

July 2020

The Newsletter of the WSBC Family

By now most of you have heard that we plan to gather for worship again at WSBC on July 12. It has been so long since we have been together, and I have missed our worship here in our beautiful sanctuary. I have also missed you, so let's get together!

I wish we could have a big, full service with a full choir and packed pews, but that will have to wait. Things will be different for awhile as we want to wisely and lovingly reopen our church. The plan, as suggested by our Reopen Task Force, will be to have two morning services, scheduled for **9 and 11AM**. There will be an hour between the two in which to sanitize the building.

We are going to ask you to **register in advance** for the service you wish to attend. As you do, you will be asked to answer some health screening questions. When you arrive, your temperature will be taken, and you will be asked to wear a mask, sanitize your hands, and sit in designated areas in the pew. All of this will be strange, but we will see each other, worship together, and then fellowship appropriately outside after the service.

Some things will be missing. We will not have children's ministry, childcare, or nursery. We encourage families to attend at 11AM and, if you are comfortable (we will be), bring your children with you into the service. Another option: we will have a live-stream of the service in the Community Room for families (11AM only). We will not have fellowship time between services in the Community Room. We will not have bulletins, hymnals, handshakes (and hugs), nor will we take up an offering. We will not sing quite as much and more toward the end of the service. (More detailed guidelines about this from our Task Force is on the next page.)

All of these measures are being put in place to minimize the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19, so that we can worship together as safely as possible. But we cannot eliminate all risk. That risk is greater for some because of age or health conditions. For some of you the best decision will be to continue to worship at home through our online streaming. Others of you will be wondering why we need to take so many precautions. Please know that we are doing these things out of love so that most of our congregation will be comfortable being back together. Whatever your decision we want to continue to faithfully minister to you during this time.

As we move into this next season, let me encourage you to respond lovingly and humbly toward one another. I know that we each view the dangers of COVID-19 and the limitations of these days differently. We are different in our tolerance of and aversion to risk. We must be careful not to judge someone else who has a different view, or to shame those who respond with a different behavior. So instead of trying to convince our brother of our view or the wisdom of our behavior, we must support one another and encourage one another. And if I love my sister I will be willing to give up my desires for her benefit.

I want to thank Joel Sisson for his leadership of the Reopen Task Force and for the whole group's excellent work. They will continue to meet as we navigate the path toward more normal times together. Pray that this disease will soon be eliminated. But until then God will be faithful! Let's pray that we will learn the lessons he has for us along the way.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dean

As we prepare to REGATHER for in-person worship services, here are a few things to understand and expect.



BEFORE SUNDAY:

- Plan to attend one of our worship services.
 - ON-SITE: First Service – 9AM.
 - ON-SITE: Second Service – 11AM. Families and everyone under 65 years old are encouraged to attend the 11AM service only. Families, please come and don't worry about your kids making noise or wiggling during the service in the pews. However, the Community Room (11AM only) will be set up with a LiveStream for families or for anyone who may need to wiggle more freely on any particular Sunday.
 - ONLINE: wsbc.info/online-stream or youtube.com/c/wsbcvillagechurch or facebook.com/WSBCVillageChurch
- On Wednesdays, starting July 8, online reservations will open. Please reserve the on-site service you plan to attend and how many will be attending with you each week. Please call the WSBC Office if you need any help with your RSVP.
- Please monitor your health (symptoms and temperature) at home throughout the week.

ON SUNDAY:

- Once you have parked and before leaving your vehicle, please sanitize your hands and properly place your face mask.
- Face masks will be worn while attending WSBC worship services and gatherings.
- Please enter only through the north parking lot doors of WSBC. These doors will open approximately 20 minutes before the worship service times. Please maintain social distancing (6 feet) as you enter WSBC.
- Upon arrival to the north parking lot doors, you will be cheerfully greeted by one of our volunteers as they scan your forehead with an infrared thermometer. Temperatures below 100.4° will be allowed to enter.
- Please avoid fellowshiping in hallways and the Narthex.
- Please limit the use of WSBC restrooms. Only the restrooms near the Community Room will be available.
- Please take all items with you to the Sanctuary and avoid touching things along the way.
- Ushers will have the Sanctuary doors open for you and will encourage you to find your place to sit.
- Proper places to sit in pews will be clearly marked by cream colored ribbon. Please sit on the ribbon while practicing social distancing (6 feet).
- Please keep your face mask in place throughout the service, including congregational singing and recitation toward the end of the service.
- Please allow the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to do a transformational work in your heart and life for the Glory of God.
- When the service concludes, please exit the Sanctuary and Narthex through the south 45th Street doors before fellowshiping together. You will be dismissed orderly from back to front.
- Immediately following the first service, teams of volunteers will need to clean and sanitize the sanctuary, bathrooms, and other touch points in the WSBC building in order to safely open for the second service.

The following blog post was written on June 3 by one of the church's missionary partners, Lewis Winkler, serving with CRU.

In light of the recent riots and outpouring of intense emotion over the death of Georg Floyd, I thought I would post something on lament and imprecation in the Psalms.

