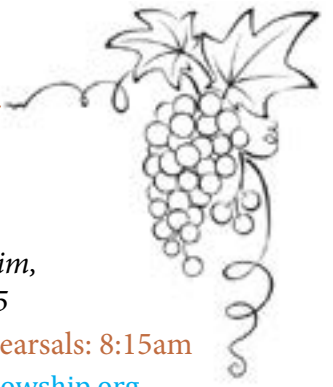


Gospel Grapevine

August 2025



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Sunday Worship Service: 10am | Life Application Classes: 9am | Music Rehearsals: 8:15am

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship
58362 Beech Road, Osceola, IN 46561
shfellowship@att.net; 574-679-4519

Check our Website: www.shfellowship.org
Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/shfellowship
Subscribe to our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@shfellowship

Interim Pastor Len Smith - NEW EMAIL: lensmith@tkimail.com; 574-535-4269

When You Don't Feel Like Reading Your Bible

shared in part by Asheritah Ciuciu

"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight." Psalm 119:35 (NIV)

"But why do we *have* to read the Bible every day, Mom?" My daughter whined, pressing her cheek against the floral cover of her Bible.

Taking a deep breath and stroking her cheek, I pushed a strand of hair behind her ear. "We *get* to read it, my dear." I leaned in close. "Because the Bible is God's Word for us."

Gesturing toward the sticky maple syrup and waffle crumbs scattered on our plates, I continued, "You wouldn't ever skip breakfast, would you?" She shook her head in shock, and I held back a smile. "God's Word feeds our souls, even as we feed our bodies. Jesus called it our daily bread."

I leaned back in my chair, my words boomeranging back toward my own heart. There had been many months — years, even — when I hadn't wanted to read the Bible. Though I'd grown up as a missionary kid, the Bible sometimes felt — dare I say it? — *boring*.

Have you ever felt that way? Not that we'd say it out loud, not quite like that. We believe that the Bible is important, *yes*. That it's inspired, *absolutely*. That it's profitable, *of course*. But do we get excited about reading the Bible?

Do we hunger for a fresh word from God as we

hunger for food?

Do we believe God longs to reveal Himself to us in the pages of Scripture?

Nah ... not always.

If your heart sinks at that realization, I have good news for you and me: God alone can transform our mental conviction into our hearts' affection, and He wants to help.

During a particularly dry season in my spiritual journey, I cried out to God, *Stir up a holy hunger in me for more of You!* I'd open my Bible out of duty, but my heart would cry out, *I want to delight in You! Turn my affections to desire You above all else.*

I learned such prayers from David, the psalmist who wrote the longest chapter in the Bible — Psalm 119 — about his love for God's Word. Surprisingly, he confessed that he needed God to stir up his affection for Him:

"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight ... Turn my eyes away from worthless things ..." (Psalm 119:35-37, NIV).

How encouraging! Like David, if we don't desire God, we can simply ask Him to give us that desire. And God will always answer that prayer. He did in David's life. He has in my life. He's doing it in my children's lives. And He will certainly do so in your life too.

For it is God's good pleasure to give us as much of Himself as we long to receive!

Maybe you don't like to read, there are other ways to get into your Bible. You can listen to others read it aloud on Bible apps or the internet. Call a friend to read it with out loud. Listening to others read God's word is a delight that I truly enjoy in my daily walk. So, my encouragement for you and everyone when you don't feel like reading the Bible is ask God to give you the desire to want to read His word or listen to His words.

The Leadership Team had their meeting July 17th and as we are looking at dates, it's time to focus on a new budget for 2026. As we move into the fall, we will be looking for some new team leaders for 2026. Please be in prayer as the Gift Discernment Team will begin their search for you to use your gifts for the Leadership Team. Any questions, please let us know. Our next meeting will be October 16, 2025.

Blessing,
Tammy Victor
Your Leadership Team Chair

Rail Communion

Sun., August 3rd, during worship

Prepare your hearts for confession & remembrance of the Lord's supper.



