

The **MOUSE**

Masontown Brethren Newsletter



November 2026
Issue #2

A Little Word About the Mouse

The Mouse is a little newsletter with a big purpose: to inform, encourage, entertain, and bring our church family a little closer together. Within these pages, you'll find stories, reflections, opinions, ministry updates, and maybe even a little humor along the way!

We welcome the voices and perspectives of our contributors, recognizing that their personal thoughts and opinions are not considered official statements from Masontown Brethren Church.

Our hope is simple: that every issue brings a smile, encourages a conversation, and reminds us that we're all part of something greater.

Marty's Motto: "Little News Can Go a Long Way!"

Marty's Morsels

November Birthdays

Nov 1 — Trinity Glass

Nov 8 — Sandra Dils

Nov 12 — Connie Miske

Nov 15 — Lisa Guthrie

Nov 15 — Pamela Valeri

Nov 22 — Connie Harvey

Nov 24 — Claudia Wilhelm

Nov 28 — Lynn Carnahan

Nov 28 — Tiffany Zylka

November Anniversary

Nov 29 — Hotsinpillar Anniversary

A Morsel from the Word

"Teach us to realize the briefness of life,
so that we may grow in wisdom."
(Psalm 90:12)

November at MBC

Nov 8 — Veterans Day Service

Nov 11 — Ministry Council, 6:30 pm

Nov 12-15 — Brethren Academy

Nov 21 — Thanksgiving Dinner, 5 pm

Nov 29 — Hanging of the Greens

Looking Ahead: December

Dec 5 — Lunch with Santa

Dec 9 — Ministry Council

Dec 12 — Christmas Dinner, 5 pm

Dec 16 — Blood Drive

From the Pastor's Desk

Some Days are Better than Others

Submitted by: Pastor Chuck

You know, when I first wrote the title of this article, I realized how easy it would have been to write it a little differently: "Some days are worse than others." And isn't that just like us?

We seem to notice what went wrong before we stop to appreciate what went right. Sometimes we can find ten things to complain about before we remember one thing to be thankful for. And we don't even have to work at it!

Now, I'm not suggesting that we pretend everything is wonderful when it isn't. Life can be hard. Some days bring disappointment, heartache, worry, or news we never wanted to hear. Just read through the Psalms. David certainly didn't hide his struggles from God. He cried out in fear, frustration, and sorrow. But so often, even in the middle of those difficult moments, he turned his attention back to the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord.

Maybe that's something we need to learn to do a little more often.

Think about what Paul writes in Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brothers and



sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Notice that Paul doesn't tell us to ignore what is happening around us. He tells us where to place our thoughts. There's a difference. We may not be able to control what happens during the day, but we can choose what we continue to dwell on after it happens.

And when I read that list, I can't help but think about God. Everything that is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise finds its perfect expression in Him. There are good things all around us, and we should recognize them. But those good things ultimately remind us of the One who is good all the time.

That's what I want us to remember. A better day doesn't always mean an easier day. Sometimes the circumstances haven't changed at all, but our focus has. We begin to see the kindness someone showed us, the prayer God answered, the strength He provided, or the quiet reminder that we are not walking through this life alone.

And let me tell you, I need that reminder as much as anybody. It's easy to let one difficult conversation, one unexpected problem, or one frustrating moment take over the whole day. Before long, we've forgotten the many ways God has already been faithful. Yet His goodness didn't disappear just because our day took a turn we didn't like.

So here's my encouragement for November. When the day isn't going the way you hoped, don't feel as though you have to manufacture a smile. Be honest with the Lord about what's troubling you. Then take a moment to remember who He is and what He has done. Thank Him for the blessings you can see, and trust Him with the things you still don't understand.

Tomorrow may be better than today. Then again, it may not. But Jesus Christ will be just as faithful tomorrow as He is today. His love isn't measured by our circumstances, and His goodness doesn't depend on our mood.

Some days really are better than others. But every day, we serve the same good God. And I think that's a pretty good place to begin.

Mission Spotlight

God Is at Work

Submitted by: Andrew Sandeen
International Association for Refugees

There is something special about a good smile. Every Friday morning in September and October, I have been



leading a basic technology class in our community. We meet for an hour and go over very

basic topics related to email, browsing

online, using Google tools, etc. I'm doing it in a way that is flexible and accommodating for those who aren't completely comfortable with English. Almost all of the participants have been working on their English learning, so it actually doubles as a great practice time for them. The biggest highlight for me has been the smiles. In particular, a few middle-aged mothers seem to have especially big smiles each week as they are finally getting their chance to develop skills with their phone/tablet/laptop so they don't have to just watch their children use devices effortlessly and rely on their tech-savviness to get a technology-related task completed.



