



Monday
January 4, 8PM
Women's Prayer on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82189085852?pwd=VWIKVVdmdktsYmExYlZqOGhm2IUZz09>

Tuesday
January 5, 10AM
Women's Prayer in-person
(Fireside Room) and Zoom hybrid
Led by Bri Hueber and Jean Dukes
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82189085852?pwd=VWIKVVdmdktsYmExYlZqOGhm2IUZz09>

Wednesday
January 6, 7AM
Men's Prayer on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81507012520?pwd=WUp6T3FHVGZmdEdpN0xiU3hlcDkwdz09>

Wednesday
January 6, 7PM
All Church Prayer @WSBC
Led by Pastor Joel
Sanctuary

Thursday
January 7, 7PM
All Church Prayer for Missions @WSBC
Led by Stan Nelson
room to be determined

Sunday
January 10, 5PM
All Church Prayer @WSBC
Led by Pastor Dean
Sanctuary and multiple other rooms

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN PRAYER WEEK

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Colossians 4:2

As we close out 2020 (yes, what an unexpected, unpredictable, unsettled year!), I would like to consider the example of Paul and Epaphras as encouragement for each of us to participate in Prayer Week to begin 2021 together.

Near the end of Colossians, Paul writes about Epaphras, noting:

Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God. I can assure you that he prays hard for you and also for the believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis (Colossians 4:12-13).

Epaphras, a member of the church at Colossae, was now in Rome with Paul. Even though Epaphras was away from his church family – *without phone, email, ZOOM or weekly worship with them*, he was faithfully praying for his fellow believers at Colossae. He was likely praying for them with Paul as Paul states specifics of Epaphras' prayers. Earlier in the book of Colossians, Paul notes that the church family in Colossae had learned about Christ from Epaphras.

You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you (Colossians 1:7-8).

Epaphras had told the Colossians about the Gospel and was now praying with Paul for their continued spiritual growth. In the following verses, Paul writes from prison in Rome to the Colossae believers (whom he had not met) that he is praying for them. Read what he told them:

*So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you **complete knowledge of his will** and to give you **spiritual wisdom and understanding**. Then the **way you live will always honor and please the Lord**, and your **lives will produce every kind of good fruit**. All the while, you will **grow as you learn to know God better and better**.*

*We also pray that you will be **strengthened with all his glorious power** so you will **have all the endurance and patience you need**. May you be **filled with joy, always thanking the Father**. He has **enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light**. For **he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins** (Colossians 1:9-14).*

Even though he is in prison, Paul makes use of his time praying for Christians he has never met, writing encouraging letters to them, and asking them to pray that he will be able to tell others about Christ!

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should (Colossians 4:12-13).

During the pandemic when connecting with others involves masks, Zoom, and phone calls, I am encouraged by **Epaphras' example of dedicated, long-distance prayer** for others. And during 2020 with its hardships, losses, and difficulties, I am encouraged by **Paul's example of faithful, outward-focused prayer** while in prison. So, following Paul's and Epaphras' examples, let us focus on prayer and gather together during Prayer Week, January 4-10. I hope that each of you will participate in at least one – if not more -- of the prayer gatherings listed on page one, whether in person or virtually. And may we all be united in a focus on prayer throughout the week.

Dawn Nelson, Moderator

ON-SITE MORNING WORSHIP

Sundays at 9 and 11AM

January 3

Timothy Abbatacola
John 12

January 10

God's Personalized Plan
Ephesians 1:1-14
Pastor Dean Monkemeier

January 17

To Know Him Better
Ephesians 1:15-23
Pastor Dean Monkemeier

January 24

Saving Grace
Ephesians 2:1-10
Pastor Joel Sisson

January 31

Togetherness in Christ
Ephesians 2:11-22
Pastor Joel Sisson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kassia Metzger
January 4

Emalene Hirt
January 16

Lukas Metzger
January 29

Josiah Sisler
January 31

TUESDAY EVENING LADIES BIBLE STUDY 7PM Tuesdays

The Tuesday Evening Ladies Bible Study will continue to meet via **ZOOM**. January 12 is the first meeting of the new year. At the first meeting, Chapter 1 covering Acts 1, of Elizabeth George's study on Acts *Relying on the Power of the Spirit* will be discussed. To get your ZOOM invitation and learn how to obtain a study book, please contact Linda Peters.

