



Pie Social Coming

The WMMC ladies will hold their Pie Social and Bake-Off Contest on Saturday, March 10 from 5-8 pm.

Pie crust and fillings must be made from scratch with recipe included and made in an 8 or 9 inch tin foil pan.

Register by March 7 by calling Verna Fay at 231-537-4683 or signing up at the church. There is no charge to enter.

Prizes will be awarded in five categories: fruit, berry, nut, cream and those under age 16.

All pies will be judged at 4 p.m. and then be served at the social from 5-8 p.m. Pies will be available by the slice with or without ice cream, or whole pies by donation. All proceeds will go towards the WMMC mission projects.

There will be lots of pies in addition to those entered in the contest to be sold. Anyone is welcome to bring pies for the contest or sale.

WMMC Work Days

So far, the women have delivered 20 crib sheets, sweaters, hats, booties, and mittens to the Pregnancy Care Center in Petoskey.

The ladies also have been working on pillow cases to go to the Nehemiah Project. Currently they have more than 20 of the pillow cases.

The ladies will continue to have Work Days on Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m., tying quilts and working on pillow cases and crib sheets. The third Tuesday of the month is their Business Meeting.

Valentine Baskets Delivered

Seventeen Valentine baskets were delivered to people of the community by the WMMC ladies.

The baskets included adult coloring books, word find books, scrubbies, doilies, fruit, pudding, small loaves of bread, cupcakes, dipped pretzels, fudge, cookies, popcorn, and other goodies.

The ladies enjoyed visiting with the people as they delivered baskets, and also a lunch together during the work bee to assemble the baskets.



Seventeen of these baskets were delivered to people in the community

Grateful Heart Calendars

Anyone doing the calendars for the Nehemiah Project, the money can be given to Verna Fay or mailed to the Nehemiah Project, 36 Bridge St, P.O. Box 1745, Petoskey, MI 49770.

Outdoor Clean Up Day
Saturday, March 31
9:30 a.m.

From Pastor Rob

Prayer is Not

As Christians we are called to prayer. Jesus told his disciples to pray. All throughout the Old Testament there are calls to prayer and the Psalms are made up of some songs and prayers to God. Prayer is a marvelous and mysterious part of our faith. Prayer is marvelous because we actually get to talk to the creator of all things and the one who loved us enough to send his Son to save us from our sins. It is mysterious because, unlike normal communication, we do not have clear audible response from God like we do when we are talking to others.

So what is prayer and how does it work? Well I think it may be best to start with a few things that prayer is not. This month we are going to cover three misconceptions about prayer that may help us to get a better understanding of prayer.

First prayer is not a “Hotline” or a “God I need” connection to God. Before you shut me down let me explain. Yes, God does desire us to bring our needs and concerns to Him. However, too many times this is the only time we talk to God, when we need His help, or we want something in life. God is not the last stop Emergency Room for our lives, or the “Sugar Daddy” like some have the habit of trying to make Him.

God does want us to bring our concerns and major issues to him. However, if we only approach God when we have issues or wants in our lives we are “using” God or trying to manipulate Him for our own desires. This is not how God works, nor will allow this behavior if we want to be honest. James says this about the selfish prayers of people; *“You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”* When we approach God for our own personal wants and desires God does not answer our prayers.

The second thing prayer is not, is to get us out of the consequences for our wrong

choices. Yes of course we can approach God when we make mistakes in our lives. God does forgive our sins. However, this does not mean that God will magically fix things. God tells us that he forgives our mistakes, yet there are consequences for choices we make in life as well.

King David made some big mistakes in his life and we can read about the consequences of those mistakes in 2 Samuel 24 where David sets out to count the fighting men against God’s desire and by the end of the next day 70,000 Israelites died from a plague because of his sin. David even repented and asked for forgiveness before God did this, God did forgive David but there were consequences. The second big one was found in 2 Samuel 12.

“Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.” Once again David was forgiven but his actions had consequences and though it was harsh David lost his first born son due to his sin.

