

Meadowbrook MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends of Meadowbrook Christian Church

OCTOBER 2022



A Devotion from Daniel

The status quo that most of us have been used to is that preachers and politics mix as well as oil and water. It has not always been like this in our nation's history. In the 18th and 19th centuries the pulpit was used to direct and to point people in a direction that would allow them to see clearly on which side of any particular issue God's will would fall upon. Of course, like most things men who desired power more than holiness abused their calling and twisted God's word to benefit themselves or those whom they personally supported. So now, preachers of all denominations have retreated from taking strong biblical positions on issues that have become deemed "political".

Now there are some who fear speaking God into politics out of fear of repercussion. Those who might fear losing tax exemption statuses or fear seeing their name put out into the world as someone who boldly stands behind God's word. A fear of protesters or online mockery keeps many from speaking out.

Others avoid "political" topics because they understand their calling is to be that of a messenger of Gospel not mouthpiece for any political organization. Basically, these folks understand that left or right, we all need the Gospel that is our number one priority. To support any candidate or party outwardly would cause (in a state like MI) 50% of my audience to tune me out. That to make a point I feel passionately about I would cause anyone to not hear the Gospel is unacceptable.

For me, I personally fall into this second category. The loss of tax exemption statuses will never cause me to not speak the truth. The fear of nasty phone calls or protestors will never keep me from speaking truth. I pray that the truth I speak will always be wrapped in the love of my savior, but if the words I speak (or write) scare the forces of evil enough to make my name famous so be it. If the words, that I type here or that I speak on YouTube weekly mean evil will line up against me so be it.

But you will never hear me endorse a candidate. You will never hear me ask you to vote for any man or woman... I have lived long enough now to know that in my 20+ years of participating in democracy that both the donkey and the elephant will often disappoint. Just like us they are flawed sinful creatures and I cannot in good conscience place my faith in any of them. This is not to say that there is not good and evil, right and wrong. I would hope that as we learn together, as we are drawn closer to Christ, we would be able to view our politics through a Jesus lens. Ask WWJD?

So, you won't hear me endorse any man or woman going into November's election, but I will also not be silent. I can't, I can't sit idly by. I won't endorse a candidate, but I will speak on the issues that God speaks on, and I will ask you to also speak and act upon these issues.

On November the 8th when you head to the polls... and you should. You may feel called to vote for Gov. Whitmer, you may feel obliged to vote for Tudor Dixon pray over that decision. We have all seen since the start of this pandemic the power a Governor has to help or hurt their home state. But you will vote your conscience on this decision, I will not tell you one of these women is "God's chosen". What I am going to ask you to do today is to show up on November the 8th and vote NO on Proposition 3. I ask you this directly, I come to you not privately but as a congregation because while the men and women we elect will often fail us, standing tall against evil never ever will. Below is the Proposition you will be asked to vote upon.

Below is the summary of the amendment that will appear on your election ballot:

Proposal 22-3

A proposal to amend the state constitution to establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make all decisions about pregnancy and abortion; allow state to regulate abortion in some cases; and forbid prosecution of individuals exercising established right

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- *Establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make and carry out all decisions about pregnancy, such as prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion, miscarriage management, and infertility;*
- *Allow state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, but not prohibit if medically needed to protect a patient's life or physical or mental health;*
- *Forbid state discrimination in enforcement of this right; prohibit prosecution of an individual, or a person helping a pregnant individual, for exercising rights established by this amendment;*
- *Invalidate state laws conflicting with this amendment.*

Should this proposal be adopted?

[] YES

[x] NO

Over 750,000 of our fellow Michiganders signed a petition to ensure that this ballot measure would appear. I want to be 100% frank with you. The taking of an innocent life is evil. The stopping of a human heart is a tragedy. Pagan people have always sacrificed the most innocent of their culture to appease false God's. This is not new. We no longer throw newborns into fires to appease volcanos, we now longer spill the blood of infants on alters to ensure a good harvest. Now we poison, crush and dismember children in the womb as we kill and sacrifice to the idol of vanity and self. VOTE NO ON PROP 3.