A theme that has been prominent in many discussions lately is "belonging." For any migrant resettling in a new place - even myself in the move a few years ago from Pennsylvania to Colorado - belonging is an important piece. In almost every situation, there has to be some patience to acquire a greater sense of belonging, but there are certainly factors that can hinder or help the development of it. Have you ever been in a place where you really felt like you didn't belong?

I remember many years ago, during the time I was working in the dairy industry, that I attended an animal rights activist meeting. Don't get me wrong, I definitely care how animals are treated, but I really didn't feel like I belonged in that setting as someone who worked in conventional animal agriculture, often a target of the exact people and groups I was mingling with. My heartrate was a notch higher than normal, I didn't feel like I could say much, and I was constantly wondering if direct conflict might be just around the corner. I definitely didn't feel like I belonged.

In the various meetings and conversations I participate in, we are often discussing our city or county. We talk about questions like... Do various groups of people feel welcome here? Do long-standing residents, of which there are different categories, have a welcoming posture? If not, why not? Does a lack of "belonging" have real impacts on health, food access, or a family's general ability to thrive? Are there ways we can actively increase or accelerate people's sense of belonging in our community? It seems like an important factor that relates to a lot of different people and a lot of different life factors. No matter what specific topic we are talking about, belonging always seems to relate to the conversation.

I can't help but also reflect these days on the sense of belonging for refugees who have been in the United States for a couple of years, after having been invited to resettle here. Do they feel like

they belong when they submit the green card application that is expected of them one year after arrival and then just see the application sit with an indefinite pause? Judging from those I talk to and work with, it is unsettling. It definitely doesn't help their development of a sense of belonging. But I keep trying to be encouraging and hopeful. Please pray for wisdom, patience, and understanding of important "belongingness" in our lives.

Andrew Sandeen
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A Line We Must Not Cross

Reflection on Brandon Davis Wells' Article

What does it mean to follow Jesus when the world around us is confronted with violence, punishment, and difficult questions about justice?

In his October 12 article, 'A Line We Must Not Cross,' Brandon Davis Wells challenged the Brethren family to consider that question following an announcement that a military execution by firing squad could be livestreamed for public viewing.

Since Brandon's article was published, an important development has occurred. On October 15, President Trump announced that the execution

would not be livestreamed. While that decision addresses the immediate concern about a public broadcast, it does not diminish the larger questions Brandon raised.

Brandon acknowledges that Christians hold different convictions concerning capital punishment. His central concern goes beyond that disagreement: what happens when the taking of a human life becomes a public spectacle, and what does it say about justice, mercy, and human dignity?

Drawing upon Romans 12:19–21 and Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:44, Brandon reminds us that following Christ calls us to respond to evil without abandoning compassion, dignity, and peace.

These are not always easy matters, and thoughtful Christians may reach different conclusions. We encourage you to read Brandon's complete article and reflect prayerfully on the Scriptures he shares.



Read the complete article:
<https://brethrenchurch.org/a-line-we-must-not-cross/>

From Our Church Family

Just Show Up

Submitted by Louie Diamond

If you missed our Pink Out Sunday,
here's the song lyrics to "Just Show Up"

Five generations had farmed here
But today the gavel came down
He lost everything that he worked for
Today he was moving to town
He was so ashamed
I sat with him and cried
I couldn't do much to help him
I just showed up
I just showed up

[Verse 2]

The rain fell fast and hard
As it rose up in his house
Everything that he had worked for
A home for his kids and spouse
He felt so helpless
We just sat and talked it through
I couldn't do much to help them
I just showed up
I just showed up

[Chorus]

I wanted to show up
With milk and bread and eggs
I wanted to show up
With a shovel and some paint
I wanted to show up
With my checkbook in my hand
But I just showed up with time
An ear to listen
And try to understand

[Verse 3]

It wasn't a good diagnosis
Her visit was long overdue

The doctor tried to make new plans
But each attempt fell through
She continued to thrive
I held her hand and we prayed
I couldn't do much to help her
I just showed up
I just showed up
MMMM, Just show up.

