

Meadowbrook MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends of Meadowbrook Christian Church

NOVEMBER 2022



A Devotion from Daniel

November is the month that we set aside as Americans to specifically remember to be thankful. So, it only seemed fitting that as we concluded our sermon series on the book of Daniel that we should take the month of November and explore this idea of “thankfulness”. So, for the next four weeks we will walk through a series called “Thanks Given”. In this series we will explore different elements of thankfulness from both the Old and New Testaments and my hope is that we will all walk away with a better understanding of what thanksgiving really means. Not just the Holiday but the spirit of thanksgiving.

My hope would be that when we all sit down around a table on the twenty fifth with people we love, whether that group is large or small we will all have a deeper understanding of what it means to be thankful. That we can be truly thankful and joyful no matter what is going on in the world around us.

We had a children’s Church teacher down in Florida that would always say “Happiness comes from happenings, but joy comes Jesus”. It is simple, it is corny, I know at first glance it sounds entirely too idealist doesn’t it... but the more time I spend thinking about it the more sense it makes. Hear me out.

When we gather at that table many of us have the tradition to go around and list what we are thankful for. I know growing up we always did this even when the big extended family was over. I never thought much of it as a kid. It was a hinderance it was keeping me from eating my turkey, which in turn was keeping me from eating my apple pie, which in turn was keeping me from watching football. But as I get older, I find myself slowing down. I know some of you will scoff and say I’m still young, but my next Birthday is the big 40. My oldest daughter just went to her first real boy girl dance... time is flying by. Now I think a lot more about my joy compared to my happiness.

Now it is a lot harder for me to give the simple answer when asked. It used to be easy, it would go around the table it would get to me, and I could say something like “I am thankful for my PlayStation”, or “I’m thankful I wasn’t born a Cowboys fan” ... something of that nature. But now I don’t want to tell people what has happened that has made me happy I want to tell them what brings me joy. To be happy and thankful that I have a PlayStation is great, but one little brother who wants to throw your PlayStation in the sink and all of a sudden, your happiness is gone, because of what happened. I can even be thankful for my wonderful wife for all the ways she makes me happy. I pray that I will spend another 50 years being married to her and loving her... but for many life has other plans and our time with those we loved is cut short, and then our happiness is gone.

I know that we don’t want to think about this, but this is why we must get our joy from something certain, from something permanent. It is why I can only trust my joy to Jesus. There are so many things that make me happy. I am grateful to God for each and every one of them. I tell Him often. But I am joyous because of the Gospel. That’s where

my joy comes from, it is from knowing that the same God that authored life has also already told us how the story ends. And most importantly that he invited myself and the people I love dearly to spend eternity with Him.

I want to encourage you this thanksgiving that if your family has a tradition similar to mine where when you gather you will have a chance to share why you have joy, take it. You never know if it will be the last chance you get.



Message from Anthony

Song Stories: My Lighthouse

Here at Meadowbrook, we sing a lot of different songs in worship. Be it a classic hymn, a well-known contemporary chorus, or something that is lesser known, we sing a variety of songs that help us connect with the Father and worship Him fully. But why THESE songs in particular? Well, this series of articles answers those very questions as we explore some of the songs that make up our worship sets on Sunday morning.

My Lighthouse

We're just recently introducing this song here at Meadowbrook, and I've been asked a few times (in jest) whether or not there were lighthouses in the Bible. To this, believe it or not, the answer is kind of YES. Think about the function of a lighthouse for a minute. It is prominently featured for all around it to see. It reliably illuminates the path around dangers that would otherwise be invisible in the dark. It is trusted by those who need it. It's always there, even when the danger is easily seen, as a reminder that it will keep us safe when that danger isn't as easily seen.

We serve a God who fulfills all of those things and more! He went before the Israelites as a pillar of smoke in the day, and a pillar of fire at night to light their way and lead them through the dangers in their path. He is trusted by all who need and follow Him, and is always with us. He is not hidden, but is prominent in our lives as the focal point of all we do. He is the Lord of our lives through and through. But these are not just my claims or yours, rather they are facts that are supported when weighed against the scriptures. Here are a few scriptures for reference:

John 1:5 ESV

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 8:12 ESV

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Psalms 119:105 ESV

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 119:130 ESV

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

1 John 1:5 ESV

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Ephesians 5:8 ESV

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...

John 12:35 ESV

So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

While in the Bible we do not read of any towers sitting beside the shore, we do read a great deal about THE Light of the World, and are encouraged to trust and follow that light, reflecting its brightness to all around us, drawing others to the safety of God's path. He will indeed lead us safely to His heavenly shore!

