

Following Jesus

by Justin Boughter

I don't know about many of you but this past month has flown by and we are already a whole month into 2022. It seems like just yesterday that I watched the ball drop to start a new year and I made myself my "New Year Resolutions" that were going to help me make 2022 a good year. Think about some of your new year's resolutions. How have you been doing on those goals you set out for yourself? I know for myself my new year's resolution to stop eating out as much has not been going too well. But as we continue into this year I think it is important for us as a church to add a resolution to our list. Let's stop and ask ourselves the question, "as a church how can we as a community, and as individuals become more like Jesus? Jesus "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." (Colossian 1:15). And what would this look like?

For me personally the answer to that question is a very short and simple one. That is to love and show love to those around us just as Jesus did. Paul writes about this in his letter to the church in Ephesus where he says, "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children, and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2) as a church it is of utmost importance that we follow God's example that he laid out clearly before us.

So what is this example? And how can we as a church and individuals work this out in our lives?

Follow Jesus' example of servitude. "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." (John 13:15)

Follow Jesus' example of being willing to suffer. "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." (1 Peter 2:21)

Follow Jesus' example of unconditional love towards others. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." (1 John 3:16) *Continued on page 3.*

Amore' Night—For over 30 years we have hosted Amore' Night as a fundraiser for our youth mission trips. On Friday, March 4th we will continue the tradition with a drive through dinner followed by a live stream auction. Get ready for a fun night. You can reserve your meal and number of plates of Lasagna by going to RSVP church.

Dinner from 6 to 7 p.m./ Online Auction at 7:30 p.m.

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.

February 6—
Living Jesus—Justin Boughter

February 13 —
Superbowl Sunday

February 20 —
The Gospel of John Series Begins
Overview—Big Picture

February 27—
In the Beginning (John 1)

COMMUNITY NIGHTS

Mark your calendars now for the kick off of Community Nights scheduled for March 2—April 6. We gather as a church for dinner from 6 to 7 p.m. Then at 7 p.m. we break into separate groups for Bible Study. There will be a nursery, Kids Blast, youth group and adult study. It will be so good getting back to this enjoyable season of fellowship and growth in the Lord.

MEN'S MINISTRY

The men are currently meeting on Thursday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Dave Arron leads the study. They are studying the book of I Peter. If you have questions or need more information, please call Dave Arron at 330-242-4231.

Women's Ministry

Ladies Ministry Updates - Hi ladies! We are excited about the next few months and getting back to our activities that we haven't enjoyed for awhile. If you are new to MCC or haven't been connected for awhile please send me your email address so I can make sure you are in the loop. My email and phone are kathyksummers@gmail.com and 330.461.1081.

First Wednesday Dinner - We get together the first Wednesday and have dinner at one of the local restaurants. This started about three years ago and for almost two years we didn't duplicate any locations. It's great fun. So next Wednesday, February 2, weather permitting, we'll meet at El Patron in Seville at 6:00 p.m. Please let me know ahead of time if you're coming so I can arrange for seating. Sometimes there are a dozen of us, sometimes only four or five. After next week we'll skip March and April because we'll be having our Community Nights at church.

Ladies Bible Study - We've been on hold since just before the holidays due to weather, COVID, and several of our ladies travelling. We'll start back up after Easter, when we're done with Community Nights. We meet on Thursday night at 7:00 at the church in the first classroom. So our tentative start up date will be April 21. I'm looking at different studies now so if you have a favorite topic or author please pass that along to me. We usually do short studies - six or eight weeks - and there are lots of options available.

Jail Ministry - Thank you to all who helped with this and all who prayed for us. It was a success. We were able to get gifts for over 100 kids. It was a daunting task, but as usual you all came through. We also want to thank Legacy Roofing and Ed Thomas who gave a huge donation so we could purchase pillows for the kids.

Please if you have ideas, comments or suggestions on things you think our ladies could or should be doing please let me know.

FOLLOW JESUS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Follow Jesus' example in forgiveness. "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13)

Follow Jesus' example of hope. "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." (Mark 9:13)

Following these along with the many other examples that Jesus laid out before us will allow us as a community as well as individuals to make 2022 a year where God's name is known more and His calling for our church will be fulfilled.

COMMUNITY MEAL—FEBRUARY 12TH

We are pleased to announce that MCC will be hosting another drive-thru Community Night meal on **Saturday, February 12th** 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

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. Kick off for 2022 takes place Wednesday, February 2.

Session 3

January
Off for Covid
February
2,9,16,23

Session 4

March
2,9,16,23,30
April
6



Sundays • 5:00-6:30 pm

We are kick starting youth groups beginning Sunday, February 6th.

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

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