LIVESTREAM on our website:

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

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WSBCVillageChurch and

YouTube at:

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

LIGHT IN A CHANGING WORLD

I had a friend sum it up. He said, "Whoa, we didn't see that coming!" Look at how much has changed in the last ten months as a result of COVID. Masks, social distancing, and lockdowns. On top of that, technology innovation is moving forward at a rapid pace. I read a quote that struck me. It said, "Technology has never moved this fast in the last five years and it will never move this slow again." Did any of us know what ZOOM was a year ago?

Everything I've mentioned is of the world and it has come with disruptions. It's been a little harder for all of us to gather for worship. Steve Wolf would have loved to conduct orchestra Christmas concerts, and many parents and students are working and learning from home. The result of COVID has not only been disruptions, but for some, loneliness, isolation, frustration, and in worst cases, depression. From a world's perspective, this has been a dark and challenging time to live.

As Christians, we bring a message of light, peace, hope, and faith through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the good news! In a troubled world we proclaim this message with joy. Here are a few ways we can do this.

Bill Bright was the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ (now known as Cru) and died in 2003. Bill once wrote, if he could do it all over again, he would be more intimate with Jesus. To love him more, to seek his ways, and honor him. He was saying, the closer I get to Jesus, the easier it is to share him with others. Telling them who he is, what he has done for me. I would encourage all of us to do that.

In order for us to grow closer to the Lord, one step is to open his word. Some suggestions to get started might be reading the gospel of John, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Read Ephesians where Paul makes you aware of our spiritual wealth in Christ, a message that helps us in our earthly walk. Read Colossians where Christ is all that matters. He is sufficient for every need. James 4 verse 8 says, "Draw close to God and he will draw close to you."

Jesus said in Matthew 22 verse 37, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." As we love the Lord may we reflect his love to others. Hebrews 10 verse 24 says, "Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds." Are you aware of a friend, neighbor, relative, co-worker, a hairdresser or barber with whom you would love to share the good news of our Savior? Start with a kind gesture. It may be a compliment, a handwritten note of thanks or delivering a bakery treat. One of these may open the door to more conversation and friendship.

As we move into the new year and the ability to gather in large numbers remains challenging, pray that the Lord will use this time to allow you to focus on relationships, and provide opportunities to connect with individuals. Some may be struggling and looking for answers, and some may be looking for fellowship and a friend to talk to.

May the Lord use you to bring others to him.

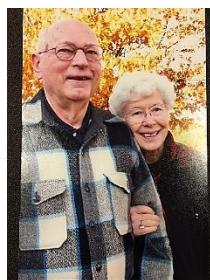
Bob Nyberg on behalf of the Evangelism Committee

Congo Initiative

Congo Initiative has continued their celebration of 15 years of ministry. David Kasali sent the following prayer requests; please join them:

1. Praise God for a successful Christian Bilingual University of Congo (UCBC) graduation, after many disrupted months earlier in the year.
2. Pray for strength for the UCBC staff who are finishing up responsibilities for the academic year and preparing for the next academic year to begin in mid-December.
3. Pray for financial provision for Congo Initiative (CI) as we step into the new year with uncertainties in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and around the world.
4. Pray for the smooth implementation of our completed organizational review process, which we trust will bring clarity and energy to the work God has called us to.
5. Pray for peace and stability in Beni territory and surrounding areas that continue to be affected by violence from armed groups.

