

# Meadowbrook MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends of Meadowbrook Christian Church

SEPTEMBER 2022



## A Devotion from Daniel

So, I think most of you know at this point that Lynda and I met in high school. It is a part of our story I really value and appreciate. But it does mean that we never truly “dated” like you see in the movies and in TV shows. So sometimes there are these common tropes that I see in movies that I don’t have any real-life situation to relate to.

One common one is the young man or woman who goes through a painful breakup and a few years later bumps into their former significant other on the street. They try to put a smile on their face as they exchange pleasantries. They ask, “how have you been?” ... hoping on hope that their ex is regretting their decision to leave you behind. Hoping that things have not gone so well since you left their side. Usually this ends with at least one party leaving the conversation hurt while the other stands victorious, winning the breakup once and for all. Well, I had a chance to live something close to this this past weekend... let me explain. I am coming up on 6 months of being with you here at Meadowbrook but being in this relationship with you means that I had to “break-up” with another congregation. This past weekend one of my former elders happened to be in town and Lynda and I sat down and had coffee with them as they were passing through. Of course, the question was asked to us... “how have things been going for you at the new Church?” the equivalent of the “how have you been?” question. I was so happy to be able to tell him and his wife that things are going great. Thank you for allowing me to give that honest answer. It is all of your dedication and trust that allowed me to honestly sit back and evaluate the last six months and say, “things have never been better”. Every one of you who play a part in the ministry of this Church has confirmed for us that we are in the right place. We told our old Florida friends that there has not been one day that we have looked back and thought “oh no what did we do”. Now obviously he was happy for us, and we were happy to hear about the good work that is continuing down south in our absence. In a world where we always look for winners and losers and we are taught to always look out for number one it is nice to remember that the Church is bigger than anyone building. We build off of each other’s experiences and successes... we learn from each other’s failures. I hope that the last six months that my family has been here with you all has left you feeling like you too have no regrets... and if you do... well I guess hang in there with me. Things are going to get exciting. This weekend we will open up the book of Daniel and begin a sermon series entitled “Welcome to Babylon”. We said Roman’s was an instruction manual on how to live as a Christian in the world. Well Daniel is a case study on how to execute that very same thing under the most trying circumstances. Join me as we continue to pray for the new day that is dawning here at Meadowbrook.



## Message from Anthony

### **Song Stories - It Is Well With My Soul, Raise A Hallelujah**

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 so many songs, and why THESE songs in particular? Well, this series of articles is going to attempt to answer those very questions as we explore some of the songs that make up our worship sets on Sunday morning.

It's no mistake that two worship songs written generations apart, and so stylistically different from each other can still come from the same heart-place. We as people were made to respond to the Lord in worship, and our need for Him has not changed through the years, no matter how much culture has shifted, musical styles have differed, or language has morphed. We are still crying out to Him today just as we were 300 years ago. When we hurt, we reach for the Father. When we see people hurting around us, we reach for the Father. And when we remember how He has never failed to care for us, we resolve to keep praising Him even when life is falling apart around our ears. Most of us know the story behind the hymn "It Is Well With My Soul." Horatio Gates-Spafford was a very successful lawyer, blessed with a great family. A loving wife, Anna, four daughters, and a son. He was devoted to Christ and to serving faithfully in the church. But in 1871, his son passed away at the age of four from scarlet fever, and then two years later all four of his daughters died in a shipwreck on the way to Europe, leaving only his wife to send Horatio the heartbreaking news. This kind of pain is unimaginable to bear. Imagine being Horatio, crossing the scene of the sinking where he lost his four daughters. The longing he must have felt, to reach into that water and feel the touch of his children again. I do believe that not many of us parents would be able to resist the urge to climb over that railing and join them if we were in those circumstances. And yet, Horatio leaned into God as he carried that pain. He remembered that God was still faithful, God was still loving, and God had to part with His Child, too, in order to save us from sin. Horatio reflected on the good, even while surrounded by the grief, and in 1876, that hymn was published by Ira Sankey and Dwight Moody, having touched the heart of many since that day.

"It Is Well With My Soul" is not alone in that aspect. We sing another song hereat MCC that comes from a similar place. "Raise A Hallelujah" is a song written by Jonathan and Melissa Helser, and dedicated to Jaxon Taylor, the two year old son of Bethel Music CEA Joel Taylor, who was diagnosed with an aggressive virus that sent him into organ failure. Shortly afterward, Jaxon's sister Addie was diagnosed with the same illness. The Taylor's were informed by doctors that Jaxon would probably not survive. In the bleakness of this news, the Taylor's and Helser's cried out to God, and chose to worship Him in spite of the tragedy that was headed their way. They remembered the strength of God to answer prayers that many unbelievers say are unanswerable. God can work miracles when men write situations off as "already determined." And after several weeks in the hospital, He did just that, healing Addie and Jaxon completely, and sending them home with their folks.

#### IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

##### VERSE 1

When peace like a river

Attendeth my way

When sorrows like sea billows roll

Whatever my lot

Thou hast taught me to say

It is well

It is well with my soul

## CHORUS

It is well with my soul

It is well

It is well with my soul

## VERSE 2

Though Satan should buffet

Though trials should come

Let this blest assurance control

That Christ hath regarded

My helpless estate

And hath shed His own blood

For my soul

## VERSE 3

My sin O the bliss

Of this glorious thought

My sin not in part but the whole

Is nailed to the cross

And I bear it no more

Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord O my soul

## VERSE 4

And Lord haste the day

When the faith shall be sight

The clouds be rolled back as a scroll

The trump shall resound

And the Lord shall descend

Even so it is well

With my soul

“It Is Well With My Soul” Written By: Horatio Gates-Spafford / Philip Paul Bliss

## RAISE A HALLELUJAH

### VERSE 1

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies

I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief

I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody

I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me

### CHORUS

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm

Louder and louder you're gonna hear my praises roar

Up from the ashes hope will arise

Death is defeated the King is alive

### VERSE 2

I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me

I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee

I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery

I raise a hallelujah fear you lost your hold on me

### BRIDGE 1

Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)

## BRIDGE 2

Sing a little louder in the presence of my enemies

Sing a little louder louder than the unbelief

Sing a little louder my weapon is a melody

Sing a little louder Heaven comes to fight for me

Sing a little louder

ENDING

I raise a hallelujah

“Raise A Hallelujah” Written By: Jake Stevens | Jonathan David Helser | Melissa Helser | Molly Skaggs



## **IDES Food Packing Event – Saturday, February 4, 2023**

**8:00am-12:00pm at Meadowbrook Christian Church**

## **Update from His House – Grand Valley State University**

Here's an update from Scott Crary, Campus Minister at Grand Valley State University:

“Is this where the prayer happens?” a student asked, as she dropped into a chair at our Exam Week Prayer Table. It's a simple question with enormous significance. And it's a perfect way to describe ministry at GVSU this past year: small, but significant.

From the outside, our ministry looked small; about 8-10 students at our weekly meetings, Bible studies, and events. Yet inside, it was clear to see that our students felt loved, worshiped whole-heartedly, engaged with God's Word, and supported each other.

Back to the Prayer Table: it's not always clear what a student needs, because they don't always know. We pray for good exam grades and roommate relationships to be healed. And we also pray for family members who are sick and summer trips to France, which could lead to a career and marriage proposal.

In prayer and in our ministry, connection drives everything. People want — no need — to be connected with their Creator and His creation. And we tried our best to open up avenues for both through weekly gatherings where we worshiped through song, prayer, and a short teaching from God's Word. We regularly hosted board game nights and Mario Kart parties. Also, we found ways to serve together on campus by restocking the food pantry, praying with students, and handing out Exam Week Survival kits with candy and snacks.

Connection is key and we hope to continue and grow in that during this coming school year. Here are a few prayer requests for our ministry:

- Pray that Connection with Jesus is our highest priority and message
  - We need to meet more students and invite them to Check out His House - a small ministry is nice, but we have the capacity to lead and serve more students
- Pray that many would make the Decision to give their lives to Christ and follow Him whole-heartedly
- We need students to step up and lead key areas of our ministry: worship, events, service, Spring Break planning

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support! You are helping college students at GVSU and 11 other campuses find their way to Jesus and learn how to follow him forever.

On Campus for Jesus,

Scott Austin

Executive Director  
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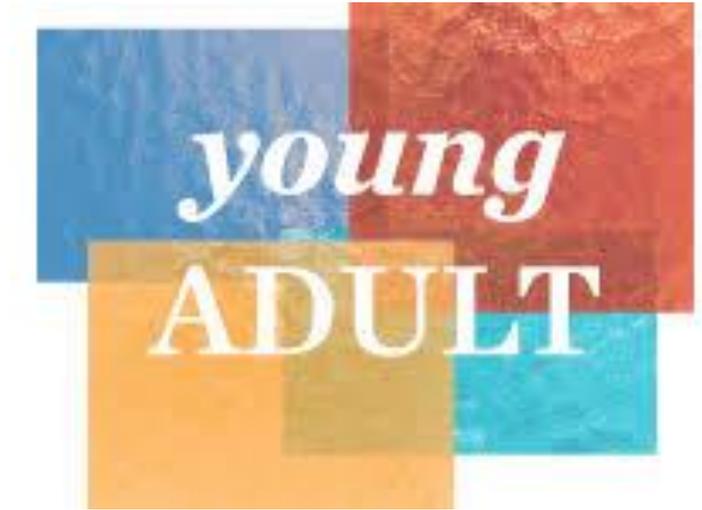
## **MCC Youth Group**

## **Kids For Christ**

The first night of Kids For Christ (K.F.C) will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. KFC will run alongside our already scheduled Thursday night youth programming. This will provide a fun and safe environment, where our 1st-5<sup>th</sup> graders can learn about Jesus. We hope to see your students there!

## **Family Movie Night**

Join us September 15th @ 5:30pm for Family Movie Night! Hot Dogs, Pizza, Popcorn, and Sonic the Hedgehog! All are welcome. We'll See you there!



## **Young Adults – Save the Date**

The next Young Adult Small group will be held on Wed., Sept. 28th. Email Daniel at [daniel@mccrochesterhills.com](mailto:daniel@mccrochesterhills.com) for more information.



### **Birthdays**

Ron Meegan – September 5  
Phil Johnson – September 7  
Jaysun Thomas – September 23

### **Anniversaries**

Mike & Linda Tingley – September 10  
Hector & Laura Urteaga – September 12  
Tim & Carol Howell – September 12  
Pat & Nona Wundrach – September 26