SOUTH BEND CUBS GAME

SUN., AUGUST 3RD, 2PM

**WE WILL SHARE A SUITE
HOSTED BY HOOSIER TIRE.
TICKETS TO THE GAME ARE**

**FREE (MUST SIGN UP, SPACE IS LIMITED!),
PARKING FEES & CONCESSIONS ARE NOT
INCLUDED. COME ENJOY FUN AND FELLOWSHIP
AT FOURWINDS STADIUM!**

Men's Breakfast @ the OC Music Festival Sat., Aug 9th, 9:00am

Fern Hunsberger Park
202 N Lamport St, Osceola, IN 46561

Ladies' Picnic Supper Thurs., August 7th @ 5:30pm

Come join us for a supper picnic!



Bring your favorite side dish to share.

I will provide sandwiches and lemonade. We will enjoy some good

old-fashioned fellowship and devotion time with God! Please RSVP to Tammy either by text or sign-up sheet in the narthex. Invite a friend to join us!

Tammy Victor, Women's Ministries

All Adult Bible Study PROVERBS verse-by-verse Sundays, 5:00pm-5:45pm

Prayer Meetings Sundays, 6:00pm-6:30pm

A quiet half-hour of communal prayer. In-person in the church library, or through audio-only Zoom (email for link).

"Every believer was faithfully devoted to coming together regularly for...prayer" (Acts 2:42).

Osceola Music Festival August 8th, 9th, & 10th

Each year we have a booth set up with fun craft for children, drawings for special gifts, and prayer collection for our community. Stop by or volunteer! Come help us spend quality time with our friends in OC and spread Jesus in the neighborhood.



Sign up for shifts in the narthex. 202 N Lamport St, Osceola, IN 46561

COMMUNITY MEAL

Wed., August 27th, 6pm

**Serving:
Chili Dogs
& Chips**

**FREE!
All welcome**

RSVP @ www.shfellowship.org/meal



Many have loved the banana cake Tammy Victor serves at the Community Meals, and have requested the recipe:

Tammy's Banana Cake

1 box yellow cake mix
2-3 bananas, mashed
water (what the box mix calls for)
2 eggs
1/2 container of Cool Whip
1 Box instant banana pudding
1-3/4 cup milk

Mix cake mix according to directions, no oil,
add your smashed bananas and mix really well.
Add to greased pan and bake according to the directions on
the box mix. Combine the pudding and milk, fold in cool whip,
add to cool cake, and enjoy!
Refrigerate leftovers.

Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team

In July, we had scheduled a bonfire on Saturday the 19th but it was rained out. We had a Carry-in on Sunday 20th after Service. Everyone had good fellowship and plenty to eat.

On August 3rd, we will be attending the SB Cubs Baseball Game. If you want to go, please be sure to sign up in the narthex.

God Bless,
Melba Beckman, Team Leader
Sally Whitmer, Tracey Gordy, & Cheryl Frick

Music & Worship Ministry Team

We are pleased to share the new digital piano has been purchased for the sanctuary! Thanks to all those who donated funds for the purchase, to the musicians who decided the best choice of model, as well as all the work that went into the research and securing of the piano itself. May God continue to bless our music ministry!



God Bless,
Nicole Wilkins, Team Leader
Scott Hipsher, Rick Hipsher, Martha Lou Cary, & Steve Frick

Update: Parsonage Rented!

Back at our spring business meeting we talked about renting out the church parsonage, and I'm happy to let everyone know that we have a tenant effective as of July 1st, 2025. Since we have the house now occupied, we were able to lower our current insurance. If you have any questions, please contact me, Pastor Len, or the Property Ministry Team Leader, Darrel Hipsher.

Tammy Victor, Leadership Team Chair

KEEP PLANNING for our annual Cookie walk & Craft Sale 2025 Sat., Dec 6th from 9am-12pm

Asking each member to supply 4-dozen cookies or as much as you can. We would love if you have anything else you would like to donate: crafts, baked goods, treats, snacks, etc.

Set up will be on Friday, Dec 5th but will be in the afternoon after the Real Services luncheon on that Friday.

Raised funds will be split to Paper Pantry, Community Meals, Hands of the King, and St. Margaret's House. Any questions, please reach out to Cindy Carlisle.

