



Muncy Baptist Church Newsletter



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Drawing Closer: I Will Go With You with Rev. Rob Rice, Pastor

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

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Although this is the September Newsletter, I’m still reflecting on the month of August. August involved a lot of major milestones in my life, including, but not limited to, moving two girls into college, and celebrating my 11th anniversary as the Pastor of Muncy Baptist church. While there were other big moments (like watching Bill Yeagle chip in for an eagle in a golf tournament), as I reflect on those milestone moments, I give thanks to God for the promise of His Presence.

When God spoke the words to Joshua, “Do not be afraid...” Joshua and the nation of Israel were facing a milestone moment. They were entering into the Promised Land. This was a land full of God’s blessing, but also full of many challenges to overcome. As I think about that big move, I can’t help but think of moving my girls into college. They, too, are facing great opportunities, but also many challenges that come along with being away from home and beginning something totally new and different.

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As a Dad, I share in their excitement, but also share in their nerves. As I think about this new beginning for them, I think about God's Promise, and want them to hold fast to the promise that God is with them. I hold fast to that promise as well, because I trust that their Heavenly Father will provide and protect them, even better than I can.

While the anniversary of coming to Muncy Baptist as your pastor may not seem like a milestone moment, each year it does cause me to reflect on the call to take courage and the promise of God's Presence. When I became your pastor, I was called, like Joshua, to lead and guide you. While this wasn't my first pastorate, I wasn't the most experienced leader. As I reflect on that beginning, and the past eleven years, I realize that I am where I am only because God has been with me. While it has always been a great joy to be your pastor, I must confess that it has not always been easy. Pastoral ministry is not for the faint of heart, and over my years in ministry, there have been seasons where I know that if it were not for God beside me giving me strength, I could have given up or given in. I am thankful that in those moments, I was always reminded that God was with me. Many of you, whether you know or not, had a chance at some point or another to be that reminder. You reminded me of God's Presence by praying for me, encouraging me, or even just by a smile you gave me in worship. By God's grace, as I continue to serve as your pastor, I pray that God will continue to remind us of His Presence, and give us strength to serve Him, and love Him.

I don't know if you experienced any milestone moments in August, but even if you didn't, I am sure there have been moments over the last month that have been either full of joy or perhaps full of uncertainty. Whatever you've been through in August, and whatever September brings, hold fast to the promise that we may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds to tomorrow. Surely, we can face each day with strength and courage, because of this promise: God is with us, and will be with us, no matter where we go, and no matter what the future brings.

Fun Fact

Did you know?

Did you know that not all the world experiences fall at the same time? In Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa the months of September, October, and November are spring months.

The Curriculum Corner

A Willing Witness

with Rev. Dr. Don Edwards, Associate Pastor
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Prayer Brings Peace



When we are at (even before) our wit's end, Scripture tells us to turn all those anxieties over to God who will give us peace of mind.

Philippians 4: 6-7 states, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

Prayer Protects Us – We have Almighty God on our side! Jesus showed believers the importance of praying

for protection and deliverance.

Ephesians 6:10-18; "The Whole Armor of God. A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

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In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”

Jesus’ Prayer for His disciples - John 17:15; “I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.”

Matthew 6:13; “And don’t let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.”

Next month – The Prayers of Jesus



**Feeling anxious?
Try some Breath Prayers!**

According to Molly Wilcox, author of *Breath Prayers*, these prayers help to “calm your nervous system, focus on God, slow your meditation on Scripture, help you memorize Scripture, and notice the connection between body, soul, and spirit.”



God at Work



Updates about Past and Future Events at MBC!

Summer Women's Feast

Jesus and Woman DVD's by Kristi McLelland was the eye opening summer women's study attended by 27 women. It was truly a feast on the word of God. We experienced Jesus' teaching through a Middle Eastern lense to better understand (1) the culture was one of honor- shame, hospitality and community; (2) A Yoke did not mean a harness for Oxen but a Rabbi's teaching. Therefore, when Jesus said in Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me..." He meant to take His teaching and learn from Him; (3) Jesus brought Mishpat (Justice) and Tzedakah (righteousness) to women which was uncustomary; (4) Westerners read God's word and ask, "What does it teach me about me?" while Middle Easterners study (feast) God's word and ask, "What does it teach me about God?" It was a thoroughly enlightening study to better understand the culture of Jesus' day.

Studying The Scriptures

Enjoy the study of REVELATION from this September to May with Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). Participate in person in Williamsport, Montoursville, or on Zoom from the comfort of home. BSF teaches God's Word through Men's, Women's, Student, and Children's groups — serving more than 400,000 class members on six continents in more than 120 nations, all of whom study the same scripture lesson each week through lecture, readings, questions, and small group discussion. BSF's mission is global, with in-depth Bible studies producing passionate commitment to Christ, His Word, and His Church. Their vision is to magnify God and mature His people. Joining is free and class starts soon. Questions may directed to long time BSF attendees Whitney and Sandy Bernan, Sue Nicklaus, and Judy Stringfellow.

Fall Bible Study: Resolving Everyday Conflicts

According to Christianbook.com, "Everyone encounters conflict - whether it be with a coworker, family member, friend, or complete stranger. And yet we all desire harmony in our relationships. Resolving Everyday Conflict is a practical, biblical, concise guide to peacemaking in everyday life that can turn tumultuous relationships into peaceful ones."

While conflict can be difficult to deal with and we'd all like to avoid it, it is an inevitable part of life with other people. And while we may not be able to escape conflict, we can learn to deal with it in a productive and biblical way. Beginning Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m., we will join together for a Fall Bible Study that will both inspire us and challenge us to deal with conflicts in our relationships in a biblical way, so that we can find peace with one another, and have peace with God. If you are planning to attend our study, please sign up so we can order enough materials.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries in September

<i>Dean & Millie Schreffler</i>	09/01
<i>Ken & Kristy Sheets</i>	09/02
<i>Tom & Doretha Brokaw</i>	09/03
<i>Matt & Serena Johnson</i>	09/05
<i>Jeffery & Lesley Morrison</i>	09/09
<i>Dr. Warren & Paula Fisher</i>	09/14
<i>Damian & Danielle Hurne</i>	09/14
<i>Michael & Ashley Johnson</i>	09/17
<i>James & Denise Taylor</i>	09/19
<i>Mark & Linda Swinehart</i>	09/23
<i>Christopher & Jade Duhaim</i>	09/27
<i>Jayson & Evelyn Parent</i>	09/28
<i>Zachary & Ashlee Mull</i>	09/30

Birthdays in September

**Don't see your anniversary or birthday?
Please let us know, so we can celebrate with you!**

<i>Janet Davis</i>	09/03
<i>Brian Wenhold</i>	09/07
<i>Beverly Smith</i>	09/10
<i>Emily Moyer</i>	09/10
<i>Benjamin Rose</i>	09/14
<i>Robert Kolbrich</i>	09/14
<i>Bill Yeagle</i>	09/14
<i>Rev. Dr. Don Edwards</i>	09/14
<i>Cameron Yeagle</i>	09/15
<i>James Place</i>	09/15
<i>Aubrey Johnson</i>	09/15
<i>Ella Breneisen</i>	09/15
<i>Margaret Frederick</i>	09/17
<i>Laurie Cressman</i>	09/18
<i>Ken Sheets</i>	09/19
<i>Tom Smith</i>	09/22
<i>Kristy Sheets</i>	09/23
<i>James Taylor</i>	09/25
<i>Mitchell Johnson</i>	09/27
<i>Lily Frederick</i>	09/29