FOCUS Mulago Child Project



The FOCUS Child Project has supported over 2,000 children and families since her inception in 1992. Without men and women out there, compassionate about children and community growth and development; this journey would be impossible. Today, we share some of your stories.

“My husband, Jim Reapsome, and I were privileged to meet Zac and Theodora Niringiye while Zac studied at Wheaton Grad School. We delighted in his teaching a Sunday class from an African perspective. Jim, as editor of *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, was eager to learn from this experienced African church leader. The Niringiyes told us about FOCUS, a student ministry in Uganda whose property is near the large Mulago slum. God gave the staff and students the vision to create the Mulago Child Project for the children in the slum.

We were attracted to the project because it was created by Ugandans for Ugandans. We liked the philosophy; register one child from a family, believing that the child will influence the whole family. School tuition and uniforms were provided, Saturday programs for a place to play and get school help, Bible classes, life skills, nutrition, hygiene, HIV education, emotional health, games, and a nutritious lunch including fruit and sometimes meat. Achievements are celebrated. Annual days in camp on Lake Victoria—a great delight.

We eagerly support the vision and service of the college students and staff, and want to encourage friends to sponsor a child.

The wisdom of the one child’s influence on the family was displayed by Moses, the first boy we sponsored. He finished high school, became a Christian, worked for FOCUS, saved money to build a house for his parents, who had never had a house. He and Christine waited three years to marry until the house was finished. Now, he and Christine are building a house for themselves and their two sons, Cyrus and Calvin.

Next, we sponsored Fred, an orphan who finished high school and wanted to enter college to become a social worker. Jim and I were humbled when we sent Fred a gift on his nineteenth birthday. He wrote that it was the first birthday gift he ever received. His parents could not afford gifts, so no mention was ever made of birthdays. FOCUS helped Fred get a teaching job in Tanzania where he teaches first grade as he works on a college degree in social work.

Now we sponsor Trevor in Primary Seven who wants to be a farmer. FOCUS helped his mother get medical care.

During the corona lockdown, FOCUS has given food, medicine, bars of soap, paid rent, repaired a house, and visited children's homes.

Jim and I encourage friends to become sponsors investing in one child who can make a difference in his family and community. At Jim's memorial service, we requested that gifts be sent to Mulago Child Project." Martha



"When I visited Uganda, Africa with my church in July 2019, I was sixteen. We helped FOCUS run a weekend camp for their sponsored elementary age kids. I loved seeing how happy and free those kids were, and I was so happy to be a part of that joy. After the camp ended, I realized that those kids would go back to their normal lives and whatever they were dealing with at home. I knew that even though those kids would go back to homes

with hungry family members, I also realized how many other kids lived in homes without access to education, food, and Bible teaching and needed the hope that Jesus offers. There were still many kids who were not yet sponsored by FOCUS supporters. I then made a decision after seeing the need of children in the slums, that I would sponsor a child. I have been babysitting and could start to give some of my earnings to a family, a child who needs it more than I do. What better way of doing that than through FOCUS Ministries where I have personally met the people who work there and in the place that I have seen with my own eyes." Josie

FOCUS Uganda



Even when his friends said he would not make it to the university, Luke Davis has gone against all odds to prove them wrong. His trust in God has helped him build the confidence to go through life stronger each new day.

Here is Luke's story:

"I was always a popular student while growing up and many people looked up to me. Throughout my school days, I was a good performer. In high school (HSC), I was a little disappointed with myself for not scoring as high as I had hoped.

Even with my good grades while at high school, my classmates would make fun of me and I was trying to prove them wrong by getting the best grades in class.

There was a bet going around after we finished our final exams in Senior Six that if I ever made it to Makerere University, then the students would give me UGX 100,000.

They were being sarcastic, they knew I am from a poor background, not even my good grades could get me the university of my choice.

Both my parents are teachers and they struggled to pay for me through school, their salaries could not sustain me and my siblings through school.

