

Meadowbrook MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends of Meadowbrook Christian Church

June 2022



Devotion from Daniel

The comments below are from the year-end gathering for the Sisters In Service small group that operates out of Meadowbrook. I was invited to speak to this group of ladies who serve our community. Please note these comments were written and delivered prior to the tragedy we witnessed in Uvalde TX. But in light of that tragedy, I thought I would share them with you all here as well.

I first want to thank you all for inviting me and my family to be here tonight, and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all. Every once in a while, it is nice to be able to speak outside of the "pulpit setting". It gives me a chance to speak to all of you a little more directly and lets you all get to know me a little more personally. Sometimes speaking in a smaller group setting like this also affords me the ability to speak on subjects or about subjects that in the moment don't naturally coincide with what our Sunday sermon series is speaking about.

So as I sat last week and prepared these remarks, what was on the forefront of my mind was violence. Specifically, the bloody weekend our nation just saw as a spurt of high-profile mass shootings occurred all over the country. It began on Friday in Milwaukee WI. After an NBA playoff game, 21 people were shot as two rival gangs exchanged gunfire in three incidents across the city. Then the next day an 18-year-old walks into a supermarket in Buffalo NY and opens fire killing 10, including the elderly, in an apparently racially motivated crime. Sunday, in what has become a disturbing trend of places of worship coming under attack, a presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, CA was attacked by a gunman killing one and injuring five. In other shooting news, an arrest was made in a high-profile case in Dallas TX where a gunman shot three unarmed employees, in what is yet again being labeled a hate crime.

My mind spins as I watch this coverage. I watch the politicians and the pundits all spring into action ready to demonize and accuse. Ready to tell you exactly why this happened and how we can fix it if we would only vote for them or tune in at 11:00 to give their ratings a boost. Some will tell you this is a gun problem... we have too many of them and they are too easy to get. Some will also tell you this is a gun problem... we don't have enough of them, so the bad guys have free reign to be bad. Some will tell you it's racism, Caucasians

killing African Americans, African Americans killing Asians etc. Some will tell you it's mental illness and we need to have more and better access to doctors and medications.

Now if you're expecting me to go into long political rant about the evil democrats or the greedy republicans don't hold your breath. I find that when confronted with the nasty ugly realities of the fallen world we live in, it is much more effective to look to scripture for truth and solutions than it is to try to set fire to the "other". Because, at the end of the day, my goal is not to be proven right in my political opinions. It is to see God's name lifted high, it is to see an army of people marching alongside of me of all colors, making our way to the gates of heaven one day, when the father calls us home.

This is why I love small groups like sifers in service who come together to serve the community. Look, it should come as no surprise to you that the world that we temporarily call home is full of evil. It should be no surprise to you because if you know God's word, you should know that this world became dark the moment. Adam and Eve ate from that tree breaking God's perfect creation. It took but one generation for violence and murder to rear its ugly head didn't it.

I always think back to how God's chosen people fall in the times of the Judges. We look back at the last three chapters of Judges and we see a people so broken in a world so dark. We witness one of the most horrific rapes/and murders ever recorded. We read about Israel kidnapping women, essentially trafficking them for their own benefit. We read about one of the tribes being slaughtered to the point of near extinction. It is dark.

Sadly, it reads very much like one of our newspapers today. I'm not trying to be bummed, I promise. I know that you all are gathering tonight to celebrate a year of good work. I just want you to remember two things as you reload and recharge for next year.

1. Do not be surprised that our world is so dark.
2. Never grow numb to the pain the darkness causes.

I tell you not to be surprised, because if you forget or neglect to acknowledge the evil, you are forgetting that you have an enemy. An enemy that Peter tells you in 1 Peter 5 is prowling like a lion. An enemy who comes to kill and destroy. We cannot become surprised that he is doing exactly what he has always done and what he will always do until he is cast into the pit in final battle between good and evil. If you truly believed hungry lions prowled the parking lot here at Meadowbrook, would it change the way you walked to your car tonight? Of course, it would. You would be foolish if you just skipped out to your car tonight smelling of delicious meatballs. If you believe that there is a lion that wants nothing more than to consume you and those you love you would be very intentional with your movements, your plans. You would plan every step, you would arm yourself, you would warn others of the imminent danger that was ready to pounce.

