

Fear Not, I Bring You Good News!

by Pastor Doug

As we come into the Christmas season, this is a time to think and reflect on the life of Joseph and all the fears he had to overcome. The last couple of years have been difficult. It isn't easy navigating Covid, watching friends get sick, and even loved ones passing away. It is natural to be paralyzed by fear because of the uncertainties around us. From the gospel accounts we see Joseph overcoming his fears. He had to overcome numerous roadblocks that were in front of him. Joseph is an example of one who walks in faith rather than fear.

- Joseph went through with his marriage even though it would have been easier to move on.
- Joseph was overwhelmed with the housing situation in Bethlehem. One closed door after another, but He trusted God's plan.
- Joseph had to pack up quickly and head to Egypt because he was concerned for Mary and Jesus safety.
- It was not easy for Joseph to raise Jesus. He overcame his fears and parented Jesus as best he could.

Joseph had many fears to overcome, and he did it by obeying God above everything else. So, as we move towards Christmas, may we take our fears to God. The scriptures state that "perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18) So let me remind you that God always has an answer for our fears. Can you trust and obey like Joseph? Can you go to the God of the universe, your creator, and trust Him with the burdens that you are carrying? There are other ways of coping when it comes to fears – escaping life with shopping sprees, alcohol or other addictions, food and a Covid 20 pounds wrong strategy. There are many coping mechanisms, but the best plan that ultimately releases our fears is looking to the Savior of the world and trusting Him with ALL THINGS!

Like the Angel said thousands of years ago – "Fear not, for I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, He is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

Annual Christmas Open House at the Davis' Home - Please drop in to enjoy some delicious homemade Christmas cookies and sip some hot chocolate as we welcome the Christmas season with Friends. (RSVP Beth at 330-607-3204)

Dec. 11th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (2351 Abbeyville Rd.)

Worship Schedule

Sundays • 9:30 & 11:00 am

Medina Community Church exists to help people begin and grow in their relationship with God. Our relaxed, contemporary style provides an enjoyable atmosphere where you can investigate the claims of Christ, deepen your faith and meet some great friends along the way.

December 5 —

The Names of Jesus —
... Mighty God

December 12 —

The Names of Jesus—
... Everlasting Father

December 19 —

The Names of Jesus—
... Prince of Peace

December 24 — Christmas Eve Fear Not

December 26 — Opening up the Best Gift



Christmas Lunch



& Gift Exchange

December 5 at 12:30 pm.

Lunch will be provided; please bring a holiday dessert to share. For the gift exchange bring a Christmas pin gift wrapped. Sign up at the information desk or contact Kathy Summers at (330) 461-1081 or kathysummers@gmail.com

Ladies Jail Ministry

For several years the MCC Ladies Ministry has worked with Sue Jarvis at the Medina County Jail to purchase gifts for the children of the inmates. This is a hard time for families as the children are often living with grandparents or the other parent and usually funds are stretched. The first few years we delivered all the gifts and then in 2019 we got the idea to have a party here at the church and that was wonderful. And then there was COVID. Last year we purchased gift cards for all of the children. So this year we're busy purchasing gifts again and we're going to do a drive up party, similar to the way we conduct our Community Meals. Please pray about this ministry. It gives us an opportunity to touch a lot of lives. Aside from praying we could always use more gifts – inexpensive things like puzzles, coloring books and crayons, books, games, clothing (we always seem to come up short on boy things). Also we could use help in sorting and packaging once we have the names and ages of the children. We'll probably do a Saturday at the church prior to the day of the party which will be December 18 at noon in the church parking lot. Santa will be there and we'll have a fire going and lots of goodies to pass out to the children who will stay in their cars to keep everyone safe.

Another amazing part of this is that a small group of our ladies have made pillow cases and raised enough money to buy pillows for each child. A pillow may not seem like a huge thing but to children who don't have a lot of stability in their lives it's a treasured possession sometimes. Thank you to Becky, Marianne, Anita, Sandra and Betty for all of their sewing hours to make the pillow cases.

If you have any questions or want to help on a Saturday please contact Kathy Summers at (330) 461-1081 or kathysummers@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight service here at MCC. Services will be held at 3:00 and 5:00 pm with reservations. Please go to MCC's website (MedinaCommunityChurch.org) to reserve a spot (limit of 80 per service).

At 7:00 pm we'll have an outdoor service featuring a trombone quartet (Brian Pattison and friends). This service will take place in the back parking lot on the west side of church. Bring your own chairs and hot chocolate.



3:00 pm & 5:00 pm inside, 7:00 pm outside

Reservations required for inside services.

COMMUNITY MEAL



We are pleased to announce that MCC will be hosting another drive-thru Community Night meal on **Saturday, December 18** from 6-7 pm for those in need. Meals will be handed out in a drive thru lane. Volunteers will help guide guests to the meal pickup area. (All guests will be asked to remain in their vehicles.) Meals are first come, first serve until the food runs out. Please note that meals are provided free of charge. Donations are accepted to help support this ministry.

If you do not drive, and would like a meal delivered to you, please call the church office at (330)-723-5155. Leave your name, address, phone number, and number of meals wanted. ***Deliveries are made within 3 miles of the church the church at this time.***

Please contact Emily Winans to volunteer for this outreach: Tel: (240) 405-4003 or Email: winanse@gmail.com



CHOIR



We invite all kids ages 4-years to jr. high to join us as we prepare for the upcoming Christmas season. We'll rehearse on Monday, December 6th and 13th at 6:00 pm at the church. Contact Kristen Green with any questions (440-371-9142).

YOUTH GROUPS

Wednesdays 6:15-7:30 pm
KIDS BLAST
ELEMENTARY

Kids Blast is MCC's fun, high-energy Bible club for 4-year olds through 5th grade. Kids will enjoy a time of worship, games, and a Bible lesson each week. Dinner will be provided. Sign up today!

<u>Session 2</u>	<u>Session 3</u>	<u>Session 4</u>
November	January	March
3,10,17	12,19,26	2,9,16,23,30
December	February	April
1,8,15	2,9,16	6



Sundays • 5:00-6:30 pm

Youth groups will meet Sunday, December 5 and 12th. Christmas party on the 12th.

Doug Davidson—Sr. Pastor • Donna Spitzer—Director of Christian Education
Kristen Green—Intern • Justin Boughter—Intern

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