



Many people use the beginning of each calendar year as an opportunity for taking stock of their lives and planning for the future. Our church likewise has tried to take advantage of this yearly tendency, by setting aside a week near the beginning of the year to reflect on the past year and concentrate on prayer for the new year. While human resolutions depend for their outcomes largely on the perseverance of the makers, the efficacy of the church's prayers depends on God's gracious and sovereign power.

We pray together for Christ's Church and our church in particular, our missionary partners, ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our nation, and our world. We have prayed in large congregational groups, spontaneously and formally, in preexisting small groups (Bible study groups, etc.), and in home groups. We do this in expectation of our Lord being with us and hearing us (e.g. Matt. 18:19-20). By meeting thus for prayer, we follow the examples and practices of the early Church and the ancient nation of Israel; i.e., we take our place in the history of God's work in and through his people for His glory.

We encourage you to attend one or both times of special congregational prayer and worship (see above for time). Each meeting will be unique. Wednesday, January 8 (in the Church Library) will include a time of silence for confession and repentance, scripture and hymn text for reflection, directed congregational prayer and smaller group prayer. Sunday, January 12 (in the Fireside Room) will feature structured prayer and youth-led worship.

If you meet during the week in a small group, we encourage you to set aside your usual meeting practices, if practicable, and concentrate on prayer. Prayer guides are available from the church office for use during these times.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9 and 10:45AM

Unless otherwise noted

Pastor Dean Monkemeier

January 5

9:30AM only

The Lord's Prayer

Youth Minister Timothy Abbatacola

January 12

Paul's Earnest Prayer

1 Thess. 3:10-13

Family Pastor Joel Sisson

January 19

Jesus' Prayer Parables

Luke 18:1-14

Family Pastor Joel Sisson

January 26

Grasping for God's Blessings

Genesis 25:19-34



GATEWAY TO MINISTRY DINNER

You are invited to join Pastor Dean on Sunday, **January 26, from 4-7:30PM** for a time of dinner and discussion. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member **or** discovering how to connect with the ministries of WSBC, this dinner is for you. You may contact Pastor Dean [dean@wsbc.info] with questions. To make a reservation to attend, please contact the church office (wsbc@wsbc.info or 708.246.1530) on or before Friday, January 24, and indicate whether you require child care.



2019 THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Thank you for your generous Thanksgiving Fund donations. A total of \$7,860 was received.



OWLS [Older, Wiser, Loving Saints]

Thursday, January 23

12NOON

Fireside Room

Please note this is the fourth Thursday in the month, not the usual third week.

You may sign up on Sundays, January 12 and 19 during the Fellowship time. The cost is \$5 for lunch.

Our guest speaker is Attorney Colleen Sahlas, who has prepared the presentation, "How to avoid common legal pitfalls and scams." Sahlas has a genuine interest in helping us manage personal and business affairs safely and preventing the victimization of seniors. We hope you can join us to learn and follow her methods.

For additional information, please stop by the table on Sundays or contact George Graves.



ADDRESS CHANGES

Samuel and Melissa Bottorff

Mason Hunter and Jenny Chitlango

Joe Ross and Annette Schneck



THURSDAY PM LADIES BIBLE STUDY

January 16, 2020

1:30PM, Room #213

(except third Thursday of the month)

Loving Justice, a Life Guide Bible Study, by
Bob and Carol Hunter



God is loving and powerful. He is able to work against some of the strongest forces of hate in the world. You can imitate God's justice by fighting against these same powers in your own life and in the lives of those around you. Taking a fresh look at this theme throughout scripture, the authors challenge you to love justice as God does. And they show you how to work for justice in your everyday life.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Java Joe returns on January 26 during Fellowship time. Five new brews will be highlighted. Plan to sample and vote for your favorite Jolt of Joe!

As the new year unfolds, stay connected to WSBC and be a part of the many activities that are available:

Sundays – coffee Fellowship time, and Board Games

Mondays – adult golf (March-November)

Tuesdays – badminton/pickle ball (coming this spring)

Thursdays – adult volleyball

Other various happenings include: movie night, Dinners for Eight, Java Joe January, the church picnic, **Older Wiser Loving Saints (OWLS)**-third Thursday of the month), **Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEOs)**- first Tuesday of the month).