[Verse 4]

He was a young preacher
She was his young bride
A Friday that wasn't good enough
Now he wouldn't be by her side
She was so afraid
We sat without a word
I couldn't do much to help her
I just showed up
I just showed up

[Chorus]

I wanted to show up
With milk and bread and eggs
I wanted to show up
With a shovel and some paint
I wanted to show up
With my checkbook in my hand
I just showed up with time
An ear to listen
And tried to understand

[Chorus]

I wanted to show up
With milk and bread and eggs
I wanted to show up
With a shovel and some paint
I wanted to show up
With my checkbook in my hand
But I just showed up with time
An ear to listen
And try to understand

It didn't feel like it was enough
But I showed up

What Was a Prophet?

Submitted by Cliff VanKirk

First and foremost, they were God's messenger. They delivered God's word (Deuteronomy 18:18.)

Their primary job was to call their current generation back to God.

Moral watchdogs that brought idolatry, social injustice and moral failure to the attention of priests, kings, and others in power.

A true prophet never contradicted God's words or commands (2 Chronicles 18:13) and always pushed people toward God (Matthew 7:15.)



A prophet who claimed God told of seeing signs and warnings, always bore the weight of these predictions coming true. Though not a necessity, seeing the future was often asked of them and those who failed to do so were often cast aside or worse. Often prophets were also asked to do miracles as proof of their relationship with God. Moses did a number of miracles as we all know. Elijah called down fire, ended a drought, and resurrected a widow's son. Whereas Elisha healed Naaman of leprosy and raised a boy from the dead.

There were no real rules on the accepted path to becoming a prophet. Though the normal age of enlightenment was around 30 years of age. Samuel started somewhere between the ages of 6 to 12. Jeremiah

was called upon around the age of 17. In the time of male domination, there were even a few female prophetesses. Anna was elderly when she began her seeing of the future that included Jesus at the temple. The four daughters of Philip possessed the gift of prophecy. Moses' sister Miriam, Isaiah's wife, and Esther were of various ages when their journeys began.

Prophets helped write the Old Testament and the New Testament. There were trained prophets and untrained. Those that were pushed into it and those they were drawn to it. Samuel was guided and trained by Eli from a young age. Some joined Prophetic communities. Often these groups studied the Torah and the history of Israel. Others learned to play instruments, learned songs, and poetry to help followers to enter a spiritual state of mind. Some assumed an apprenticeship role, like Elisha, who served Eijah for years before starting a ministry.

But most of the prophets we know best were simply called by God directly. Often, it was a sudden vision or command. Jesus knew he was the Son of God by age 12, but as for his being a prophet, He waited until the accepted age of 30. His teachings would begin shortly after His baptism. You will note that this is the first time I have used the term teacher in this writing. This is because not one definition for prophet that I found contained that word. It helped keep my interest in the subject. I just couldn't understand why that

would be the case. I just always thought that teacher, minister, counselor and someone who sees the future described a prophet well.

So, it turns out I didn't really know what a prophet was, but what they could be at times. Some might never see the future. Some were entertainers and some were preachers. Some were instructors, while others were advisors. Some stood up without fear and delivered God's message to some of the most powerful people on earth at the time. But only one did it all.

God, Family and Fantasy Football

Submitted by Bob Stewart

We who are a part of the Primo Fantasy Football League do our best to keep our priorities straight. Those who are closest to us may slightly disagree.

Our league began in 2023 as the Masontown Matchup Fantasy League. For the first two years, repeat champion Pastor Benji, owner of the Primo Team, showed us how to play fair (sometimes) and win with humility (sometimes). We renamed the league in his honor: the Primo Fantasy Football League.

In year three, Cliff became champion, earning the nickname 'Lord of the Ring.' And speaking of that Primo Championship ring... has anyone seen it?

This year twelve teams are competing. At the time of writing, the Really Rottens (Bob and Hayden) and The Great Dane lead with five wins and one loss. The

Executioners and Masontown Mavericks (Cliff) are at four and two.

One nail-biter came in Week 5, when The Great Dane defeated the Executioners on Monday night, 147.80

to 147.54. Yes, those decimals matter. Apparently fantasy football is educational, too!



At three and three are Wish Bone (Blake), the Wilson Family (Charlie), Biblical Proportions (Kevin), and Rev's Renegades (Pastor Chuck). At two and four are T-Money (Tiffany) and Audible Jesse. Mike's Misfits and The Coal Buckets (Colten) are one and five.