The last thing that Prayer is not is a magical cure all. I say this because I believe that there are things in life that happen for multiple reasons. First is the obvious, the world is broken. Ever since sin entered the world through Adam and Eve we are faced with all kinds of diseases and illnesses. Secondly, as in the last section, there are consequences for things in our lives that may not necessarily be “sins” such as health issues because we do not eat exactly the best things in our diet.

I am reminded of Paul’s request for God to remove a “thorn” in his side. Although we do not know exactly what Paul was suffering with, we do know his conversation with God in 2 Corinthians 12: *“Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to*

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March 2018

Bliss Missionary Church

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|----------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Faith Spierling | 5 WMMC 1:00-4:00 | 6 7:15 - Youth Mark Spierling Richard-Sandy Thompson | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Pie Social and Bake Off 5-8 p.m. |
| 11 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Begin Daylight Savings Time | 12 | 13 WMMC 1:00-4:00 | 14 7:15 - Youth Rob-Tara Russ | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service | 19 | 20 WMMC Business Meeting 1:00 | 21 7:15 - Youth | 22 Julia Procknow | 23 Pastor Rob Rhinier | 24 |
| 25 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service 6 - Evening Service Palm Sunday | 26 WMMC 1:00-4:00 | 27 | 28 7:15 - Youth Phyllis Smith Dick Woodard | 29 | 30 Debbie Kissinger Bob Schneider Robin Hill | 31 Outdoor Clean Up Day - 9:30 Ben Forrester |

What Is Heaven Like?

[Adapted from a Bible study by Christianity Today]

Although the Bible doesn't give a description of heaven, there are many references to heaven, and we can gain some ideas about heaven from them.

An Intermediate Heaven

In Luke 23, when Jesus was on the cross, He told the one thief crucified with him, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise." Later, Paul (2 Corinthians 12:4) writes about being caught up to paradise. Paradise is also mentioned in Revelation.

Other passages in Revelation imply that believers who die go immediately to an intermediate heaven. The reasoning is that John, in Revelation 21, saw a new heaven and a new earth coming down from heaven, and that all things were being made new, which hasn't happened yet. So people who die must be in this heaven until the new heaven is created.

In short, these passages indicate that people who die are immediately with Jesus in Paradise, but it's not the same heaven which will be created at the end times.

"Bodies" in Heaven Uncertain

2 Corinthians 5:2 tells us that we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye, but changed to what?

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 15 wrote about earthly bodies and heavenly bodies as being different, but one coming from another, like putting a seed in the ground which dies, and then a plant grows from it.

Perhaps the best example of this heavenly body is Jesus, who after being crucified and raised from the dead, appeared to his disciples. With this new body He was able to go through locked doors, but still had the marks of crucifixion on his body, and could eat.

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16), the rich man felt pain and thirst, so the heavenly body apparently retains some of the earthly body characteristics. However, in this parable it is difficult to determine which parts are literal and which are figurative.

Believers in Heaven Are Aware of Us on Earth

Going back to the example of the rich man and Lazarus (which might be figurative), the rich man was aware of his brother's lives, and wanted Abraham to warn them.

Hebrews 12:1 mentions "a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us". Are these "witnesses" people who have died and are aware of the lives we live?

Luke 15:7 tells us that there is rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents, implying that people in heaven know what happens here on earth.

But if people in heaven know what's happening here on earth, won't they have sadness over some events? Randy Alcorn in his book *Heaven*, suggests an answer to that.

He suggests that happiness in heaven is not based on ignorance but on perspective. With complete knowledge of God's sovereignty and workings, the sorrows of earth do not look the same as they do here.

Heaven provides a new perspective.

Prayer (from page 2)

take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

We face difficulties in life sometimes and God does not remove them so that we can see that God's grace, not his healing ability is what we need more than anything in life. Yes, prayer is a very important aspect of the Christian life and we need to "pray without ceasing" but we also need to remember a few things that prayer is not in order to learn what prayer is, which we will cover a few points on that next month. Until then keep your eyes on the Lord and Savior!

In Christ,
Pastor Rob

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.