

## God Sightings When Life Gets Hard BY PASTOR DOUG

Over the last couple of weeks, it has been a journey of pain, surgery, more pain, loss of appetite, dependency on others, and the challenging work of physical therapy to get better. Such is life for those who have had major surgery to improve the quality of life down the road. I know many in our church family have witnessed the same and now are enjoying life with less pain. Along the way, we can all learn how to do life in a good way as we depend upon the Lord for a strength that only He can provide. As I have navigated this challenging journey, there are lessons the Lord has taught me to provide wisdom and gratitude along the way.

First, sometimes we push forward too hard and think we are invincible. I overdid it and as a result my good leg was in a whole lot of pain. Heading into surgery, I prayed for the Lord to heal the leg and back pain I was experiencing so at least I had one good leg. Because of rest (we must do our part) and God's supernatural work, I went into surgery feeling so much better. God's grace shows up when we need it most.

Also, as I went into surgery there is the turn it all over to the Lord moment. It is hard to let go of the control and say, "Lord, not my will but your will be done." God is an ever-present help in our time of need and trusting Him in those moments is a way to overcome our anxiety and build a greater trust relationship with our creator.

Coming home always feels so good, even when you are in a whole lot of pain. At the beginning you can do little and must depend on others for basic needs. But slowly you improve, and you can experience God's healing touch. Pride gets in the way of us asking for help. As a shepherd, it is difficult because we love serving others. But we all need to receive blessings as well. Tomorrow Pastor Wilson will come and pick me up for PT. I love our relationship with Fellowship Baptist and how we pray, serve, and fellowship together in our community. God is good and He uses His body to minister and lift our spirit.

Looking back on this journey I feel so blessed by the prayers, meals, and cards of encouragement. I am grateful for a church family that loves well! I appreciate Bev because of her love and caregiving that fulfills the vows for better or for worse. I cannot say enough about her love and patience. I am not the easiest person to care for. God has blessed me, and I am thankful for the Lord's love, compassion and strength that carried me through this challenging time. God is good!

## 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.

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- **February 4** —  
Rahab Ministries
  - **February 11** —  
Thankful For The Family of God  
(Romans 16)
  - **February 18** —  
Resilient—The Strength That Prevails
  - **February 25** —  
Resilient—All In

## Contact Us

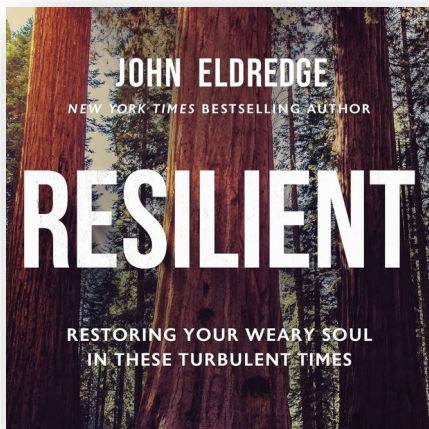
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www.medinacommunitychurch.org

Doug Davidson — Sr. Pastor  
Donna Spitzer — Family Ministry  
Justin Boughter — Resident Pastor  
Kristen Green — Intern

# Community Nights 2024

Join us for another six-week Community Nights beginning February 14 (Ash Wednesday) and continuing every Wednesday evening leading up to Easter. We'll have dinner together at 6:00 pm followed by an adult Bible study, a teen study, and Kids Blast. Great food, community-building time, and spiritual growth is on the agenda each week. Look for sign up sheets on the information desk at church.



New York Times bestselling author John Eldredge gives readers drained from the madness of modern life the tools they need to follow Jesus' path of supernatural resilience so they can recover their joy, strengthen their hearts, and thrive through the storm.

The human soul has a built-in yearning for joy and beauty and all good things. But that craving for life has taken a real beating in recent years. Between false promises of ease and comfort on one side and the sheer trauma of global disease and disasters on the other, we are facing a shortage of peace, happiness, and strength.

In *Resilient*, Eldredge provides skills and tools to strengthen your heart and soul—and reveals a path toward genuine recovery and resilience provided by Jesus himself. Drawing on wisdom from Scripture and Christian tradition, and illustrated throughout with powerful, true stories of grit and survival, *Resilient* will help you...

- recover from the trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic
- tap into “supernatural graces” like the river of life that God promises his people
- learn to be patient with yourself—genuine recovery from spiritual and emotional trauma takes time and intentionality
- create a plan, because resilience and victory aren't going to come with a swipe on your home screen
- discover deep wells of freedom and strength through Christ who lives within us.

Thriving requires a resilient soul. This book will help you find the resilience you need when the world has gone mad—and discover in Jesus himself the strength that prevails.



→ Sundays  
5:00 to 6:30 pm



STUDENT  
LIFE Sr. High

→ Sundays  
6:00 to 8:00 pm



We are pleased to announce that MCC will be hosting drive-thru Community meals on **Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** 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.) We can always use drivers for meal deliveries at 5:00 pm and others to help with the drive through. Please consider how you could serve in this ministry.

For more information or to sign up please call or text  
Emily Winans at (240)405-4003.