We're about halfway through the regular season, and the playoffs are still ahead. Hold on for more updates as we crown, or ring, a champion! In closing, please have patience with our league participants: 'We sometimes know not what we have done.'

He's Coming, Are You Ready?

Submitted by Harry Craig

In this issue of THE CHURCH MOUSE I desire to share something that the Lord has very recently placed on my heart. I could title this **“He's coming, are you ready???”** We are in serious times as a nation. As the “church” we need to be bringing our “A” game to the table in all that we say and do in our everyday life. Nothing less will do. Remember what I wrote last month quoting the writing on

that plaque we have hanging on our bathroom wall. Roy Lessin wrote this statement, “Just think, you’re here not by chance, but by God’s choosing. His hand formed you and made you the person you are. He compares you to no one else – you are one of a kind. You lack nothing that His grace can’t give you. He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to fulfill His special purposes for this generation.” This is so important for us in these days. God has a purpose for each and every one of us, that is why we were created.

I am a teacher and I teach discipleship evangelism. This is my calling and this is what I have learned over the past 57 years of my 79 years of life. Like many of you, I grew up in a Bible believing church. I was involved in your church, youth choirs, Sunday School, and youth activities. Also, like many of you, I was never exposed to discipleship or evangelism. That was not taught. I guess the pastor, board of deacons, and trustee board were elected to do that. When I grew older I learned that the adult classes didn’t teach discipleship or evangelism either. They taught what was presented in the quarterly magazine that was supplied to the church. Discipleship evidently was deemed as unimportant and that carried on for many years. You came to church Sunday morning, possibly Sunday night for youth, and then Wednesday night for a midweek service and possible youth service. Somewhere along the way you made a profession of faith of Jesus, were baptized in water, and received the right hand of fellowship as you

joined the church. You could now take communion and as you grew older you could be elected to the various church boards. Does this sound correct? Am I speaking to the choir??? Yes some churches adopted “knock on doors and pass out tracts” as a means of stimulating church growth. Sometimes this worked and sometimes it failed. The results depended upon who went knocking and what they knew about “religion.” Ministering outside the four walls of the church was and is tough. Try doing this in Giant Eagle at the meat counter.

Where am I going with this? Well, Pastor Benji was leading this congregation in the direction of learning how to do discipleship evangelism. He had a unique vision for this church – now, not sometime in the future. We as the congregation just had to buy into the vision and learn how to minister to those outside the four walls of the church. Pastor Chuck is heading the same direction. Yes, we as a church are offering the community fun things to do and that is great. We offer service events to benefit the community and that is also great. The question that bugs me is “do we know how to minister to people outside our four walls?” We say, “everybody ought to know who Jesus is” and may even add “Jesus can do ----- (this),” but do we really know what we are saying? The question I asked Pastor Chuck was “will this congregation be willing to do what they will learn and be willing to put the learning into action.” Remember, each

of us was created to fulfill God's purposes.

This week I was watching the news and saw what was happening in France. That is not pretty. That led to the Lord placing this upon my heart. What is happening there can very easily happen here in the U.S.A. They had open borders and thousand of illegal immigrants entered. We did the same. They had some petty problems that were exploded into major riots. We had some of the same previously. France, like many European countries, is antisemitic and we are headed in that direction. France likes big government with its ability to solve "ALL" problems. Guess where some of our leaders want to go? Is this political? To a degree it is, BUT France, a former religious nation has no spiritual pillars to stand on. Fortunately, we in the USA still do.



It is time for the church to arise and loudly proclaim that we are standing on the Word of the Lord. We as a nation were founded on the Bible as the true Word of God not on religion as France was. It is time for the church to

acknowledge that this is a spiritual battle we are fighting in the Middle East. Extreme Muslim beliefs say they are to rule the world and to do so by forces-submit or else die. Those Muslims in the USA will eventually have to make that choice. Look at what is happening. If Iran had a nuclear weapon, would it have used it on Israel?? If Iran gets ownership of the Strait of Hormuz _____ will there be free passage for oil tankers to all the world or will they impose tribute for passage??

In the days ahead the church will face persecution. We may be called antigovernment, unimportant, radical for our beliefs in Jesus, anti-American for our support of Israel and Jewish people here in the U.S.A. Whatever and whenever, we as the church must stand strong, be bold as lions, become as Joshua, very courageous as we face the time BEFORE Jesus comes to call His Bride to heaven. We can't be pew warmers or Christians who have one foot in the Kingdom and the other in the world, waiting to see which way things will go. We need to stay as far away from the fence line of world and kingdom as possible. We must have a command of the Word and be like Jesus when He quoted Scripture when He was tempted. Faith overcomes fear. Know your King. **Get excited!** Learn to do what must be done. Be encouraged! You and I are here because we are here to serve the King of all kings.