My Lighthouse

VERSE 1

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, woah
You are the peace in my troubled sea

VERSE 2

In the silence, You won't let go
In my questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

CHORUS

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore
Safe to shore, safe to shore
Safe to shore

VERSE 3

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

BRIDGE

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms
(REPEAT)

"My Lighthouse" Written By: Rend Collective



SAVE THE DATE: Meadowbrook will be hosting a food packing event on Saturday, February 4th, 2023 from 8:00am-noon. The IDES organizers tell us that if we have at least 50 volunteers, we can pack the 15,000 meals in the time allocated that day.



HIS HOUSE UPDATE: The Annual Meeting was held at Kenwood Church of Christ. The fellowship (and ice cream) was wonderful. Daniel and Mike spoke with Trevor Ellison (WMU Associate Campus Minister) about the His House initiative to begin a campus ministry at Oakland University. This would be a great opportunity for Meadowbrook and His House to be partners in reaching this campus for Christ. Next step will likely be a meeting with Trevor, to include Meadowbrook leadership and Missions Committee. Please be praying about this ministry!

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS: We reviewed the 'Rebecca:Nigeria' DVD and shared this with the congregation on 10/23 in preparation for the upcoming worship service in support of the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on 11/6. We will also order prayer resources for handout to the congregation to encourage prayer for the persecuted church.

NINOS DE MEXICO – 28 young people graduated this year. Almost 500 children have been cared for through the Ninos homes since they started in 1967. There are currently 96 children/youth in the homes; 4 more children are being considered. Several prayer requests including the need for additional staff, and God's leading as they investigate opening another home in Queretaro.

WOLVERINE CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP – Attendance at the camp was up this year. Total income is down from 2021. About 25% of their operating funds come from supporting churches. 11 decisions for Christ this season, including 2 'Angel Tree' campers (campers with an incarcerated parent). They are very excited about Meadowbrook's involvement with the camp ministry. A camp board meeting will be held at Macomb CC on 10/24.



Sisters in Service Mission: *We exist to honor God by ministering to those who are in need and encouraging one another to the praise of His Glory.*

During our October meeting we cut hats from fleece and the ladies will sew them together and then they will be donated to Grace Centers of Hope and Hope Shelter in Pontiac to help keep their residence warm this winter.

All ladies are welcome to join the SIS meeting on November 28 at 6pm in the fellowship hall. This month's theme is: Fellowship, food and fun. The evening will include a devotional and then time to play games and enjoy each other's company. Please bring your favorite game to play and a dish for the buffet.

If you have any questions about SIS, please contact Cathy Podvin at 248-884-3279 or cathypodvin28@gmail.com.



Thanksgiving Baskets for
Lighthouse of Oakland County

Lighthouse of Oakland County provided Thanksgiving baskets to 1,500 families last year in Oakland County. This year Meadowbrook is partnering with them to help provide food for these baskets. Meadowbrook brought all the food collected during the food drive to Lighthouse on November 1st.

Also, if you missed the opportunity at Meadowbrook due to a timing issue, please feel free to donate this year by logging onto <https://lighthousemi.org/thanksgiving2022//> to donate through Amazon. There is a link on their website to select food and Amazon will ship it directly to Lighthouse's warehouse.

Thanks for being a blessing to needy families here in Oakland County!



MCC Youth Group

Kids For Christ

Kids For Christ (K.F.C), grades 1st thru 5th, and Youth Group, grades 6th thru 12th, will be held on every Thursday evening at 6pm at Meadowbrook Christian Church. This will provide a fun and safe environment where all our students can learn about Jesus. We hope to see your children there!



Young Adults – Save the Date

The next Young Adult Small group will be held November 9th at 6:30pm. Email Daniel at daniel@mccrochesterhills.com for more information.



Pack a shoebox and touch the lives of children and families around the world, bringing hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ in the form of a simple gift. Shoeboxes are available in the lobby, along with ideas for packing. Please include \$10.00 for shipping and project costs. Packed boxes filled with your gifts, love, and prayers are **due by November 20th at MCC**. Thank you for your generosity! Please see Carol Howell or Lynn Ross if you have any questions.

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Please use the QR Code above or the link here (<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/MeadowbrookChristianChurch>) to sign up for this tool. Once the link is selected or QR Code used, a 'Confirm & Sign-up' prompt will come up and you can create your own profile. If you have any questions, please see Brenda Cox at 586-615-1614.



Birthdays

Mimi Romaella – November 1
Bridget Kochan – November 9
Debbie Stallings – November 10
Andrea Schwartzenberger – November 16
Tristian Cox – November 24

Anniversaries

Jim and MaryJane Cavins – November 20