We cannot stop this everywhere, but we can do is take advantage of what **may be our last chance to stop it** here. Perhaps you are on the fence and perhaps you are unsure if your morals as a Christian should be enforced upon those who have different beliefs. Voting yes on prop 3 or abstaining from voting would cause Michigan to become one of the most extreme states in our union. Primarily because of the stipulation in the proposition that states "Invalidate state laws conflicting with this amendment". This means not only would the 90-year-old ban on abortion in this state be overturned but all other guidelines would be cast aside. This means:

- We would have **no** guidelines preventing late or full-term abortions
- Safety standards for abortion clinics could be erased
- Abortions could be performed by non-doctors
- Babies that survive attempted abortions would no longer be required to be cared for

- **Parental consent would no longer be required.**
 - **This means a minor victim of rape, statutory or otherwise could be taken in for an abortion by her assailant no questions asked.**
- Partial birth abortions would no longer be banned
- Taxpayer money could be spent on abortions
- **Public school employees could help minors acquire abortions again without parental consent.**
- No 24-hour waiting period

The list goes on sadly...

The powers of darkness have chosen a side, and they are organized and effective. They have already convinced three quarters of a million of your friends, family and neighbors to sign their petition. Large liberal states have begun advertising abortion vacations in states where restrictions stand. One female politician recently went on television and stated that fetal heartbeats are not even real they are just a construct of the male dominated medical community. The evil has even invaded Christ's Church as "progressives" try to disguise evil as compassion. In the Detroit News an editorial was recently penned by Rev. Bonnie A. Perry a Bishop in the Episcopal Diocese. The Reverend wrote "As a pastor, and as a person of deep faith and love for Jesus Christ, I believe that abortion should be safe, accessible, medically informed and rare." Do not be fooled by cleverly disguised words like that of the Reverend, she will have to answer for what she teaches her flock, and she will answer to one that is greater than us.

God hates the murder of children, there is no compassionate progressive argument that can move me from this position. I pray that you all will stand faithfully with good and with light next month as we step into the privacy of that election booth and make our voices heard.

Deuteronomy 12:31 (ESV)

³¹You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.

If you have had an abortion please hear me, your sin is not unforgivable. It is the beauty and simplicity of the Gospel that tells me that you are not worthy based upon what you did or did not do. The blood of Jesus covers over all of your sin. You are loved, you are redeemed, and you are not less than any other sinner who has humbled themselves before the cross.

If you are pregnant and contemplating terminating your child's life, please know you have options. Please know that both your life and your unborn child's life has such value to God that His Church wants to help connect you to the resources you need to make sure that you both have a chance to experience the joy and peace of walking with your creator. If you need help email me personally at daniel@mccrochesterhills.com your safety and confidentiality will always be respected.



Message from Anthony

Song Stories: Your Mercy

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.

I am so thankful that we serve a merciful God. Yes, He is a Sovereign God. Yes, He is a God who is awesome in power. Yes, He is a God whose standard we have broken. But, He is also a God who abounds in mercy and grace for us, His children. He has shown that over and over again. Think of the Ninevites, to whom He showed mercy. Think of the Israelites, to whom He showed mercy through the sacrifice of Jesus. And think of you and I, to whom He has shown mercy. It's only fitting that we remember that measure of mercy in our worship of Him. This song, "Your Mercy" was written by Paul Baloche, Andi Rozier, and Jonathan Smith, at a songwriter's retreat just outside of Chicago. As these accomplished songwriters sat down together to share their conversion stories, and reflect on how God was working through their lives and their craft, they centered on God's grace and mercy. Each one of them had come to Jesus as a young adult, not being raised in the church, and so they knew what it meant to have "once been lost, and then been found" by God. Remembering that struggle before Christ, and the mercy that God showed each of them as they struggled through life alone, gave them cause to pen this song that we sing today.