Christian Education Ministry Team

Life Application Classes

- The "Be One of Us" class is studying *Every Day Deserves a Chance* by Max Lucado.
- The "Willing Workers Class" is studying *Call Sealed with a Promise*, a Brethren Press study guide.
- The Young Adult class is studying *Genesis 1-11, Creation, Sin, & the Nature of God* by John MacArthur.
- Senior High Youth continue weekly Bible trivia and is working through "Talk Sheets" based on passages from the Gospels.
- We currently have Life Application Classes for both Lower and Upper Elementary
- Thanks to Jess Gordy, we now have a Nursery Teacher! We are grateful for all the teachers who are committed to preparing weekly lessons, Biblical studies, and discussions.

Vacation Bible School

At our VBS on June 28th, called 'Ice Cream Party Club', we were able to bless six children with an afternoon of fun crafts, games, songs and Bible lessons. We did this in partnership with Child Evangelism Fellowship who did a wonderful job of interacting with the children and were especially effective in delivering the evangelistic Bible lesson through stories, songs, and Q&A. Everyone also enjoyed making homemade ice cream. Many thanks to CEF and all the SHF volunteers who helped with the games, crafts and food.

Video Devotion Opportunity

We still welcome volunteers to lend their voices and talents to our weekly video devotions. You'll be able to take all the time you need as Jenn does a wonderful job of editing. For those who are willing to read on camera, we can help find you content to share. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Jenn Adams.

Proverbs Bible Study

Pastor Len continues his weekly Bible study of Proverbs meeting each Sunday evening from 5PM-5:45PM in the *Be One of Us* class area. All are welcome to come any time you can make it.

We invite your input. Give us your ideas, suggestions, areas of interest, and we welcome volunteers to lead or participate.

Jeff Tuholski, Team Leader

Cheryl Hipsher, Marcia Troup, Denise Tuholski

REAL SERVICES SENIOR MEAL SITE

We welcome all Seniors 60 years and better to join our program and access daily nutritional meals while increasing your socialization.

(A person who is underage may attend with their age-eligible spouse present. They may not attend alone. A disabled dependent may attend with their age-eligible parent present.)

Meals are prepared fresh daily in the RS Kitchen.

Shepherd's Heart is open for this service each Monday-Friday, 10:00am-1:30pm, closed for holidays.

This is a donation-based program and your donation directly impacts the number of seniors we can help. We gratefully accept whatever you can comfortably afford.

To make a reservation, please call or email our Site director, Grace Brubaker:

(574) 674-6503, osceolans@realservices.org

Reservations must be made 2 days in advance.

We look forward to serving you!

FIRST-TIME REGISTRATION:

1) Print & fill out the front & back meal sign up form online as legible and complete as possible:

www.realservices.org/meals-and-nutrition/senior-nutrition-sites/

2) Once the Nutrition Entry form is filled out, call the site director, Grace to make a reservation:
(574) 674-6503, osceolans@realservices.org

3) Grace will ask when you would like to attend. You can join us as soon as 2 business days. If you speak with Grace on Monday, we can make a reservation for Wednesday, or if you speak to Grace on Friday, we can serve you on Tuesday.

4) You can bring the completed nutrition form with you, OR fill one out on-site the day of your first reservation.

5) Show up! If you need to cancel, we ask you call us as soon as possible so that we can find someone else to eat the meal, or if we have a 2-day notice, we can cancel the meal and prevent waste.

