

“I would maintain that thanks is the highest form of thought and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” --G. K. Chesterton

I am wondering if Thanksgiving may be a little hard this year. Some of us may not be able to travel and gather with extended family as we have other years. This is added to so much else that we have lost during this pandemic year. Loss will lead to sadness if we dwell on it. But as believers in Christ we can choose to focus on the many blessings God has given us even during these days. Let me recommend that we deliberately engage in this “highest form of thought” because it is good for our souls. We probably need Thanksgiving this year more than ever.

Thanksgiving is about God the giver. That is the focus of the psalmist in Psalm 65 as he responds to God’s bounty with praise and joyful thanks. He wonders at God’s abundant generosity. His sense of wonder becomes the source of the psalmist’s joy. It can be ours as well as we look at Psalm 65 together.

#### The Psalmist wonders at God’s presence

God chooses to bring us near. “Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!” In his presence “we are filled with good things.” He answers our prayer; he forgives our sin; he fills us with the blessings of his grace. When we live in his presence we live in the riches of his grace that has been lavished upon us. When we think about this our happiness is doubled by the wonder of his love. *Lord, thank you for your redeeming grace.*

#### The Psalmist wonders at God’s deeds

God’s awesome and righteous deeds call for songs of joyful praise. When we think about them, we stand in awe of God’s power; we wonder at his sacrifice. His work for us through Christ gives us hope that those without the Savior cannot understand. “The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.” W. H. Auden wrote: “The most commonplace things are tinged with glory.” When we think about this our happiness is doubled by the wonder of his righteous works. *Lord, thank you for your majestic goodness.*

#### The Psalmist wonders at God’s abundance

The land itself shouts for joy and sings. “You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.” “The streams of God are filled with water...”. “You crown the year with your bounty and your carts overflow with abundance.” Bounty, abundance, overflowing blessing –God is the provider of a plentiful harvest. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

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When we think about this, our happiness is doubled by the wonder of His abundant goodness. *Lord, thank you for your bountiful care.*

This Thanksgiving season let's deliberately join together in this highest form of thought. Gratitude focuses on God and delights in who he is and what he has done for us. His blessings fill us with joy. What we have lost because of this pandemic cannot compare with the wonder of God's generosity to us. I hope you have a wonderful, joyful Thanksgiving.



In Christ, *Pastor Dean*

## ON-SITE WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays at 9 and 11AM  
Pastor Dean Monkemeier

### November 1

*A Winning God*  
Isaiah 37

### November 8

*Living Without Fear*  
Isaiah 41:8-20

### November 15

*Handling Life's Pressures*  
Isaiah 43:1-7

### November 22

*Bread for the Soul*  
Isaiah 55

### November 29

*Your God Will Come*  
Isaiah 35

LIVESTREAM on our website:

<https://wsbc.info/online-stream/> and

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/WSBCVillageChurch](http://www.facebook.com/WSBCVillageChurch) and

YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/wsbcvillagechurch>



## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday, November 26  
10AM



## WSBC ZOOM ACCOUNT

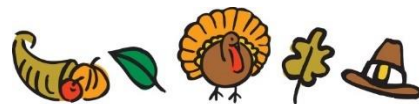
After receiving several requests, the church now has a Zoom Account that you can login to and use with your small groups or meetings if you would prefer to not use your personal account. Of course, this means that any meeting scheduled with the WSBC account will need to be started and managed with that account. But anyone in your group or meeting with the correct login and password can get the meeting rolling. If you would like it, then contact the church office.

Feel free to share this info with anyone from WSBC that you feel could use this in their ministry.

*Pastor Joel Sisson*



## COMING SOON: How to donate to the **THANKSGIVING OFFERING!**



SO MANY BLESSINGS

*Romans 12:13 NIV*

*Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*



**SO LONG, FAREWELL,  
AUF WIEDERSEHEN, GOODBYE**

Marv and Jan Taylor will soon be headed to their new home in Indiana; they began worshipping at WSBC in 1968 when they moved to this area. Marv had accepted a math teaching position at Riverside-Brookfield High School (a former student is Andy Tedeschi!). Jan taught at both Seventh Avenue and Spring Avenue schools (primary and intermediate grades), and the two have been involved in various ways at church. Marv sang in the Choir and also in the men's quartet; Jan has been a part of the Wedding Committee as well as serving in the nursery and as Sunday school teacher. After November 10, their new address will be in West Lafayette, IN. We wish them God's blessings in this big change and hope to see them occasionally when they return to visit family in Naperville.



## **WSBC MISSIONS**

**GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!**

In the fiscal year ending 9/30, your financial generosity provided for the following support:

- \$263,200 support for 33 Mission Partners
- \$15,300 in special gifts for a variety of needs, many of which are directly related to the worldwide impact of COVID-19

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!**

Jesus sent his followers out to share the good news. *"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"* Mark 16:15.



