



Easter Services

This year's Easter celebration will begin with a **Sunrise Service at 8:00 a.m.** The service will be held outside, on the hill by the crosses, if the weather permits.

The Sunrise Service will be followed by an **Easter Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.** in the Alpha. There is a sign-up sheet at the church, or bring your favorite breakfast food.

Sunday School will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Alpha.

Easter Morning Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.

There will be no Evening Service.

Pie Social Raises Funds

The WMMC Pie Social and Bake-off Contest last month earned \$475 for local and foreign missions. Nearly all of the 50 pies donated were sold by the piece or whole pie.

In the berry category, Tanya Procknow won with a raspberry pie. Eleanor Hill won the fruit category with an apple pie. A pumpkin pie, in the cream pie category, was the winner, by Vicky Anderson. In the nut category, Tanya Procknow won with a pecan pie.

The pies were served with ice cream and coffee for people who desired it.

The WMMC needs funds for missionary shares, materials for items to be made and donated to the Nehemiah Homeless Center and the Pregnancy Care Center, and other needs as they arise.

They donated \$1,000 for the Alpha roof, where their meetings are held.

Alpha Trees Down

The two red pine trees at the front of the Alpha have been removed because of a combination of factors.

They have created a lot of needles and pine cones to remove—a mess. They are also getting large enough for the roots to possibly affect the Alpha cement floor. And they will be out of the way of having a new Alpha roof installed.

It's possible they will be replaced with trees more suited to the location.



Homeless Centers Gets Pillow Cases

The pillow case class held earlier this year by the WMMC ladies has born fruit. Recently 54 pillow cases were delivered to the Nehemiah Homeless Center in Petoskey.

The Homeless Center said that when their clients leave, they are allow to take a pillow case with them if they wish.

From Pastor Rob

Prayer Is

Last month I gave three thoughts of what prayer is not, this month my desire is to equip you with three concepts of what prayer is. The reason I believe it is necessary to share these two opposing views of prayer is founded in my struggles over the years with a question; what is prayer? This month I hope to bring clarity to three key areas of prayer that will help you and me become more in tune with God as we develop a deeper prayer life.

As I have read through the Bible I have noticed that there are no specific instructions on what prayer is, how do you pray, or what you should say. It has been a mystery to me for quite some time how prayer is to “work” in my life as a follower of Jesus Christ. I have heard people give a formula for prayer. This felt manipulative and rigid, as though God were a prayer vending machine who answers our prayers if we follow a prescribed method for praying. It felt as though there were no relational aspect that I read about in Scripture. So I went on a quest to answer my question; “What is Prayer?”

What I presented last month is what I realized prayer was not all about, so here we go with what I found prayer is all about. The first aspect of prayer that I came to recognize in the Bible is found throughout the Psalms. There is a lot of praise taking place in the Psalms! Praise the Lord all the earth, lift up your praise to the Lord most high! Prayer is about praising our God, it is about lifting up our praises to Him out of

respect, fear and awe for who He is and what he has done. God created everything we see, even things that we cannot see yet! He created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. Have you ever seen pictures of some of the amazing galaxies that have been recorded? They are truly amazing sights to be seen and think about. For thousands of years no one has ever seen what they looked like. It is only through the invention of the telescope that we can even see these amazing creations of God in the past several hundred years!

Praise is one of the points to prayer. Read Psalm 150, 95, 98 and 145 for starters in your time of offering praise to God in your prayers. It is great to praise the Lord and be reminded that He alone is worthy of our praise.

The second thing that I discovered that prayer is time to communicate with God. This is by far the most difficult aspect of prayer for people in our culture today. Communication is a two way conversation and truth be known prayer many times feels like a one way conversation because God is not seen or audibly heard (most times) in our prayers. But as we read about the prayer life of those in the Bible we see that there is a definite two way conversation in their prayers. Many of us may not think of it this way but Noah, Moses and many other Old Testament people who heard from God were in prayer. It may not say “then Moses prayed” or “then in his prayers to God Noah heard” but the communication between those in the Bible and God is actually prayer!