Our Site director, Grace Brubaker:
(574) 674-6503), osceolans@realservices.org







goodbye July, hello
AUGUST

All Meals Served with Milk

Suggested Donation: \$4.25

Menus Subject To Change

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Your donation counts. Even small donations make a big difference. We provide over 160,000 meals each year to seniors	All donations directly support this program. Please donate what you can comfortably afford. Thank you.			1 Broc. Cheddar Chicken and Rice Casserole Buttered Carrots Wheat Bread/Marg. Tropical Fruit Cup	2 
3	4 Deli Turkey/Hoagie Bun Cheese and Mayo Pickles Macaroni Salad Coleslaw Berry Applesauce	5 Chicken w/ Creamy Garlic Sauce Baby Bakers Asparagus Wheat Bread/Marg. Mixed Fruit Cup	6 Hamburger on Bun Baked Beans Roasted Summer Squash Jello	7 Fire Braised Chix Breast Garlic Mashers Maple Roaste cxd Beets Wheat Bread/Marg.	8 Sausage Gravy over Biscuit Scrambled Eggs Roasted Rosemary Potatoes Fresh Fruit	9
10 	11 French Onion Chicken Baby Bakers Parisian Carrots Wheat Bread/Marg. Cookies	12 Hot Dog on Bun Potato Salad Succotash Pineapple Cup	13 Sloppy Joe on Bun Macaroni & Cheese Mixed Vegetables Applesauce	14 Green Pepper Burger Casserole Mashed Potatoes Peas Wheat Bread/Marg. Spiced Peaches	15 Chicken Chipolte Bowl w/ Tomato, Rice, Ranch Tortilla Chips Fiesta Corn Pineapple Cup	16 
17	18 Bourbon Chicken Mashed Sweet Pot. Cauliflower Dinner Roll/ Marg. Cinnamon Applesauce	19 Turkey Tetrazzini Green Beans Garlic Bread Fig Newton	20 Breaded Chicken Scalloped Potatoes Stewed Tom & Zucch. Wheat Bread/Marg. Oreo Cookie	21 Philly Cheesesteak on Bun Garlic Mashers Creamed Corn Mandarin Oranges	22 Stuffed Baked Potato w/Chz & Taco meat Broccoli Breadstick Tropical Fruit Cup	23
24/31	25 Maple Pork Chops Sweet Potatoes Green Beans Dinner Roll/Marg. Fruit Cup	26 Chicken Salad Sliders Roasted Penne Pasta Salad Kale Salad Angel Food Cake	27 Sweet & Sour Meatballs Rice Pilaf Asian Vegetable Blend Wheat Bread/Marg. Pineapple Cup	28 Chicken Penne Pasta w/Spinach Broccoli Ciabatta Roll/marg. Pear Cup	29 Country Fried Steak Garlic Mashed Pot. Cali. Blend Veg. Wheat Bread/Marg. Pudding Cup	30 

Wasted meals are costly. Please, if you cannot make it for any reason, please call to cancel.

August Library Update

We received a new/used book for our library recently: **The Emerald Horizon**, a sequel to **The Star and the Shamrock** by Jean Grainger (21-GR), which we introduced to you in May.

This book tells of Liesl's and Erich's mother, Ariella Bannon, who is being hunted in Germany and how she works to be reunited with her children in Ireland.

Meanwhile, the children have found a home in Ireland away from the chaos of war-ravaged Europe. As they hear the dark news about what happened to the Jews, they have to wait to hear the fate of their mother. Their foster parents wonder what will happen if Ariella returns. Will the children they have learned to love as their own be torn from them?

We have had a donation of the DVD, **"Left Behind - Rise of the Antichrist"** by Neal McDonough and Corbin Bernsen. This DVD is based on the books of the same name. This is a story of what happens after the rapture and the appearance of the Antichrist.

As we continue to highlight the DVDs located on the shelf to the left as you enter the library that were used back when we were doing Movie Night, this month let's look at **"Risen"** with Joseph Fiennes:

"Roman military tribune, Clavius, remains set in his ways after serving 25 years in the army. He arrives at a crossroad when he's tasked to investigate the mystery of what happened to Jesus following the Crucifixion. Accompanied by trusted aide Lucius, his quest to disprove rumors of a risen

Messiah makes him question his own beliefs and spirituality. As his journey takes him to places never dreamed of, Clavius discovers the truth that he's been seeking."