Yours in Christ!

Harry Craig

So, Who is Pastor Chuck?

From the mind of Cliff VanKirk

Well, apparently Cliff VanKirk has decided it's time for everyone to learn a little more about their pastor! A few days ago, Cliff took it upon himself to put together a questionnaire for me to answer. And I have to admit, he came up with some pretty good questions. Some were about my family, some about my ministry, and a few made me laugh. So, first of all, thank you, Cliff, for taking the lead on this. I appreciate your thinking of something that might help us get to know one another a little better.

Now, rather than print a bunch of questions and answers, I thought I'd just sit down and share a little of my story with you. After all, if we're going to be spending time together as a church family, you probably ought to know a little more about the fellow standing behind the pulpit every Sunday morning.

Let's start with the basics. My birthday is August 23, and I graduated from Tri-Valley High School in 1989. Here's a little trivia for you. I was part of one of only three graduating classes from Tri-Valley before the name was changed to Albert Gallatin. As for college, well, let's just say I took the scenic route. I started at West Virginia University, transferred to California University of Pennsylvania, made my way to Penn State Fayette, and even took online courses through



The McLaughlin Family
Back Row (left to right): Camden, Caylee, Colten (holding Kipper), and Pastor Chuck
Front Row (left to right): Seamus, Alexis (holding Cashel), CJ, and Tammy (holding Finnigan)



the University of Phoenix. I like to think of it as getting a well-rounded education. Others might just say I couldn't decide where I wanted to go!

On September 10, 1994, I married my beautiful wife, Tammy. And if there's one thing I want you to understand about me, it's that my family is an incredibly important part of my life. Tammy and I have five children: C.J., Colten, Camden, Conner, and Caylee. Our son Conner was our three-day miracle, and although his time with us was brief, his life will always be part of our story. Our oldest son, C.J., is married to our daughter-in-law, Alexis, and we've also been blessed with four grandchildren: Seamus, Finnigan,

Cashel, and Ashlyn. And yes, being a grandparent is pretty wonderful!

Cliff asked me what a good day off looks like. That's actually an easy question. Give me a day with Tammy, our kids, Alexis, and our grandkids, and I'm pretty content. Over the years, ministry has sometimes meant missing moments I wish I could get back. I've become much more intentional about making that time a priority. I love being a pastor, but I also love being a husband, dad, and pops. Those aren't competing callings. They're all part of the life God has given me.

Speaking of ministry, Cliff wanted to know when I first felt called to preach. Now, if you want the longer version of that story, here comes a shameless plug: pick up a copy of my book, *Still Following*, on Amazon! But the short version goes all the way back to 1996. I felt the Lord calling me into ministry, and I gave Him a pretty straightforward answer: no. Apparently, God wasn't impressed with my answer.

Thirteen years later, the Lord reminded me that He hadn't gone anywhere. He was still there, patiently waiting for me to respond. And looking back, I'm thankful He didn't give up on me. I've learned that when God calls us to something, He doesn't necessarily promise we'll feel comfortable doing it. He simply asks us to trust Him enough to follow.

There have been many people who have helped shape my ministry, but Tammy has been at the center of it all. We've walked through some wonderful seasons together, and we've also faced some difficult ones. Through it all, God has used our marriage to strengthen our faith and guide our ministry. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: It has never been my ministry. It has always been our ministry.

My dad taught me so much about the practical side of being a pastor, especially when it came to weddings, funerals, and premarital counseling. My mom has always been one of my biggest encouragers, offering that calm reassurance when I've needed it most. And Superintendent Doug Rabe has been an important voice of wisdom and direction throughout my years in ministry. I'm grateful for each of them.

One of the questions Cliff asked was what I hope to teach the people of Masontown Brethren Church. I thought that was a particularly good question because it gets right to the heart of why I believe God has brought us together.

For years, I've tried to build my ministry around three simple phrases: To Christ. In Christ. For Christ.

I want people to know that whatever they're facing, the answer begins by coming to Christ. Whether you've known Jesus for fifty years or you're just beginning to discover who He is, we

never outgrow our need to come to Him. But I also believe that coming to Christ is just the beginning. We need to grow in Christ, allowing Him to shape our thoughts, our attitudes, our relationships, and the way we live every day.