YOUR MERCY

VERSE 1

I once was lost I walked away
The road was dark I could not see
My hope was gone the pain was real
But Your mercy

VERSE 2

You saw my steps You felt my fears
You heard my cries You caught my tears
Arms open wide You ran to me
With Your mercy

CHORUS

Your mercy Your mercy
I stand before my king
And bow my heart to sing
You saved me You raised me
You died so I could live
No greater love than this
(Your mercy Your mercy)

VERSE 3

You give me life beyond the grave
My deepest shame is cast away
You sing a song that covers me
It's Your mercy

BRIDGE

Your loving-kindness

Leads me to repentance

(REPEAT)

Lord let Your kindness

Lead us to repentance

(REPEAT)

TAG

Lord Your mercy Your mercy

“Your Mercy” Written By: Paul Baloche / Andi Rozier / Jonathan Smith

The reason that God has pursued us with such mercy and grace is because His love for us is unending! He knows how lost we are without Him, and He patiently waits for us to come back home, like the father, running out into the field with wide open arms to embrace the return of his prodigal son. God’s given us life when we had earned death. God’s given us kindness that moves us to repent from our sins and turn to Him for forgiveness. The Word is full of reminders of the mercy, grace, and love that God has shown for us:

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

Psalm 145:9

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Today, reflect on the mercy that God has shown you, and see if your heart isn’t moved to praise Him! His mercy never ceases, and neither should our desire to worship Him for it.



The MCC Missions Team met 9/14/22 and decided unanimously to use contingency funds to provide "one time" extra support to Ninos de Mexico and Karamoja. The decision was based on immediate needs for these two missions we support. We agreed to provide funds for 2 students at Ninos (total: \$590). Each child will need three uniforms, tennis shoes, dress shoes, a backpack, and other school supplies. Also, we plan to provide \$500 toward the urgent food need in the Karamoja community. We are also reaching out to IDES to determine if they have, or can establish, a connection with any churches in Uganda, as that may be a more cost-effective means to provide food to those in need.

In addition to these outreach opportunities, 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.

Thank you to our Meadowbrook family for the generous Faith Promise offering that helped make these two extra donations possible!



IDES Food Packing Event – Saturday, February 4, 2023

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



The next SIS Meeting will be held October 24th, in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6pm. We'll be making fleece hats to donate to homeless shelters. We look forward to seeing you all there! Please contact Cathy Podvin at cathypodvin28@gmail.com or 248 -884 -3279 with any questions.



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.

Please drop off your donations in the foyer on any of the following Sundays: **October 16, 23 & 30**. Following is a list of food they are most in need of:

Canned yams, Canned vegetables, Canned fruit, Gravy (packets preferred), Evaporated milk, Pie crust mix (no premade pie crusts, please), Boxed potatoes, Muffin mixes, Cake mixes, Pumpkin Pie Filling, Stuffing, Boxed macaroni and cheese

Lighthouse requests no oversized canned goods or boxes as regular size cans streamline the packaging process.

Another option to donate this year: log 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!

Any questions, please see Linda Tingley



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!

Family Pumpkin Carving Night

This event is B.Y.O.P (bring your own pumpkin and carving tools). Come on out at 6:00 p.m. and share a fun night as we prepare for our fall festival.



Young Adults – Save the Date

The next Young Adult Small group will be held on Wed., October 12th 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.



Birthdays

Tom Schwartzenberger – October 2
Arleen Rossol – October 3
Kathy Couture – October 8
Gene Paul – October 10
Tamara Elwell – October 11
Carolyn Bennett – October 16
Debi Newton – October 17
Wendy Kapusta – October 20
Pat Wundrach – October 20
Jim Martin – October 24
Nona Wundrach – October 26

Anniversaries

Denis & Kathy Couture – October 8
Dan & Elaine Bright – October 17
Ron & Theresa Meegan – October 21
Jeremy & Brandy Cox – October 28