Your Librarians: Marcia Troup and Pat Gordy

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL CHECK LIST

- _____ **My relationship to God is my first priority!**
(Matt. 13:44-46, 16: 24-27, & Lk. 9:57-62, 14:25-33)
- _____ **I love others as I love myself.**
(Matt. 22-34-40, Lk. 6:27-36)
- _____ **I use my talents for God's Kingdom.**
(Matt. 24:14-30)
- _____ **I play the role of the servant.**
(Matt. 20:20-28, 23:1-12, Mr. 10:13-16, Lk 14:7-11, & John 13:1-20)
- _____ **I help those in need.**
(Matt. 24:31-45, & Lk. 10:29-37)
- _____ **I do not give in to lust, even in my mind.**
(Matt. 5:27-30)
- _____ **I go the extra miles asked.**
(Matt. 5:38-48)
- _____ **I am not angry with my brother.**
(Matt. 5:21-26)
- _____ **I do not worry.**
(Matt. 6:25-34)
- _____ **I do not seek security in material things.**
(Matt. 6:19-21, & Lk 13:13-21)
- _____ **I forgive those who wrong me.**
(Matt. 6:7-15 & I.Cor. 13)
- _____ **I am not judgmental in my attitudes toward others.**
(Matt. 7:1-5 & 1 Cor.13)
- _____ **I have complete faith that God will answer my prayers.**
(Matt 7:7-12, Lk. 11:1-13, 18:1-8 & John 14:12-14)
- _____ **I am learning to overcome temptation.**
(Matt. 18:7-9, & John 8:31-38)

We Still Have This Ministry

by Interim Pastor Len Smith

Although there are 775,693 words in the English Bible, you can only find 99 variations of the word, “ministry,” including both the Old and the New Testament. Yet the Apostle Paul was inspired to write the following words found in II Corinthians 4:1-2. ***Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.*** Notice that the ministry is plural in this text. In the Church of the Brethren, we do **not** believe the ordained or licensed minister is the only individual who ministers, serves, or attends to the spiritual and/or physical needs of those individuals who make up a congregation. Rather it is stated like this in the book For All Who Minister published by the Brethren Press on page 131. “All people, as they join the church through baptism, are called to minister through their life and work to their neighbors in the world.”

On the other hand, what has been the status of the set-apart (commissioned, licensed or ordained) ministry of the Church of the Brethren? Most of the following information was gleaned from a Pastoral Study Project written by Steve Clapp in the Winter Spring 2009 issue of “Brethren Life & Thought.” The average pastor at that time had been in the ministry for 20 years. 71% of the pastors had completed college. 54 % of the pastors were between 40 and 59 years of age. 62% of the pastors served in congregations where the average worship attendance was less than 100. Only 30% of the pastors were employed full-time and were paid on scale.

What has changed in our denomination since that article was written for “Brethren Life & Thought?” Well, for one thing, there are fewer Brethren. On 12/31/08 as we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the founding of our denomination in Germany, our American membership was 124,408. At the close of 2023, the American membership of the Church of the Brethren was approximately 75,185. It is my firm belief that denominational leadership does not grow congregations. Instead, committed individuals of local congregations collaboratively working with set-apart ministers discover and work at ways to grow individual congregations: spiritually, numerically, and in stewardship. There is not any magic formula or one method suits every congregation. Every congregation must be willing to

consider, explore, and initiate the most effective means for local congregational outreach and evangelism. Set-apart ministers cannot accomplish this by themselves. It requires a dedicated team effort.

59% of the responding pastors in Steve Clapp’s survey felt that their church viewed them primarily as both a caretaker and a leader. However, 68% of the pastors viewed themselves primarily as both caretakers and leaders. Only 48% of their pastors described their churches as having a sound financial base.

Pastors were also asked to self-evaluate their skills for ministry. The pastors felt that they were most effective in the following areas: preaching, worship leadership, pastoral care, knowledge of the Bible and theology, congregational hospitality, and working with spiritual concerns. Most pastors desired further training in preaching, worship leadership, handling conflict, evangelism, and church growth, and being a change agent. In spite of the number of challenges faced by pastors, their morale was higher than Mr. Clapp expected and represented an improvement over earlier studies that had been done in the Church of the Brethren.

Evidently many ministers still find relevant and encouraging these inspired words, also penned by the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 4:5-6. ***For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*** May we daily continue to remember to prayerfully support each other in our respective ministries for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastoral Relations Ministry Team

Pastor Len will be on vacation from Aug. 17th-30th.

