of fellowship, support, and learning more about God as we explore the Bible.

Currently studying, *Motherhood with Purpose*

Meeting Time: Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm
(room opens at 6pm for fellowship)

This coincides with the 1st-6th grades & youth
Wednesday evening activities



RETURNS MARCH 20TH

MUGS & MUFFINS WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH - 2055 MERRIMAN ROAD, GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH / 9:00 A.M. - DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 A.M.

**JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP, PRAISE AND WORSHIP,
A SPECIAL SPEAKER, AND MORE!**

The mission moves forward

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal: \$70 Million

Our Church Goal: \$10,000