I tell you not to grow numb to the evil because that numbness quickly becomes apathy, apathy turns a heart lukewarm. You should hear the stories of human suffering and it should always break you. I'm confident in telling you this because what I see in scripture in the life of Jesus that he never grew numb to it. Think about it, John 1:1 tells us that Jesus is an eternal part of the trinity. Meaning that all the evil man has ever committed, Jesus was aware of and present for. Cain and Abel, Sodom, babies sacrificed to Baal, war, murder, all of it. You would think that after thousands of years of genocides, kidnappings, droughts, and famines, that when Christ became man and walked this Earth, you would think he would be numb. You would think that he would just be disgusted by the brokenness and evil. That he would just have wanted to

just show up and do his job and get out of there, defeat death asap and get back to the place where the streets are golden. But He came and He did the opposite.

How many times off the top of your head can you remember Jesus reaching out to someone in their moment of real tangible, physical distress and meeting the need put in front of Him. I couldn't list them all here if we spent all night together. How about the woman caught in adultery, about to be stoned for her crime, who stepped into the middle of the fray and convinced the hypocritical men to put down their rocks? How about the blind man sitting by the fountain, who took the time to rub that mud into his eyes and restore his site? How about the paralyzed man whose friends lowered him down to Jesus in the middle of a teaching? In that moment, the restoration of that man took top priority. Jesus understood the real suffering that this broken world inflicts on its inhabitants, when John the Baptist was beheaded at the whim of a tyrant and a teenage girl... Jesus mourned and sought out a place where he could be alone. When someone he loved died, Lazarus... Jesus wept.

Jesus was not surprised by the darkness; he had seen it all... Jesus was not numb to suffering. This is why groups that are the hands and feet that see needs, that see places where they can push back against the darkness, where they can relieve some sufferings, even momentarily, are so important. They are important because they reflect the nature and character of our Lord and savior: whether you are providing a meal for someone who is hungry, giving a jacket to someone who is cold, providing a bed to someone who is without. When you do these things, you are showing someone that you too are not surprised or numb to their hurt.

Here is what I want to leave you with and encourage you with as you all plan for how you will serve your community next year. It's a question. Why did Jesus meet all of these people's needs? Yes, he had compassion on them, of course, but what was the overwhelming reason he acted?

1. To call sinners to repentance

a. Remember that women caught in adultery? When the crowd left, when they all went home to their glass houses. Do you remember what Jesus said to her? He says women where are your accusers? He says I don't condemn you either, go and sin no more!

2. To bring glory to the Father

a. Everything Jesus did, especially the blessings and the healings and the care that he bestowed upon people, it was always done under the big picture of the Father's will. It was always so that God's nature would be made clear, and that the creation would be drawn back into relationship with the Creator.

As you all prepare to get back out there keep your vision focused. You are not just a group of ladies who likes to do nice things for people. You are not just a group of women who feels bad for those who go without. You are sharing the Gospel with a world that needs it desperately. You are being the hands and feet calling the lost back to the Father. You are bringing the hope of a Savior to world that is in desperate need of one.



Message from Anthony

Song Stories: Abundantly More

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.

Abundantly More

Abundantly More is a song from North Point InsideOut that we introduced here at MCC in 2021. It was written by one of their worship leaders, Seth Condrey, while he was reflecting on the peace he felt while connecting with God as he took time away from the busy hustle and bustle of life. He was reminded at this time that God never runs out of love for us, and we can always find perfect peace in connecting with Him. It's a lesson we all-too-often forget as life keeps us running in circles. Let's reflect on the lyrics of this song for a moment:

LYRICS

VERSE 1:

There is healing in the power of The Lord most high
There is courage in the shadow of His wings
There is peace unending over all my life
There is freedom that washes over me

CHORUS:

I find all I need here in Your presence Lord
I open up my soul, And You fill me up with
All I need here in Your presence Lord
Where blessings overflow
There's always abundantly more

VERSE 2:

There is rest in the goodness of The Lord my God
There is treasure in the kindness of my King
There is comfort in knowing Your unfailing love
My provider You set my spirit free

BRIDGE:

More than I could ask or seek
More than I could fathom
God Your love for me
Is better than I imagined

“Abundantly More” Written By: Seth Condrey, Heath Balltzglier, Matt Armstrong, Ethan Hulse

When we need healing or courage, God provides it. When we need peace, God’s peace is unending. We need God and only God, and He gives us all the comfort, joy, peace, kindness, and love that we could ever handle – more than this world could ever offer us – when we connect with Him and just rest in His presence. As David says in Psalm 73:23-26:

23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel and afterward you will receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

God never fails to provide us abundantly more than we need to walk daily with Him, worshiping Him, and opening ourselves up to a closer relationship with Him. “I find all I need, here in Your presence Lord, where blessings overflow there is always Abundantly More.”



Wolverine Christian Service Camp

We have some good news to share regarding the status of Faith Promise!