Please contact the deacons with your pastoral needs during those two weeks. Pastor Brent Freel will fill the pulpit on August 17th and 24th. Through August 16th, Pastor Len is available by appointment each Friday, Saturday, & Sunday.

NEW EMAIL: lensmith@tkimail.com; 574-535-4269

Here is a preview of messages from Pastor Len:

8/3 - John 16:1-15 “Who’s Working?”

8/10 - Psalm 37:1-11 “Happiness & Meekness”

8/31 - II Kings 2:1-12 “From Denial to Acceptance”

Vern Beckman, Team Leader
Nicole Wilkins

St. Margaret's House

YOU CAN HELP Work with us!

Be a part of the work of St. Margaret's House and impact our community in a positive and direct way. Our staff is a diverse group of highly capable and committed women with a range of professional and personal experiences.

We are currently hiring for a Coordinator of In-Kind Donations. Apply today!



It may be summer, but we're already thinking of how our families of St. Margaret's House can get off to a good start in school this fall!

Most needed items include:

- Clear backpacks
- Spiral-bound notebooks
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers
- Blue & black pens
- Scissors
- Binders + loose-leaf notebook paper

Items may be purchased anywhere and dropped off at St. Margaret's House. Items may also be purchased on our Back-to-School Amazon Wish List.

Paper & Hygiene Products Pantry

OPENS AGAIN

Wed., Aug 13th, 6-7pm

Volunteers to pray & pass out bags - join us at 5:30pm

ALL donations appreciated:

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, bar soap, shampoo, dish soap, windex, laundry detergent, toilet bowl cleaner

Missions & Evangelism Ministry Team

Paper and Hygiene Products Pantry

In July we distributed over 40 bags of paper and hygiene products. Thanks to all the volunteers who come to support this ministry by passing out product and faithfully praying for all the requests that we gather each month.

Food Table

We have a large amount of food on the table in the hallway. If you know anyone in need, please feel free to take a supply to them.

Community meals

We had another great turn out for our community meal in June. Tammy provided a meal of sub sandwiches, vegetables and chips. July 23, Vern and Melba provided sloppy joes, chips and veggies. In August, Tammy will be back to share Chili Dogs & Chips. Make sure you register for this fun, fellowship, & food!

Sign up at church or online: www.shfellowship.org/meals

AND don't forget to sign up to host! We need more volunteers for the rest of the year so sign up if you can provide a meal for the group. Reimbursements available when you turn in your receipts to the Missions Team.

Mission of the Month

for July and August our supported mission is EYN, the Nigerian Church of the Brethren. EYN remains vibrant and growing in the face of ongoing, deadly attacks and persecution by Boko Haram. You can support them by marking your giving envelope for EYN.

Osceola Music Festival

August 8th-10th we will again have a booth at the Osceola Music Festival where we will have several crafts for children, some prize giveaways, and an opportunity to meet and witness to our neighbors. We'll need volunteers to serve the booth over the three days, so look for a sign up sheet for shifts in the Narthex. We will be there:

Fri., Aug. 8th - 5pm-9pm

Sat., Aug 9th - 9am-9pm

Sun., Aug 10th - Noon-3pm

Thank you to all who support our outreach ministries!

Missions and Evangelism Ministry Team

Hands of the King - "One Man's Problem"

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. *What food might this contain*, the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover...it was a mouse trap.

Retreating to the farm yard, the mouse proclaimed a warning; "There's a mouse trap in the house! There's a mouse trap in the house!"

The rooster clucked and scratched, raised his head and said "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. It is a mouse trap, not a chicken trap."

The mouse turned to the pig and said, "There's a mouse trap in the house!" The pig sympathized and replied, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but it's a mouse trap, not a pig trap. There is nothing I can do about it. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and cried, "There's a mouse trap in the house!" The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse, I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose. It's a mouse trap, not a cow trap."

So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mouse trap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house - like the sound of a mouse trap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The wife did not get well; she died. There were so many people who came for the funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse watched all of it happening from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

The next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember that when your neighbor or friend is threatened, you are not totally free.