**WORSHIP AND YOUTH INTERN  
FROM MOODY**

We are excited to partner with Joshua Spilman this school year as our new Worship and Youth Intern. He will be helping us lead worship on Sunday mornings and Senior High Youth Ministry on Sunday evenings. Here is a short bio he has written...

My name is Joshua Caleb Spilman. I'm from Oneida, IL, the land of cornfields and wind turbines. I come from a family of eight, with two sisters above me, and three younger brothers in my troop. My parents are Bill and Mary Spilman. I've been playing guitar since I was twelve years old, and leading worship for about as long. I am a sophomore student at Moody Bible Institute studying Worship and Media Arts. I love to sing, obviously, and music is a huge passion for me. I love anything creative -- from songwriting to poetry to journaling, anything you can think of. I also love communicating through videography and photography. I love movies and TV shows: I'm a nerd, so talk to me about *Marvel*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars*, or *Stranger Things* anytime. I enjoy all these things, but I also have the privilege of being with my beautiful girlfriend Emily most days. You'll probably see me around with her a lot here :)

I can't wait to do life with you all this year!



## MISSIONARY PARTNER NEWS BRIEFS

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

### Breakthrough Urban Ministries



Breakthrough and outreach organizations across Chicago are offering free legal aid through the

Justice Corps community lawyer program, a project of Communities Partnership 4 Peace and Metropolitan Family Services.

“Nine times out of ten somebody is fighting a case already, and they are wondering if they can get support” said Damien Morris, director of Breakthrough’s Violence Prevention Initiative. “So when we do street outreach, we can tell them, not only will we go to court with you, but also we have a resource where we can refer you to this legal team to go over your case.”

### Ilir and Kate Cami

This past month we have seen the truth of Romans 8:28 once more, that God can make all things work together for the good of those that love him. In mid-august, Arno and Sahar’s youngest daughter had emergency surgery to remove a severely infected tooth.

One of their doctors overheard Sahar comforting her daughter in a foreign language. When she learned that Sahar was from Iran, she told her she had to meet her boss, a lead pediatrician at the hospital, who is an Iranian woman. After meeting Sahar and hearing about our work, she eagerly volunteered to help. We brought her our first case the following week.

One couple, believers from Iran, has a young son we have long perceived to have some kind of developmental delay. Considering the language barrier and the

need for a local pediatrician to communicate directly with the child in such a case, we felt unable to proceed. After her initial exam, this Iranian doctor immediately approached the other necessary specialists in the hospital and convinced them to volunteer their time to help diagnose this boy. Together, they are assembling a proposal to request that the hospital also offer their services, tests and imaging for free or at a greatly reduced price. Praise God for this answer to prayer for this family and continue to pray for them that they might obtain a clear diagnosis and clear direction for future treatment and therapy.

### Jay and Bella Curtis



We had an amazing summer. In the midst of COVID-19 God blessed us with

opportunities to serve over 1,000 kids and family members in new ways.

This fall God is opening doors for us to serve families in our communities in new ways. In just a few days, we’ll be resuming our weekly Teen Night Together (TNT) program for our middle school and high school teens. TNT provides recreation time, dinner, a Bible lesson, a College and Career Readiness session, and a great time for teens to connect with others in person while maintaining safe social distancing practices on our campus. We are excited to welcome the teens back to our campus for the fall and winter season.

Thank you for your continued support to make this ministry possible – God is doing great things in the midst of this challenging time.

## Haiti Christian Development Fund (HCDF)

Thank you to everyone who participated and donated during our Farm fundraiser. Thanks to everyone's support and generosity, we were able to purchase the land. This journey is not over however. I will be updating you on any improvements we do on the farmland and how you can help.



Praise God, COVID-19 has not struck Fond des Blancs. We continue to take precautions, especially as we try to open school back up. We are the only school in the surrounding area that requires masks and thankfully all the students are doing a good job of keeping them on throughout the day. At church we continue to social distance, take temperatures, and require masks.

We wish we could provide more options to our community through remote learning and church. Sadly, as many of you know, Internet is one of the necessities Fond des Blancs and most of Haiti are in desperate need of.

Did you know that education and poverty are directly linked? Lack of access to education is a major predictor of passing poverty from one generation to the next. Education curbs the effects of communicable diseases that can plague poverty-stricken areas. It helps create gender equality. By educating girls and boys, you provide them with the ability to make their own decisions. Education creates development, free-thinking citizens, and better health and wellbeing. A good education can provide a lifetime of opportunities. Providing an education

allows people living in poverty to think outside of wondering when the next meal might be. Providing an education for the poverty-stricken allows them to provide for themselves in the future.