Check the weekly calendar in the bulletin and plan your activity today.

Mark Wittkamper



THANK YOU

We are so grateful for the outpouring of love and support for our family as we are mourning the loss of our nephew, Henry Aulenbach. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring community of faith.

Steve, Lisa, and Ben Wolf



TUESDAY PM LADIES BIBLE STUDY

January 7, 2020

7:00-8:30PM, Fireside Room

Nehemiah, Bible study by Warren Wiersbe

The life of Nehemiah is an inspiring testament to the power of determination. Years after Jerusalem's defeat by Babylon, the Jewish people returned to their land only to discover a city left in ruins. Surrounded by enemies, Nehemiah finds himself tasked with an overwhelming charge: to rebuild the walls of his beloved city. This Bible study examines Nehemiah's remarkable journey from the everyday to the extraordinary and explores the unique power found in perseverance.

The study guides are \$7 and will be available on January 7. Please contact Linda Peters if you have any questions.



BABY SHOWER

Katie Bidstrup Murawski

Sunday, February 9

Two o'clock to four o'clock in the afternoon
Fireside Room

Ladies, you are invited to join us to celebrate the arrival of a baby girl for Mark and Katie.

Hosted by Tuesday Evening Bible Study Ladies.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Linda Peters at: 708.738.8486 by February 2.



TORTURED FOR CHRIST

Saturday, January 25

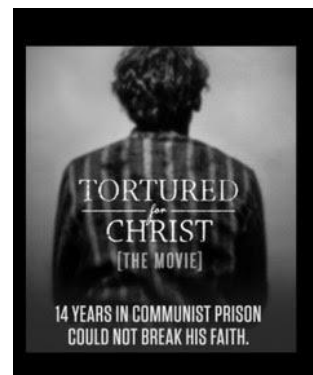
at 5PM

in the Fireside Room

As a follow-up to the recent Persecuted Church Sunday, the Missions Committee is offering the movie, *Tortured for Christ*, which is the testimony of Voice Of The Martyrs founder, Pastor Richard Wurmbrand.

Believers worldwide are witnessing and living out their faith, standing strong, strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, sharing the salvation message.

Let us commit to pray for our falsely accused, imprisoned and persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.



REMEMBERED IN LOVE

Ross Wilsey

May 21, 1930 – November 13, 2019



MISSIONARY PARTNER NEWS BRIEFS

For security purposes, please do not distribute, post, or share this information without individual permission to do so from the partners.

Africa Initiative

In the midst of great tribulation and uncertainty, the Firm Foundation Academy continues to impact the community for Christ. The current number of students (primary and secondary) is 429.

After recommendations from the government evaluators, the building project for senior high classrooms was changed to building a multi-purpose hall that can seat 500 students. On completion, the hall will be used as a venue for assembly, examinations, and youth conferences for churches in the neighborhood. We are going to repurpose some of the existing classrooms to create space for the high school pupils—that is how we plan to go around additional expenses.

We are grateful for the donations that many of you have made toward this project and invite you to prayerfully consider how you may wish to contribute toward the \$40,000 still needed to complete and furnish this building.

Please keep praying for God's mighty intervention regarding the numerous security challenges facing Nigeria.

Keep praying for church leaders to mobilize Christians to stand in the gap in prayer on behalf of their communities.

Thank you so much for your prayers for our family. Isabela and Isaiah turned three in November; Josiah turned eight in December.



Congo Initiative

Just a month ago, we asked you to stand in prayer for the CI community as we opened another ministry year. God answered. We enrolled over 150 new students at UCBC and celebrated as all of our programs continued their crucial work of equipping transformational leaders in education, professional sectors, churches, families, and the private sector.

Today we ask for your intercession again on behalf of Beni. Our town has been brutally attacked twice in the last six days. The armed group who has been killing civilians in Beni territory since 2014 made incursions into Beni town and into our neighboring town of Oicha, killing over 75 of the most vulnerable inhabitants over the last three weeks. Last night one of the members of our contractor's construction crew, who is the son of one of our campus guards, was killed in his neighborhood near our main campus.