Who in our "farm yard" is the devil trying to ensnare? How many are struggling right on the other side of our door? What is God asking us to do about it? Psalm 91:3 says, ***"God will rescue you from every trap and protect you from the fatal plague."*** As His child, is God asking you to partner with Him in that promise?

How To Help

If you would like to be a friend to our neighbors and aren't sure where to start, please reach out to someone on our committee. It would help us tremendously to know you are willing to be called on. God's work needs all kinds of gifts, talents, & skills. If you *have* a neighbor in need and desire assistance, our committee is committed to helping you with resources and can walk alongside you as you walk alongside them.



We also accept monetary donations anytime to further this Kingdom work - you can drop an envelope in the offering plate on any Sunday marked for "Hands of the King" or mail a check to the church. Our ministry is entirely donation-based and is used exclusively for these needs outside the congregation.

Here are some of the ways the HotK ministry impacted our neighbors in July:

We compiled community resources and pointed several in a direction that would meet their deeper needs.

We continue to show up often for the emotional and spiritual support for several of our elderly neighbors.

We continue growing connections with the lonely and lost who are going through hard times right now.

Please PRAY for:

Hearts steadily relying on God and not us, that His love is shining through us and those we love only see Him.

Thanks & Blessings,

Hands of the King Committee:

Brent Zumbrun, Jenn Adams, Jess Gordy, Katie Hipsher

Join us in ministry! Assist to bring song,
connection, & message to our beloved
neighbors at these two facilities:

Elkhart Place Worship

Thurs., Aug 21st - 2pm
(the 3rd Thursday of each month)
2024 Co Rd 24, Elkhart, IN 46517

Milton Adult Day Services Worship

Thurs., Aug 28th - 1:30pm
(the 4th Thursday of each month)
111 Sunnybrook Ct, South Bend, IN 46637



Everence Update

High Hopes for Church & Business Leaders

More than seven in 10 American Christians believe that some of the world's greatest problems could be solved by pastors and entrepreneurs working together. In a recent study published by Barna Group, the organization surveyed 1,800 adults and 400 teens, along with 653 Protestant U.S. senior pastors and 248 entrepreneurs. The group found that those interviewed trusted local business leaders more than politicians (and other traditional institutions) and see them as problem-solvers. For their part, church leaders suggested that strategic planning and innovation are two of the most useful skills entrepreneurs can bring to the church.
.....From Toolkit, summer 2025

From Toolkit, Summer 2025

Marcia Troup
Stewardship Advocate



Website: <http://www.campmack.org>

Phone: 574-658-4831 | Email: info@campmack.org

Thank you for supporting Camp Mack this summer!

Upcoming Events:

August 16–18 Colony Camp: With fun and fellowship for the whole family, this family camp is all about relaxing and having fun at camp with friends and family. Bring your RV or tent or use one of Camp's cabins. Bring food and bedding. Families of all ages are welcome. \$105/family. 6 p.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Sunday.

August 17 Sailing 101: Learn techniques and skills, then head out on Waubee Lake for some practical experience. 9a–3p. Boating beach at Camp Mack. \$25 per person includes lunch. Ages 12+ (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Bring sunscreen, a towel, a swimsuit, and water shoes or sandals. You will get wet.

August 24 Advanced Sailing: Participate in a sailing regatta with a variety of races and skills drills. Skills will be reviewed and practiced and then put to use. 9a–3p. Boating Beach at Camp Mack. \$25 per person includes lunch. Ages 12+ (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Bring sunscreen, a towel, a swimsuit, and water shoes or sandals. You will get wet.

Aug.30–Sept.2 Labor Day Family Camp: Experience camp together as a family. Lots of fun camp activities, group worship, age-divided classes, and more. \$100/family for the full program (with options for other packages), plus fees for lodging and meals. Anyone under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult. 6p Friday to 1p Monday.

Register for all of the above events at campmack.org.

Thank you for your continued support! We are sincerely grateful that you volunteer, donate, and pray.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for positive guest experiences throughout retreat season and for staff as they transition from summer. Pray for the summer staffers as they depart camp for their next adventures.