The most influential way you can help provide a quality education is by sponsoring a child. For \$25 to \$100 a month you can play a major part in providing a high-quality education for a child.

Please consider becoming a sponsor by visiting our website at: [www.HCDF.org](http://www.HCDF.org) and signing up at:

[HTTPS://GIVE.HCDF.ORG/CAMPAIGN/LEXO-DE-SCHOOL-STUDENT-SPONSORSHIP/C296639](https://give.hcdf.org/campaign/lexo-de-school-student-mentorship/c296639)

## T and R Phillips

I write this update exactly two months after R wrote her first post-surgery update, and one week after my own surgery. I am recovering well from a robotic prostatectomy. I was able to get an appointment with the most experienced urological surgeon in the country, Dr Loh CS and my surgery was performed just a week later. Dr Loh is in the same room with the patient but sits at a VR workstation connected to the Da Vinci four-armed robot to perform incredibly precise surgeries.



We have so much for which to praise God: that the cancer was found relatively early, that the best doctor in the country was able to accommodate me, that the COVID-19 situation here has been largely under control, and for a place to stay in Kuala Lumpur.

This has been quite an eventful couple of months: two cancer surgeries and the

passing of my father, on top of everything else going on in the world. We are so, so grateful for the strong support we have felt from family, friends, and colleagues. I can't imagine facing all these things without your love and support.

### **Mark and Liz Sisler**

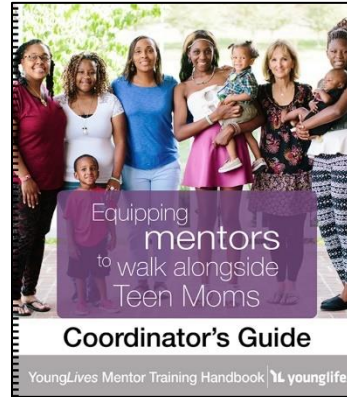
In 1Kings 17, Elijah meets a widow and she and her son are down to their last bit of flour and oil. He tells them not to worry, the Lords says "the jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lords sends rain on the land."

Every day they were supposed to use the last remaining oil and flour and every day the Lord would supply enough for the next day. Over the last six months, I feel like God has been teaching me to rely on him daily. Each day I am to come to him, with no plans, nothing that I am holding on to, just open palms releasing my wants and desires to him, daily depending on the Lord.

Certainly, the first couple of months I was kicking and screaming about all of my cancelled plans, but as time went on, our family started to shift to daily plans and began to pray specifically for things for that day or the next. As months went on, we looked back and saw God answering our daily prayers in amazing ways.

Over the last six months we were able to start Young Life ministry in both Moline, IL and Bettendorf, IA. This is so exciting as we seek to reach more students with the gospel. We are currently praying and working to develop ministry in: Decatur, IL and in IA: Orange City, Waukee, Urbandale, and Clear Lake. Join us as we pray and ask the Lord to lead us. **NOTE: please join the Missions Committee as we pray specifically for the Clear Lake Region.**

In August, I (Liz) finished going through



the YoungLives Mentor Training Handbook with three women. We are now ready to start meeting with teen moms when God brings them our

way. We all have been reaching out to local ministries and organizations around Des Moines and are hoping to partner with an organization that is already working with teen moms. We are encouraged as things are moving forward and are continuing to pray for God's timing and God's leading.

Please pray for God to bring more women for mentors and teen moms who are open to mentoring.

### **Lewis and Barbara Winkler**



The virus has presented many new challenges for East Asia School of Theology (EAST). In early September we normally go with students in our mentoring group to a nearby country to bond and do cross-cultural ministry together.

With travel restrictions and our new foreign students still residing in their home countries and taking all their classes online, we were challenged to find creative ways to still bond and do ministry together. This link (<https://youtu.be//756U9Q6k4yc>) is a 2.5 minute video summary of the exciting new ways we were able to explore and enjoy

ministry together in the regions of cyberspace.

We hope and pray that you will be encouraged to know that even in the midst of great challenges and barriers, your fervent prayers and generous support are making an eternal impact for God's glory here in Asia.

Please pray for Barbara. Every Monday morning, she leads an evangelistic life-coaching group with five non-Christian ladies from four different countries. Pray that they would understand the gospel clearly and place their faith in Jesus.



### **OWLS**

#### **Older, Wiser, Loving Saints**

Recently WSBC acquired a Zoom capability and advised it is available for church groups for meetings.

Zoom is possible on your computer, iPad or phone. For those who have attended services via streaming with these devices, a Zoom app can be downloaded to allow participation.