I even turned down a government scholarship to study education at one government university because I had different aspirations, my goal was to join Makerere University and do a course of my dreams.

In August 2017, I finally joined Makerere for a bachelor's degree in Industrial Chemistry. I applied for a government loan scheme and got it.

Fast forward, my Christian Union (CU) was invited for the FOCUS Leadership Summit at Gerenge Camp during the independence holiday and I was chosen to emcee the event. I had gained a confidence I didn't know I could attain.

Even when my brother told me at one point that he could no longer support me while at school, I got the courage to learn a skill that could help me earn while at campus. I enrolled in a graphics design class. I started volunteering with churches around campus and many of the people started referring me to their friends who needed help with their design needs.

Right now, I volunteer with FOCUS Uganda's communications department and so far I have had the best experience serving God with my talents.

The peace in the Lord, I am always grateful that I put my faith in him and he has stayed faithful."

Lois Marie Morgan



"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" Psalm 116:15. You have probably already heard the news, but I am

writing to let you know that Lois Morgan went to be with the Lord on November 17, 2020 at the age of 84. I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your part in her ministry and review God's hand in her life.

In October of 1962, Dick and Lois left for Portugal to study language in preparation for ministry in Angola. Difficulty obtaining visas redirected them to South Africa where a pilot was needed. The Morgans served in various places in South Africa and willingly moved to where they were needed most. Dick was a pilot and church liaison during their years in Mseleni, South Africa. During that same period, Lois home-schooled their children, assisted in administering the local hostel and enjoyed time teaching Zulu women. She taught them a bit of literacy training and how to memorize scripture. Seeing their faces when they recognized the name of Jesus in their Bibles was of tremendous joy to Lois.

In 1973, they moved to Johannesburg where they taught scripture in the high schools of Soweto. These opportunities gave Lois some of the most joy and satisfaction of her 38 years as a missionary. Thousands of students made professions of faith. The riots of 1976 brought an end to teaching in Soweto. This led the Morgans into AEF administration and church leadership training.

In 1986, the Morgans relocated to Mozambique where Dick served as field

leadership while they continued in church work. Moving back to South Africa in 1998, they served at Evangelical Bible Seminary of Southern Africa, training leaders from many African nations. Health concerns prompted them to retire in 2000. Dick and Lois retired in Summit, Il where they were involved in church ministry on a regular basis. Lois was an active part of the church's food pantry and Bible studies. Lois will be remembered

for her heart for the Lord and faithfulness in ministry.

On behalf of SIM, thank you for your love and support for Lois through prayer and giving.

Lois served her Lord faithfully; only eternity will show the fruit of her labor and of those who partnered with her. May God receive the glory!



Ladies, we want to extend a special invitation to you to join Women's Life this winter. We will be studying the book of Hebrews using Jen Wilkin's ten-week study called *Better*. This session begins Thursday, January 14 from 9-11AM.

Together we'll explore how God "provided something better for us" in the person of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 11:40).

We would love for you to join us. The cost is \$15. Signup online (wsbc.info/womenslife) or call the church office: 708.246.1530.

Childcare and children's programs are provided for ages newborn through five years and remote learning stations for elementary students in kindergarten through fifth grades. Both CDC and IDPH guidelines will be followed.



Women's Life is open to women of all faiths and backgrounds, so please invite your friends and neighbors to come along with you, too. Hope to see you on January 14.

Happy New Year!

Women's Life Leadership Team

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE Month Ended NOVEMBER 30, 2020

	GENERAL FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$111,800	\$151,300	(\$39,500)	(26%)
Expenses	\$129,900	\$145,700	(\$15,800)	(11%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$18,100)	\$5,600	(\$23,700)	

	MISSION FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$44,400	\$49,700	(\$5,300)	(11%)
Expenses	\$1,600	\$10,900	(\$3,800)	(85%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$42,800	\$38,800	\$4,000	

Note: all amounts are rounded to nearest hundred.