August's **Worship Service** *Ministry Volunteers*



Children's Life Application Class Teacher Schedule

Early Elementary (4yrs-pre-K)- Cheryl Frick

Elementary (K-5th grade) - Denise Tuholski

Youth Leader (6th grade-1st year college) - Jeff Tuholski

Attendance Schedule - Sally Whitmer

Prelude/Offertory

8/3 Donna
8/10 Teresa
8/17 Donna
8/24 Martha Lou
8/31 Cindy

Praise Team

8/3 Rick, Marcia
8/10 Steve, Sue, Darrel
8/17 Rick, Darrel, Dawn
8/24 Steve, Marcia, Jack
8/31 Rick, Sue, Dawn

Welcome Center

8/3 Denise
8/10 Sally
8/17 BZ
8/24 Jeff
8/31 BZ

Projector

8/3 Katie
8/10 Nicole
8/17 Katie
8/24 Nicole
8/31 Katie

Praise Prayer

8/3 Marcia
8/10 Steve
8/17 Jeff
8/24 Marcia
8/31 Jeff

Stewardship

8/3 Fred & Sally - Marcia
8/10 Steve & Cheryl - Martha Lou
8/17 Steve & Cheryl - Martha Lou
8/24 Ron & Donna - Ed
8/31 Ed

Livestream

8/3 Scott
8/10 Nate
8/17 Jayden
8/24 Scott
8/31 Jensen

Worship Leader

8/3 Cindy
8/10 Marcia
8/17 Denise
8/24 Steve
8/31 Marcia

Nursery

8/3 Sally
8/10 Jess
8/17 Denise
8/24 Cheryl
8/31 Marcia

Sound

8/3 Nate
8/10 Ron W
8/17 Ron H
8/24 Jensen
8/31 Ron W

Greeter - Door A

8/3 Cindy
8/10 Vern
8/17 Jeff
8/24 Melba
8/31 Nicole

Bible Fun Day

8/3 Denise
8/10 Marcia
8/17
8/24 Pam
8/31

Chorister

8/3 Steve
8/10 Steve
8/17 Steve
8/24 Steve
8/31 Steve

Greeter - Door B

8/3 BZ
8/10 Melba
8/17 Denise
8/24 Vern
8/31 Nate



Message

8/3 Len Smith
8/10 Len Smith
8/17 Brent Freel
8/24 Brent Freel
8/31 Len Smith

2025

AUGUST

*please pray for the names in italics

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
Interim Pastor Len Smith is available upon request on any Friday, Saturday, or Sundays in August except the 17th-30th. Please call or text him to set up a time and place. Cell Number: (574) 535-4269// Email: lensmith@tkimail.com						
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Rail Communion 2pm South Bend Cubs Game 5pm-5:45pm Bible Study 6pm Prayer Meeting	Brian Hipsher	Katie Hipsher	Henry Hipsher	5:30pm Ladies' Picnic	5pm-9pm Osceola Music Festival	9am-9pm Osceola Music Festival 9am Men's Breakfast @ Fernhunsburger park
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Noon-3pm Osceola Music Festival 5pm-5:45pm Bible Study 6pm Prayer Meeting	Jim Scott		 6-7pm Paper & Hygiene Product Pantry Open	9am-12pm Hannah in Office 6:30pm Gifts Discernment Meeting	Erin Hipsher	Jack Cary
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Martha Lou Cary	Brent Zumbrun	Ed Freel	Sue Freel	Ron Hipsher	Donna Hipsher	Fred Whitmer
5pm-5:45pm Bible Study 6pm Prayer Meeting				2pm Elkhart Place Worship		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sally Whitmer	Phil Carlisle	Don Troup	Marcia Troup	Nate Wilkins	Nicole Wilkins	Jayden Wilkins
5pm-5:45pm Bible Study 6pm Prayer Meeting			 6pm Community Meal Serving: Chili Dogs & Chips	1:30pm Milton Adult Day Services Worship		
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
Jensen Wilkins	Ed Parent	Steve Frick	Cheryl Frick	Pat Gordy	Ida Mae Murray	Cindy Carlisle
5pm-5:45pm Bible Study 6pm Prayer Meeting						
Rick Hipliser						