Intense expressions of sadness and anger are sometimes uncomfortable for us in our post-enlightenment, rationalist age, but according to the Psalms, these expressions can be spiritually very healthy and even constructive.

Praying for the US and our world at this time of great tragedy and unrest.

Lament and Imprecation: Feeling with the God Who Feels

In my recent journey through the Psalms, I've been struck by the frequency of both deep laments as well as harsh and angry expressions made by some of the writers. I've also been contemplating many of the gross injustices of our world today and find myself frequently sad, angry, and disgusted by some of the morally repugnant attitudes and actions of our age, but also the ones I see deep within my own heart and soul.

Psalmic laments (expressions of deep sadness) are fairly well-known, as when David in Psalm 6:6 cries, "I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping."

Something perhaps less well-known but just as important are the Psalmic imprecations. The word, "imprecate," means to invoke evil upon or to curse, and there are at least 18 imprecatory Psalms. They include major portions where the author calls upon God to do something terrible to the wicked and ungodly.

Consider these examples:

Psalm 10:12, 15: "Arise, O Lord; O God Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer."

Psalm 52:5, "But God will break you [the wicked] down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living."

Psalm 58:6-8: "O God, break the teeth in their mouths . . . O Lord! Let them vanish like water that runs away Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime, like the stillborn child who never sees the sun."

Psalm 83:16-17: "Fill their faces with shame . . . O Lord. Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace."

Psalm 139:19: "O that You would slay the wicked, O God."

Growing up in evangelicalism, there seemed (at least to me) to be a predisposition in our worship and scripture readings toward celebration and praise. And that's all fine and good. God is certainly worthy of celebratory praise, but I've increasingly come to realize that while celebration, praise, and thanksgiving are centrally important to a healthy Christian life, some other important aspects were neglected or even ignored.

I somehow got the impression that being sad, upset, and outraged by morally reprehensible views, attitudes, and acts was more of an "Old Testament state of mind." Jesus had instituted a happier, kinder, and gentler era. We were told to "consider it all joy," "turn the other cheek," "overcome evil with good," and "bless those who persecute us." Of course, all of these responses have their place in Christian living, and vengeance is properly delegated to God alone since He has all the information necessary to make just judgments. Still, it remains appropriate and healthy for Christians to grieve and be angry at what sin is and

does in our time, seeking to be part of a movement toward bringing about the justice of the kingdom of God.

I think a reluctance to respond with raw and honest emotion to the ravages of evil gives at least a partial explanation for some of the mass exodus (some estimates suggest nearly 80%) from church by the current generation of youth raised in evangelicalism. Many were raised in a culture of brokenness and pain. In church, however, they only experienced a culture of superficial happiness and celebration that did not seem willing or even able to explore the depths of anguish, anger, and injustice that have become a daily experience for many in our world today. Because they found no culture of genuine brokenness, distress, and compassion, they turned away to the world around them, a place where there was a willingness to openly admit and express imperfection, anger, and grief.

As the Psalms plainly show, grief and anger over injustice alongside a cry for justice is a very real and legitimate way to relate to God on a deeper level. Still, it shouldn't stop there. The psalms show that these expressions are ultimately tempered and redirected by the humble recognition and acceptance that it is God who must act on behalf of the victimized and oppressed. He is the one who is continuously called upon to comfort the afflicted and right every wrong.

This does not mean we do nothing in the face of injustice and pain, but it does mean we look to God first and foremost as the One who hears our outraged cries and then enables and empowers us to labor faithfully for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Thus, as important as they are, raw expressions of emotion are not enough. Our angst, anger, and anguish must be offered up to the God who feels with us, the God who hears and cares, the God who is angry at sin yet weeps with those who weep. And in the deep empathy of this Holy and emotive God who became flesh and dwelt among and suffered with and for us, we find real hope, genuine healing, and the wisdom and strength to actively and intentionally make the world a better place.



YEAR-TO-DATE Eight MONTH FINANCIAL REPORT as of May 31, 2020

	GENERAL FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$563,800	\$574,300	(\$10,500)	(2%)
Expenses	\$538,600	\$568,700	(\$30,100)	(5%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$25,200	\$5,600	\$19,600	

	MISSION FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$192,400	\$219,100	(\$26,700)	(12%)
Expenses	\$142,100	\$167,900	(\$30,800)	(18%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$50,300	\$46,200	\$4,100	

Note: all amounts rounded to nearest hundred.



***ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday at 9AM
Pastor Dean Monkemeier

<https://wsbc.info/online-stream/>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WSBCVillageChurch
YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/wsbcvillagechurch>

July 5
The Harvest
Matthew 9:35-38

* Online only



****ON-SITE WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sundays at 9 and 11AM
Pastor Dean Monkemeier

July 12
A Disciple's Ministry
Matthew 10:1-15

July 19
Demanding Discipleship
Matthew 10:16-42

July 26
Responses to Jesus
Matthew 11:1-24

** Reservations, please



**MONTHLY MISSIONARY
PARTNER BIRTHDAY**

Curtis Reed
July 16
curtis_sankofasm@yahoo.com



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, August 16
WSBC PICNIC

The Fellowship Committee has reserved Denning Park (4903 Willow Springs Rd, La Grange) for our annual event.