And as we grow in Him, we begin to understand what it means to live for Christ. That's where we become His hands and feet in the world around us. But I've always believed we need to be careful about getting those things out of order. If we're trying to reach the world while struggling to love one another within the church, we're missing something important. My prayer is that we continue building a church family that loves Christ, grows together, and reaches beyond our walls with the good news of Jesus.

Cliff also asked what I thought I could learn from you. My answer? Plenty!

One of the things I've learned over the years is that no pastor has all the answers. Every one of us has a story. We've all experienced different joys, struggles, victories, and disappointments. And God can use those experiences to encourage and strengthen someone else. I don't believe I'm here simply to teach you. I believe we're here to grow together. I'm looking forward to learning from your experiences just as much as I hope you'll learn from mine.

Now, before this starts sounding too much like another Sunday morning sermon, Cliff did throw in a few lighter questions.

For example, you might be surprised to know that I can actually be a little introverted. I know, that's probably hard to believe considering I stand up and talk in front of people every week. But I've always thought God has a pretty good sense of humor. He has a way of calling us into places where we have to depend on His strength instead of our own.

And while we're clearing things up, you can call me Pastor Chuck. I'm not particularly concerned about titles. At Chestnut Ridge Christian Academy, where I teach English Language Arts, most of the students just call me PC. Now, if you call me Reverend, I might look around to see if my dad is standing behind me. That was always his title, and somehow it still feels like it belongs to him.

If you're wondering about sports, I'm a Pittsburgh guy through and through. Steelers, Penguins, Pirates. And when it comes to college sports, I'm cheering for WVU. So, depending on how those teams are doing, you may want to give me a little grace on Monday mornings!

Cliff also wanted to know what book I've been reading lately. Naturally, I told him *Still Following*, written by a pretty good fellow named Chuck McLaughlin.

Yes, another shameless plug! I'm kidding, of course, although I will admit that seeing my own book in print has been a pretty special experience. With teaching English Language Arts, I'm constantly reading something, and right now I'm working through Gifted Hands, the story of Dr. Ben Carson.

And then there was the question about game night. Cliff wanted to know if it scared me a little. Not one bit! I loved it.

One of the things I enjoy most about church family is when we can simply be ourselves. We don't always have to be serious. We can laugh, joke, play games, and enjoy spending time together. In fact, I think those moments are important. They help us build relationships that go beyond Sunday morning worship.

As I think about all the questions Cliff asked, there's one thing I keep coming back to. Tammy and I have been blessed to serve in churches where people have shown us tremendous love, and we've already experienced that same spirit here at Masontown Brethren Church. We're grateful for the way you've welcomed our family and for the relationships that are beginning to grow.

I don't know everything God has planned for us in the days ahead, but I do know that I'm excited to find out. My hope is that we'll continue learning about one another, growing in our faith,

and looking for opportunities to share the love of Christ with the people around us.

And Cliff, thank you again for taking the initiative to put this together. I appreciate your willingness to step forward with an idea and make it happen. Sometimes the simplest things can open the door to something meaningful, and I think getting to know one another a little better is a pretty good place to start.

Besides, now that you've asked me all these questions, I may have to come up with a few for you!

Still Following,

Pastor Chuck

A Prayer from Harry Craig

Submitted by Harry Craig

Abba, Father, O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth. We enter Your gates with thanksgiving and into Your courts with praise becoming Your holy name. You have created us to bring honor and glory to You on a daily basis. We bow before You and desire to submit ourselves to You and Your will. Neither no one nor nothing can compare to You.

Father, we lift up our nation to You. We are facing troubling times. Our rebellion toward You and rejection of Your Word and ways has and is leading us into these times. We cannot just say we are

sorry, but we must face our sin, repent, and as a nation turn back to You. We ask You to send forth Your Holy Spirit and to bring about that desire in our hearts (from the least to the greatest) to seek Your face. We must change our thinking and lifestyles. We lift our leaders to You. You created them and have allowed them to be in leadership positions. Your Word says You will direct them in the way they should go, give them obedient hearts and minds to obey You. Help them to seek Your face and to understand Your Word. Help our leaders to not make deals for the sake of the deal, but to understand the spiritual significance of what is happening. Protect our military in their endeavors as they seek to protect this nation. Help this nation to understand what is happening and that some sacrifices must be made to survive as a nation.