These attacks come in the midst of a major military offensive, aiming to take out bases that this armed group had established in the forest east of Beni. Unfortunately, the army's victories in the forest have not been able to dismantle the armed group or prevent their violent reprisals on civilians. Citizens are furious and their protests this last week have also turned violent. Three lives have been lost this way, too. Today, security forces were unable to contain protestors, who set fire to the Mayor's Office in Beni and one of the major UN peacekeeper bases, forcing an evacuation of UN personnel to their airport base. This demonstrates the anger of a frightened population who does not trust security forces to protect them.

We ask for your prayer because we know our God is bigger than this destruction and the loss of life. Nothing is hidden from our God. Though we do not see clearly, we choose to believe that this chapter is not the end of the story for Beni.

Indeed, our risen Savior has spoken: “Behold, I am making all things new.” We know we are called to be a part of that new story. Join us in bringing these requests before his throne:

- Protection of civilians in Beni and Oicha, including the CI community. We have temporarily suspended activities for staff and students’ safety.
- Complete dismantling of the armed group causing destruction. Wisdom and dialogue among civil and military authorities who are responsible to protect the city and also respond to violent protestors.
- Comfort and grace for grieving families
- God’s name to be known and glorified.

Chris and Rebecca Hirt

God has Rebecca on a journey to get board certified in neurofeedback therapy. As we explained last month, our son Luis has some special needs and this therapy has helped in very significant ways. She’s already been asked if she would help other missionary families by providing neurofeedback therapy so we know the need is there and the potential to help children and adults is high. If you are interested in learning about the professional equipment that will make this therapy available, please send us your questions. We appreciate your prayers.



Meet Snoopy, our new dog. The kids love him, and Chris takes him on lots of runs around the neighborhood. Emalene

asked, “Is he a fire dog?” We’re not exactly sure what breed he is, but he’s a keeper.

John and Meg Huffman

Jon and Meg Huffman are thrilled to announce the arrival of their son,



Ezekiel James. He was born in Costa Rica on November 20, 2019 at 1:20PM, weighing 8 pounds, seven ounces, and measuring 20 inches long. Thank you for your prayers and support as we enter into this new chapter of life. We are grateful for your partnership on this journey.

Lewis and Barbara Winkler

Lewis and I are very thankful to be almost settled into our home. We felt the Lord working in unusual (dare I say, miraculous?) ways to enable us to find this place. One example is paying the same rent for triple the space.

It was an exciting semester for us with lots of travel. We went to Turkey, Myanmar, and Korea for teaching and mentoring. And, on top of regular teaching responsibilities in Singapore, Lewis spoke at a national forum on the public use of scripture in society. It was an honor to be asked, and he has been invited back in a few months to speak on Christian Zionism. (Pray for wisdom in writing that talk.)





REFLECTING BACK—THINKING FORWARD

New Year's is a wonderful time to reflect on the past year, but also to prepare for the new. As 2019 draws to an end, we look back at 2019 and see God's handprints all over **Women's Life** in so many ways. This fall we studied the Gospel of Luke and were blessed to have 80 women registered for this study with over half from the community, not members or regular attenders of WSBC. More than a third of these are young moms. Many of these women attend churches where the gospel message is not clearly shared, or don't attend any church. They are so hungry to learn more about Christ and the Bible.

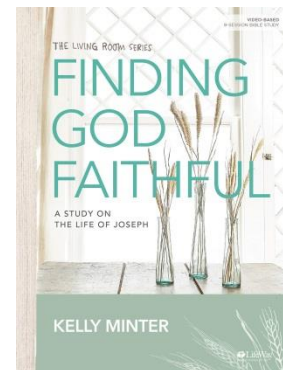
Lindsey is one of these ladies. Growing up in a home with a Mormon mother and Catholic father, she never really attended any church growing up. She recently realized that something was missing in her life. So when a friend invited her to **Women's Life**, she gladly accepted the invitation. She has come every single week, saying "You just feel so loved here. I know that Jesus is what has been missing in my life." She is so eager to learn more about Jesus and the Bible.

The highlight of the 2019 session was the Christmas brunch attended by over 105 women. A young professional woman in her early 30's from a Hindu background heard the Christmas story for the very first time that morning. She openly shared that there is something missing in her life; she doesn't have the joy that her friend has who invited her. Please be praying that she can rearrange her work schedule so she can join us this winter, and for all the women involved with **Women's Life** who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

On January 9, we will begin our next series entitled *Finding God Faithful* by Kelly Minter.