Serving logistics will be adjusted to comply with our current health situation. (Details to follow in the weeks ahead.) We hope you will join us in the park's spacious venue.

Mark Wittkamper



2020 HSM GRADUATING SENIORS

Congratulations to:

- Jackson Gantt*, Lyons Township High School
- Noelle Harazin*, Riverside Brookfield High School
- Grant McKenzie*, Timothy Christian High School
- Ella Tedeschi*, Lyons Township High School
- Caden Tieszen*, Lyons Township High School
- Camden Usakowski*, Argo Community High School
- Mae Wolcott*, Lyons Township High School
- Ben Wolf*, Lyons Township High School

Photos and additional information:
<https://wsbc.info/youth/hsmseiors2020/>



FORE!

Yes, the season for WSBC golf has returned. Monday mornings with tee times usually before 9AM at Green Meadows (Westmont). (Due to reservations done via Internet, the tee times vary slightly.)

Please contact either Ken Mulhall or Greg Ulery by Thursday morning to make your required reservation for the following week. Plenty of fresh air and good conversation on the links.



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

Our hearts are grieving and mourning with our beloved community. We pray for peace and justice, while remembering the lives we have lost. This season has been so heavy and difficult for us. Our staff, along with our community, have been personally impacted by the loss of loved ones due to COVID-19, violence, and injustice over the past week. We appreciate your prayers, stands in solidarity, protests, love, and support.

Breakthrough is here for the long haul. We know that the threat and experience of racial violence has been consistent throughout the history of our country. The recent trauma is putting even more stress on our already strained community, especially in light of COVID-19 and its disproportionate impact on our neighborhood. But we stand united.

Grief is a powerful emotion that can paralyze us, but we know that it can also inspire us to work. As we channel our grief into action, we invite you to join us. We know that to confront racist systems we need to rebuild spaces and create new opportunities. For the past 28 years, and each day in East Garfield Park, we do this through providing quality education, workforce development, housing, safety initiatives, mental health care, medical care, and food access.

Our violence prevention team is at the front lines, more present than ever, mobilizing efforts to restore the community. The heightened concerns over the past week have stretched them in ways unimaginable as they continue to respond to shootings and homicides in the neighborhood. We are so thankful and proud of our team, all of their hard work, especially during times like this. Please continue to pray for them and our entire staff.

Pray for strength for our staff who are putting in the long hours as they care for our community. Our community needs resources and assistance more than ever. We remain faithful to our mission by which we have been called and thank you for standing with us.



Ilijir and Kate Cami



Throughout the quarantine we continued to help refugees with medical care through phone calls, appointments at the lab, specialist consultations at the hospital and provision of prescription medications. We were also able to organize virtual appointments with our local doctors, as well as a Farsi-speaking doctor in Scotland. But we have not been able to consult with and examine eleven women, many of whom are pregnant.

This was also the first time we used our new office space for patient appointments. It was a very exciting day for us, and an answer to prayer. The photo above shows our exam room, ready for patients.

On Friday afternoon, our Farsi church also held our first beach baptism in three months. It was wonderful to celebrate together with our sister as she expressed her commitment to

Christ through baptism. And, after so many weeks of quarantine, it was great to have a small group of us together for fellowship. We are still waiting for restrictions on indoor meetings to relax enough that we will be able to meet together for church and Bible study.

Kurt and Johanna Metzger



Thank you for praying for us as we started virtual school and as life has seemed more uncertain than at other times. But even in our uncertainty, God never ceases to amaze us through your faithful partnership with our

family and ministry here in Papua New Guinea.

Kurt has been able to continue his work as the manager of the Communication and Technical Services Department here in

Ukarumpda. He and a coworker are working on replacing and upgrading our backup servers' hardware and software to better protect our translation and corporate data.



Please pray for our families in the United States and Colombia. Pray especially for our (Kurt and Johanna's) parents' health and spiritual wellbeing during this time of isolation.



FREE TO GOOD HOME

The Church library has a collection of resources which have been used in recent years by small groups, Bible studies, and Sunday school classes. Authors include Anne Graham Lotz, Charles Colson, Susie Larson, Tim Keller, and Liz Higgs. Components are DVDs, leader guides, participant books; topics are varied. If you or someone you know has an interest in any of these, please contact John or Janet Helin about viewing/using them. The collection will be discarded at the end of summer so act now!

WELCOME TO WSBC

As Moderator Cook reported in his June 19 letter to the WSBC members, the following individuals were received into membership.

Abigail Abbatacola; Marta Alvarado; Sharon Dammala; Aaron and Rebecca Hoesli; Justin and Kayla Rudnick; and James and Anita Ward.

COMMUNION SERVICE

Sunday, July 12

6PM

WSBC Parking Lot

We will gather outside in the parking lot for a brief service of communion. Please bring your own communion elements to share with you and your family. The length of the service is about 20 minutes; if you want to sit outside of your vehicle, we ask that you bring your own lawn chairs.