The Apostle Paul gives us an example of this two way communication

between himself and God when he wrote these words. “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:8-10) This is one of the clearest examples of prayer being a conversation with God. Another great example of prayer being communication with God is found in Genesis, where Abraham pleads for Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 18:16-33). In this passage we see Abraham in a conversation with the Lord. Abraham makes pleas for the saving of the city if there were 50 righteous, then 40, then 20 and lastly he pleads if there are less than 10. God’s answer for each is seen recorded “If I find Then I will spare the city”. Again we see that prayer is a two way conversation between God and man.

Prayer is praise to God, prayer is a conversation with God and lastly prayer is silence before God. Although I believe that prayer as a conversation is difficult because many times we feel as though we are talking to ourselves God does answer us. Sometimes it is a quiet voice in our head, other times it is through the words and actions of others and maybe it is through words we read in the Bible, but God speaks to us when we are truly in conversation with Him.

But thinking of prayer as a time of silence before God may be even more difficult than seeing prayer as a conversation with God. For the most part many people hate silence. We fill our lives with noise all the time. I have been in homes where the TV is on even though there is no one watching it. The reason... They hate it when the house is quiet! We play the radio in the car

almost every time we are driving; we listen to music when we are in the shower. Some people will even run a fan or play ocean sounds when they go to bed because they cannot stand the stillness of complete silence!

Yet to grow deeper in our intimacy with God we NEED silence. Jesus often went of to a solitary place away from the noise and distractions of life to be quiet before the Father. Consider these verses; Mark 1:35; Mark 6:31-32; Matthew 14;23 are just a few verses that show Jesus seeking solitude and quiet.

These are three aspects of prayer that I find to be the most important for developing a close connection with God in prayer. Without them prayer can feel hurried, insignificant, and meaningless. However, if you and I add these three elements to our time of prayer we will discover a deep growing desire for God that we may have never sensed or experienced before in our lives. Praise Him, Communicate with Him and be Still before Him and you will be on your way to some of the most incredible times of prayer you have ever experienced in your life!

Blessings in Christ Jesus

Pastor Rob

8 *Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.*
9 *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)*

| April 2018 | | <i>Bliss Missionary Church</i> | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | |
| 1 8 - Sunrise Service 9- Easter Breakfast 10 - Sunday School 11 -Worship Service 6 - No Evening Service Ciella Bennett | 2 Brandon Byard WMMC 1-4 | 3 WMMC 1-4 | 4 7:15 - Youth | 5 Eleanor Hill | 6 | 7 | |
| 8 10 - Sunday School 11 -Worship Service 6 - No Evening Service | 9 WMMC 1-4 | 10 | 11 7:15 - Youth | 12 | 13 | 14 | |
| 15 10 - Sunday School 11 -Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Bob/ Diane Schneider Sonia Cameron | 16 WMMC Business Meeting 1-4 Olivia Rhinier | 17 | 18 7:15 - Youth Sarah Readmond | 19 Dan Procknow | 20 Ruth Forrester | 21 Ronnie Cease | |
| 22 10 - Sunday School 11 -Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Sally Schmalzried | 23 WMMC 1-4 Greg Hill George Smith | 24 | 25 7:15 - Youth | 26 | 27 | 28 | |
| 29 10 - Sunday School 11 -Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Victoria Russ | 30 | | | | | | |

To make address changes, call Dennis Fay at 231-537-4683, or email dennisfay@centurylink.net or dennisfay@icloud.com. The newsletter is also on the church website.

The Pine Trees Come Down



The tall red pine trees from the front of the Alpha are down. They were trimmed and the branches hauled away. Four good logs were saved and will be milled into lumber for use around the church.

The Alpha Gets A New Roof



The Amish began work the last week of March to install a steel roof on the Alpha.

The first step was to nail 2x4's over the current roof, then the steel will be screwed to the 2x4's. The metal is being made so each piece is the full length of the roof. The photo below left shows the steel being delivered.

The work should take about two weeks. The kitchen will get a new roof also.