As a member of OWLS would you please express your interest in participating in a Zoom meeting with our OWLS group? Please respond to my Email with the following, if you:

would (YES)

or

would not (NO)

Your suggestions for the programs future considerations is also invited. Questions always welcome; please contact George Graves.

### **Young Life Metro Southwest**



Hello! My name is Katya Garcia. I am going to be a senior at Grand Valley State University in

Michigan. I have had the amazing opportunity to be a volunteer leader with MSW Young Life since I was a junior in high school, getting to live life with students in WyldLife, Capernaum, and currently now in Young Life (YL). I wish people in the community knew that MSW YL is making such a huge impact on the kids who live here.

There are so many kids who just want to feel heard/seen and have a place where they can be themselves without all the pressure society and social media puts on them.

Being able to be with them through all the highs and lows in their lives and to see how much they have grown and continue to grow has been amazing.



Hello! My name is Fletcher Dixon

and I am in tenth grade at LTHS. I have been involved in Capernaum for one year. I like the skits they do at Club, the music, and the message. At Capernaum I learned that God is my Savior. When I'm at Capernaum I play games and talk to my friends. I like my Capernaum leaders because they are nice.



## FISCAL YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT as of SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

	GENERAL FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/((Under)
Receipts	\$807,800	\$853,200	(\$45,400)	(5%)
Expenses	\$807,800	\$853,400	(\$45,600)	(5%)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$200)</b>	<b>\$200</b>	

	MISSION FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/((Under)
Receipts	\$281,000	\$325,500	(\$44,500)	(14%)
Expenses	\$287,400	\$325,500	(\$38,100)	(12%)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$6,400)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$6,400)</b>	



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Kate Cami**  
November 7  
llir.kate@iafr.org

**Meg Huffman**  
November 23  
meg.r.huffman@gmail.com

**Jon Huffman**  
November 11  
jonathanchuffman@gmail.com

**Johanna Metzger**  
November 24  
kurt\_metzger@wycliffe.org

**Linda Holmquist**  
November 20  
holmquistla@gmail.com

**Lois Morgan**  
November 24  
dlmorg1955@gmail.com

**Ezekiel Huffman**  
November 20  
meg.r.huffman@gmail.com

**Philip Wandawa**  
November 26  
pwandawa@kest.ac.ug



### THANK YOU

I want to thank everybody for the sympathy cards and for all your prayers for me and my family, we get stronger everyday, I know my brother is with our Lord, so it was a day of celebrating life. Thank you.

*Bonnie Geist*



## SOCIALLY DISTANCED JUSTICE?

Missions Committee Chair Jean Dukas

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another' Zechariah 7:9.*

### Justice begins with loving my neighbor.....How?

Through the ages, Christians, prompted and empowered by the Holy Spirit, have practiced justice, shown mercy and had compassion for the suffering of others. In fact, no doubt you have walked in these practices many times throughout your own faith journey.

But during this time of major disruptions, perhaps justice, mercy, and compassion have not been on your front burner.

Earlier this fall, Missions Committee members contacted some of our local mission partners to inquire how we can serve while remaining socially distant. From becoming prayer partners, to donating boxes of cereal, to giving money for a much-needed meal, to going onsite to complete practical, hands-on projects, you can continue to serve others safely through the following organizations:

BEDS, Plus

Breakthrough Urban Ministries

Fox Valley Christian Action

Young Life Metro SW

Contact the church office or check out the Missions Bulletin Board for more specifics.



In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, the needs are greater than ever before. Children and their families all over the world are afraid. By packing a shoe box you can offer hope to many children and introduce them to the Savior Jesus. Packing a shoe box this year is our critical mission. We can all answer Christ's call to, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel" Mark 16:15.

It's time to pack shoe box gifts. Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes are available now. Pick up your go box and packing information at the table in the Narthex. **Return your filled boxes on or before Sunday November 22.** Please pray over your box.

Any questions? Contact Deb Duvall and Cindy Holdren.



### GATEWAY (new member) CLASS

Sunday, November 8

4-6:30PM

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





Imagine a wonderful morning of fellowship, beautiful Christmas music, festive decorations, and a heartwarming Christmas message with ladies from WSBC and our community.

Please come and invite someone special to join you!

A Special Christmas Gathering  
Thursday, December 3  
9:30AM

Childcare provided (Nursery to Kindergarten)  
Remote learning stations for elementary age children (Kindergarten to Fifth Grade)

We will adhere to all IDPH and CDC guidelines

Hope to see you there!



### **ARCHIVE DISPLAY**

The next time you walk through our building's center hallway, stop for a moment and take a look at this month's Archive exhibit; it features the sister church relationship between WSBC and Keystone Baptist Church. The connection began in 1967 and continued for more than two decades. You will see artifacts relating to joint events as well as some familiar faces in vintage snapshots.