We continue to lift up and stand with the nations of Israel. May we be used in blessing them. Let the world know that You neither slumber nor sleep in regards to Israel. They are the apple of Your eye. The world hates them because they are, in their own way, trying to live like You want them to live. Give their leaders Your wisdom to govern and we pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Open their eyes and hearts to Jesus the Messiah.

Father we lift up our area pastors as

they proclaim Your Word. Let the church hear, understand, and follow through with what they are taught. We declare that there will be a Holy Spirit led revival in Fayette County! We know that persecution will arise led by Satan's forces. We ask Your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and protect us as the battle heats up. Satan is a defeated foe, but he is still a bully. He is under our feet. We win!

We continue to lift up those who are home bound in our congregation, bless and keep them, meet their every need. You are greater than any problem, sickness, trouble, or disease we may encounter. You are tremendous in Your love and mercy toward us. Thank You.

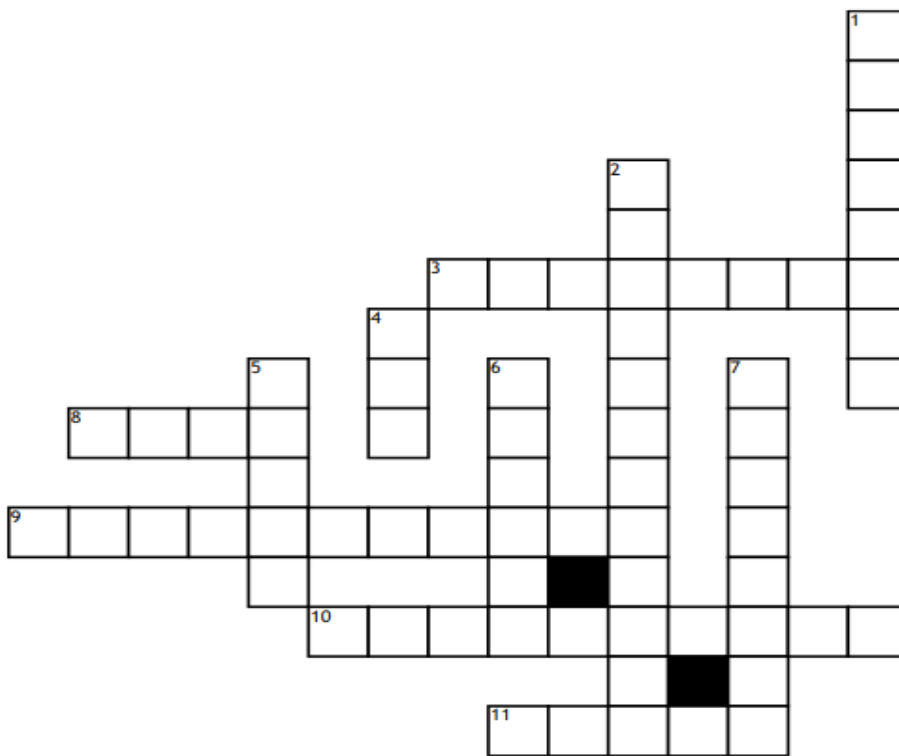
We ask You to continue to bless, instruct, and lead Pastor Chuck as he ministers to this congregation. Meet his needs and bless and protect his family. He is Your man for this hour. Help him to fear not but to be bold, be strong, and very courageous!

Help us to have an attitude of gratitude for who You are and what You have done. Amen!





Fruits of the Spirit



Across

- 3. Calmly waiting for something to happen
- 8. God is
- 9. Being in charge of your feelings and actions
- 10. Showing kindness toward others
- 11. Died for me!

Down

- 1. Treating others with respect
- 2. To be loyal and true
- 4. A feeling of happiness
- 5. calm and content
- 6. Heard and not seen
- 7. Doing what is right and good

Ask Pastor Chuck

Is it wrong for a Christian to have a bad day? Sometimes I feel guilty when I'm frustrated, discouraged, or just not in a very good mood.

Well, if having a bad day were a sin, I think most of us would have some serious explaining to do!

Being a Christian doesn't mean every day is sunshine and smiling faces. Jesus told us in John 16:33 that we would have trouble in this world. He didn't say we might have trouble. He said we would.

Elijah became overwhelmed. David poured out his frustrations in the Psalms. Even the disciples sometimes struggled to understand Jesus. The important thing isn't whether we have a bad day. It's what we do with it.