This 8-session study will trace the path of Joseph's life, as found in the book of Genesis. This is a special invitation to all the WSBC ladies to join us Thursday mornings at 9:00. We would love to have you. Invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to come with you, too.

Lastly, the leadership of **Women's Life** would like to thank WSBC for their prayerful support and encouragement of this ministry since its inception. God has been so faithful every step of the way—meeting every need and working in the hearts and lives of the ladies attending **Women's Life**.





PARTNERSHIP

Missions Experience Week featuring Mission Partners and activities for all ages!

February 23 – March 1, 2020

February 23, Combined Worship Service Featuring:

Ilir & Kate Cami

International Association for Refugees

Catered Mediterranean Meal

February 29, Hands On Mission Project:

Feed My Starving Children

9:30-2:30, ages 5+

March 1, Regular Worship Services

Mission Experience and Brunch



BUILDING SECURITY NOTES

On a recent morning, we discovered that one of the northern outside doors had been propped open all night. This was accidental, but it left the building vulnerable to potential overnight theft and vandalism. Some of the interior lights were also left on.

There are lessons to be learned from this incident. All building users please take note.

- Do not prop open the exterior doors.
- Double-check the exterior doors before you leave to make sure that they are locked and latched close.
- Check all of the entrance doors on the north and south sides and the west door by the copier room before you leave.
- Turn off the interior lights before you leave.
- Do not assume that someone else will lock up after you – be proactive.

We encourage every group that meets in or otherwise uses the church during evenings to lock the doors after 7:30PM to provide security for the people and the building. There is a video doorbell at the northern entrance doors so that latecomers can be let into the building if a group leader has the security tablet in his/her possession (obtain from the church office).

Russ Cook, moderator



YEAR-TO-DATE TWO MONTH FINANCIAL REPORT as of November 30, 2019

	GENERAL FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$167,500	\$131,300	\$36,200	28%
Expenses	\$136,200	\$142,300	(\$6,100)	(4%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$31,300	(\$11,000)	\$42,300	

	MISSION FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$45,700	\$50,100	(\$4,400)	(9%)
Expenses	\$300	\$10,000	(\$9,700)	(97%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$45,400	\$40,100	\$5,300	

Note: all amounts rounded to nearest hundred





Report from Kirevu Jude in Uganda:
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from Uganda Ruwenzori Region Fort Portal. It's always a great pleasure to stay in touch but also communicate with you concerning the ministry progress in this region which you have continually supported.

Examples of Training in Evangelism and Outreach

- Fort Portal College of Health Sciences trained and will travel to Bugiri District.
- Different Christian Unions have been trained in this area. During these trainings, many students express the desire to go and evangelize their own classmates and in their hostels after realizing that it's not so hard to reach out to someone with the good news of Christ.



Kirevu Jude: Training Secretary supported by WSBC in Ruwenzori District. Working on 21 campuses.

Examples of Training in Discipleship and Leadership Development

- Mbarara Institute: fellowships that are effective and impactful.
- Mountains of the Moon University: campus outreach that is relevant.
- Chemequip Institute of Health Sciences: effective planning for ministry.
- November 2 Leadership Conference for 102 student leaders from nine institutions. Theme: *Understanding the Heart of God Concerning Leadership*. 1 Samuel 13:14.

PRAYER:

- A Christian Union has been threatened with closure. Ask God to keep it open.
- That God's presence will overflow in Jude's life as he moves on in ministry.



Reflections:

HANDS ON MISSIONS

Blanket Distribution



"If I could sum it up in four sentences, I would say it was eye opening for me personally... It was so nice to see that other people had been there with blankets and food, that they are not forgotten and pushed aside... Curtis and his church do an amazing job with the homeless ...On the car ride home we were discussing bringing them food next time; something that would keep and wouldn't spoil. Everyone is at risk of homelessness whether they are rich, poor, or in-between..." Annette

"It is such a blessing to interact with these special people and to remind them in a very practical way of the everlasting love of Jesus." Lonnie

"I loved ministering to a new area and handing out the blankets. It was awesome seeing the blankets I helped make get passed out and I loved how we passed all of them out!" Melissa