As of 5/29, we have received a total of 14 commitment cards, 3 more than the prior year. These monthly commitments show an increase over the prior year – a 60% increase! We are very encouraged that the Meadowbrook family is taking a larger step of faith in their response to the invitation to make a faith promise commitment. Because of this increased commitment, the Missions Committee is able to add an additional recipient, Wolverine Christian Service Camp. This is great timing, because MCC already has at least 10 kids signed up to go to camp there this summer. Praise God for his provision and faithfulness!!!



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LAUNCHED
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www.mccrochesterhills.com



Sisters IN CHRIST *Service*

Sisters In Service invites you to support our final project for the year . We will be donating \$375 to The Furniture Bank which will allow them to purchase 3 twin beds for families in need. We'll also be purchasing twin bedding to go along with the beds. Here's where you come in! We invite you to donate to the purchase of the bedding (any amount of donation will be helpful). Sisters In Service will be in the lobby on June 5 and 12 to receive your voluntary donation. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Podvin at 248-884-3270. Thank you!

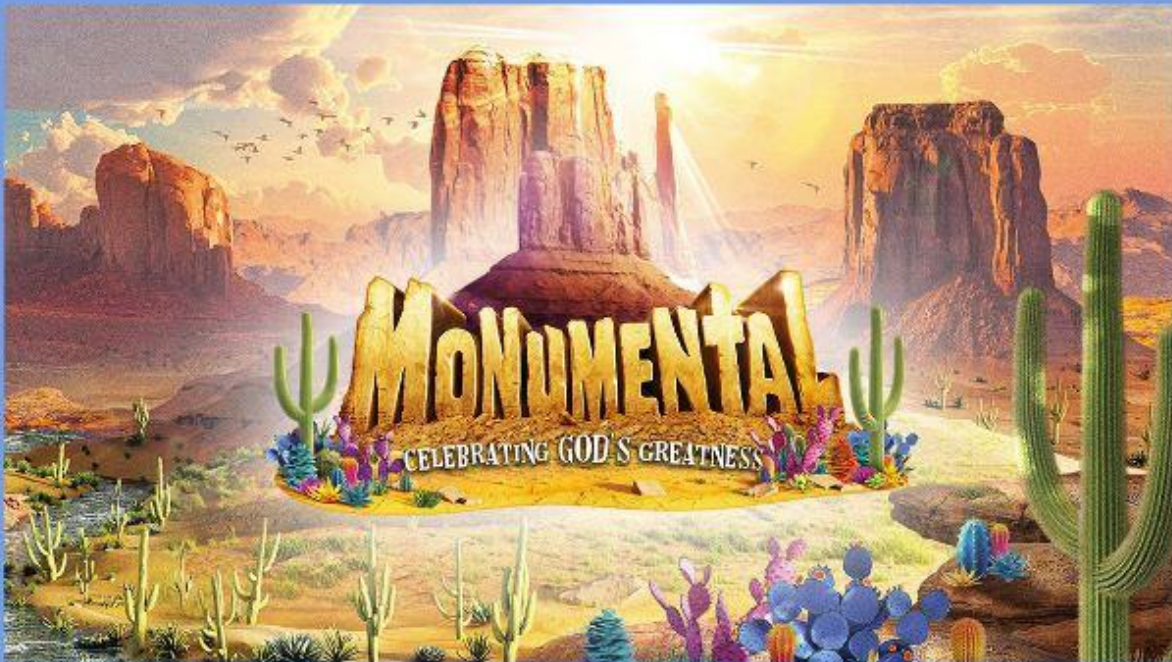


Off-Campus Youth Group

The MCC youth group has started meeting off campus for the summer. A text will go out to all the youth parents with the location address by the Wednesday before the following Thursday event. All MCC youth group meetings from June through August will be held on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm. All weeks have been filled to host the youth group by various families.

Vacation Bible School - August 2022

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2022



VBS will be held daily, August 1st-5th from 9am-12pm. Please sign up in the foyer for one of the volunteer spots and make a difference in the life of a child while celebrating God's greatness!!!



Young Adults - Save the Date

An off-campus YA event is happening on June 22nd. If you are interested in being added to the invite list, or know someone who should be, please reach out to Daniel at daniel@mccrochesterhills.com. More info to come.



Birthdays

Stephanie Elwell - June 4
Dan Bright - June 5
Eoghan Thomas - June 6
Patrick Elwell - June 16
Matthew Zaremba - June 18
Sue Rose - June 20

Anniversaries

Daniel & Lynda Sweigard - June 4
Jaysun & Traci Thomas - June 18
Ron & Marian Murphy - June 20
Larry & Cindy Esterline - June 23
Randy & Jerri Gilbert - June 25
Phil & Debi Newton - June 26