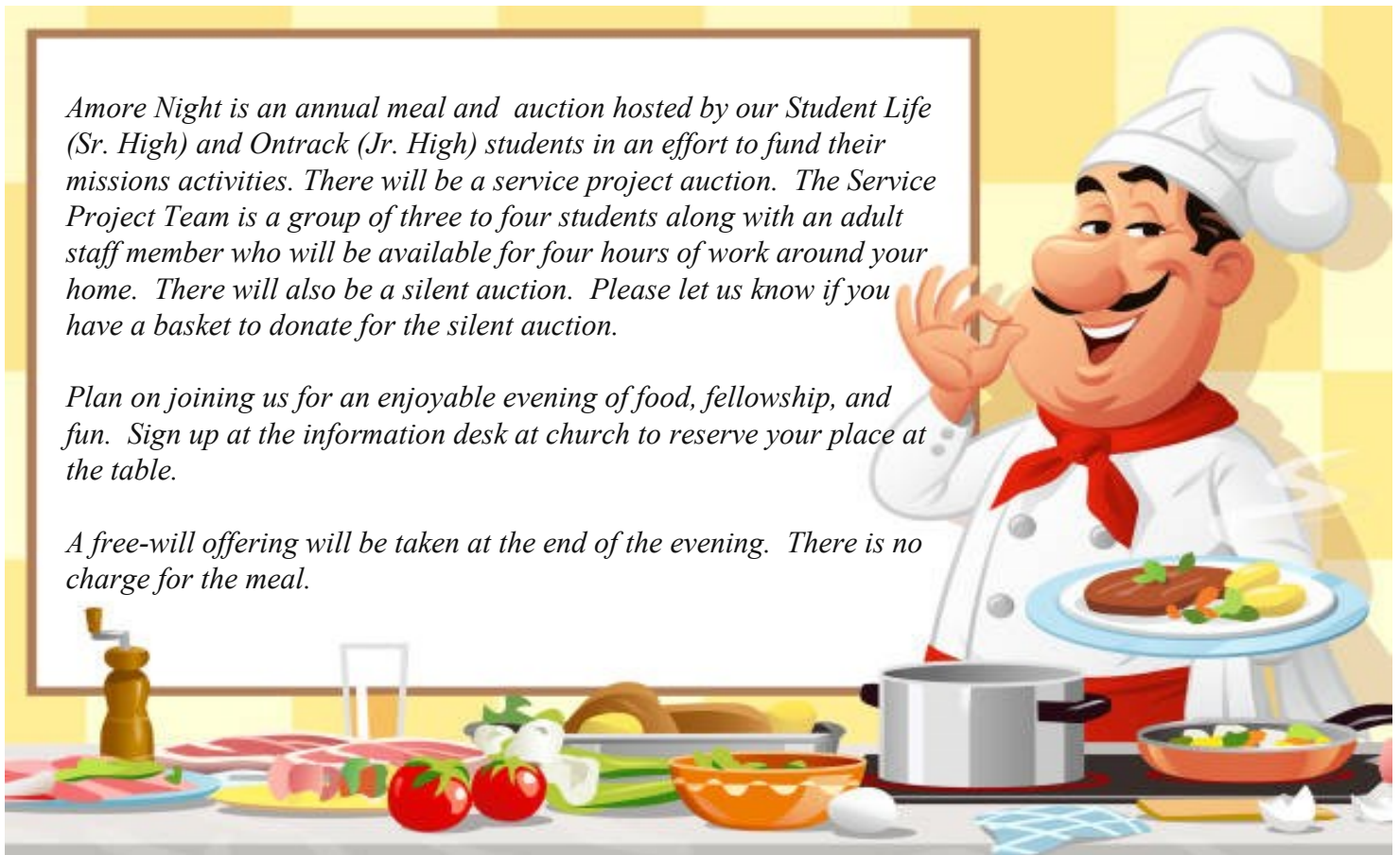
# Amore' Night

March 1, 2024

*Amore Night is an annual meal and auction hosted by our Student Life (Sr. High) and Ontrack (Jr. High) students in an effort to fund their missions activities. There will be a service project auction. The Service Project Team is a group of three to four students along with an adult staff member who will be available for four hours of work around your home. There will also be a silent auction. Please let us know if you have a basket to donate for the silent auction.*

*Plan on joining us for an enjoyable evening of food, fellowship, and fun. Sign up at the information desk at church to reserve your place at the table.*

*A free-will offering will be taken at the end of the evening. There is no charge for the meal.*



**Dinner begins at  
6:00 pm  
(Pasta Bar)**

**Silent Auction  
during dinner  
(winners at 7:15 pm)**

**Service Project  
Team Auction  
begins at 7:15 pm**



## **February 3, 2024**

We'll be meeting at First Watch in Medina this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast. They don't take reservations so please let me know if you are coming so we can get there early if we need to for seating.

## **Upcoming Events:**

- I encourage all of you to join us for *Community Nights* which starts Ash Wednesday (February 14) for six weeks leading up to Easter. We have a meal together at 6:00 p.m. and then a study from 7-8:00 p.m. It's always a great time to just enjoy each others company and to be in the Word. Look for sign up details at the information desk at church.
- Once Easter is over we will start our Thursday evening ladies *Bible study* back up. We meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. If you have thoughts on a topic or a specific study please pass that along and I'll check into it.
- Also, after Easter we'll go back to our *first Wednesday dinners*. Watch for more information to come.
- We'll also have a couple more of our *winter Saturday gatherings* just to keep connected. More information to come.

**-Kathy**

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The women's ministry coordinator is Kathy Summers. If you have any questions, or need to reach her for any reason, her number is (330) 461-1081.