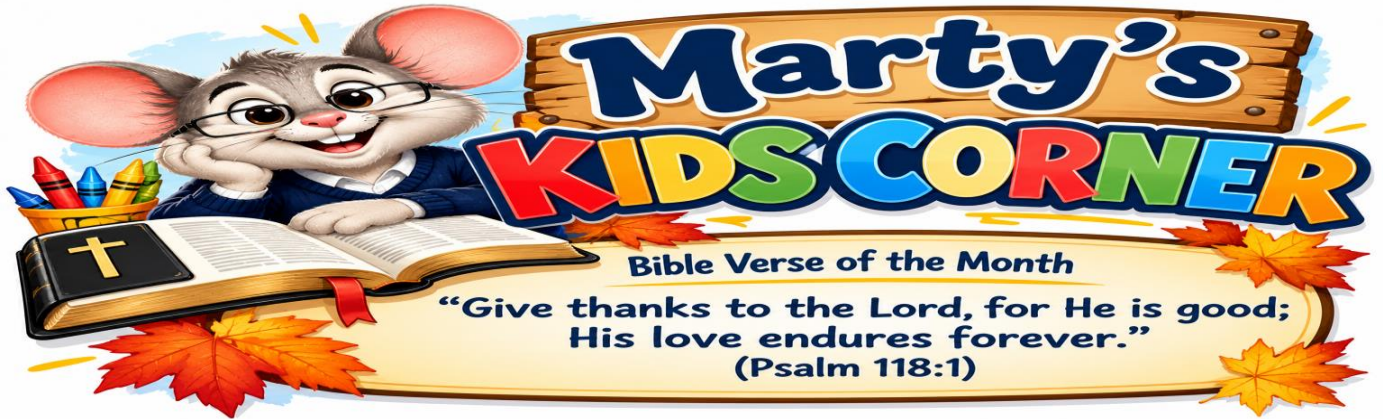
There's nothing wrong with telling God you're frustrated, disappointed, or struggling. He already knows! Instead of letting those feelings control us, we can bring them to Him.

Having a bad day doesn't mean you have a bad God.

Give yourself a little grace, spend time with the Lord, and remember tomorrow is another opportunity to experience His goodness. And if all else fails, maybe take a nap. Sometimes even pastors need one!

— Pastor Chuck





Revelation

1. BALM _____
2. HNEORT _____
3. EPURTMST _____
4. LRSLOC _____
5. ETIALVRNEO _____
6. OIPRSHW _____
7. GUNJMDTE _____
8. OYSAAPLPCE _____
9. BEATS _____
10. AGMOE _____
11. ESSAL _____
12. RETENTIY _____
13. RPEHYPOC _____
14. AHLPA _____
15. NUITOLAITRB _____

October Puzzle Answers

Marty B's Bible Word Search - Following Jesus

R	E	I	B	W	Q	P	X	M	K	F	W	R	J	U	F	L
Y	U	C	Z	T	I	E	D	G	D	Q	B	C	K	H	R	T
S	P	K	M	T	A	E	U	D	N	M	L	K	U	J	I	D
S	B	J	I	M	E	C	K	G	E	V	R	E	S	K	E	K
E	J	D	J	Q	X	A	I	W	S	W	F	W	O	A	N	M
N	Z	W	I	Q	V	R	K	H	H	J	X	A	K	P	D	K
D	H	E	X	N	U	G	S	X	B	O	A	C	R	P	T	B
N	C	B	L	P	S	M	D	F	M	A	P	A	X	T	U	K
I	R	X	S	B	C	I	W	K	F	E	Y	E	O	K	Y	M
K	U	F	G	I	A	J	Q	D	E	F	A	I	T	H	B	A
A	H	C	O	U	R	B	E	C	R	C	F	R	H	V	P	K
B	C	L	T	L	A	E	H	F	D	J	E	Q	K	S	L	S
E	J	G	T	H	L	T	V	U	L	I	M	Z	U	Q	M	R
E	E	Z	R	P	C	O	F	O	V	V	G	L	E	D	M	K
E	S	P	T	Q	M	B	W	S	L	D	D	G	H	X	H	O
K	U	H	B	T	Z	F	K	P	P	X	P	M	Y	K	S	O
C	S	U	Q	F	A	Q	H	K	Q	A	U	F	Z	H	C	E

Bible	Church	Faith	Follow
Friend	Grace	Hope	Jesus
Kindness	Love	Prayer	Serve

