

## Been There by Pastor Doug

Have you ever been hurt by a friend? Jesus has. Maybe you feel like God is not listening? Jesus knows what that is like. No matter what you're facing, Jesus understands because He's been there. In April we will be launching a new series entitled—Been There. We'll explore a number of topics that involve life experiences that Jesus faced. Because of those accounts in the gospels, we have a way through many challenges because Jesus shows us how to handle them.

It has been a wild couple of months for us as a family as we were by my sister's side all through her battle with Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD). So hard watching her suffer with the difficulty in breathing and the need for oxygen and constant care.

Hard to believe that last fall Debbie was playing tennis and enjoying a pretty normal life. Life can take some unexpected turns and lead us on paths we have never traveled before. Our days are numbered (Ps. 37:18), and the good Lord has a day for all of us when He will call us home (Heb. 9:27). There is a part of me that cries out – it's not fair! Debbie should have had many more years of life enjoying time with her grandkids, life without being a caregiver for mom, and just a lot more fun with her family and friends. But God had a different plan. And like the psalmist in Psalm 31, in spite of the hardship and questions of life, yet will I trust you God.

Jesus knows what we are experiencing in our time of grief. I love the encounter with Jesus and Lazarus' family as they were in the middle of their grief. They lost their sibling, and they were quick to blame Jesus for his terrible timing. Instead of quickly healing Lazarus and taking away the pain his sisters were experiencing, Jesus stops and grieves. He enters their pain. Then He proceeded to raise Lazarus from the dead to give us hope today. If Jesus is the Lord over life and death, surely, He can handle our pain and suffering. And then He was raised from the dead to give us great hope that this life is not all there is.

Jesus says to all of us during life challenges – been there! And for all who are facing times of grief, may you hear the words of Jesus; "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25

### PSALM 31:12-16 ESV

<sup>12</sup>I have been forgotten like one who is dead;

I have become like a broken vessel.

<sup>13</sup>For I hear the whispering of many—

terror on every side!—

as they scheme together against me,

as they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>But I trust in you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my God."

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

<sup>16</sup>Make your face shine on your servant;

save me in your steadfast love!

## 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.

- April 7 — Justin Boughter  
New Life In Jesus (First Steps)

### NEW SERIES: Been There

- April 14 —  
Stop Controlling That
- April 21 —  
Why Is God So Slow?
- April 28 —  
Ready To Quit

## Contact Us

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www.medinacommunitychurch.org

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

We are pleased to announce that MCC will be hosting drive-thru Community meals on **Saturday, April 20<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.



## MCC's Summer Mission Trip



Please pray for our mission team heading to the Bahamas **June 15-21**. They need our prayers and financial support. The team will serve with Praying Pelicans Missions doing a service project, children's ministry, and food distribution. They will tie in with Pastor Sterling's church during the week. The team is led by Teresea Medley and Justin Boughter. Also serving on the mission are Rob and Deanna Saba, Eva Saba, Erin and Alli Pagel, Brittany Tosatto, Xiamara Glover, Beth Davis, Jack Medley, Arlan Gerig, Maddie Boughter, Pam Castle, and Kathy Summers. Look for a mailing in March to commit to financial and prayer support for this trip.





Join us April 7th for the first of two Sunday morning discovery classes. We will introduce you to our ministry-vision and values along with an overview of our doctrine and by-laws. We'll give you an opportunity to join the church at the end of our sessions. Come and check out the class this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Classroom #1.



Spring

CLEAN UP

May 18, 2024



*Calling all cleaners, gardeners, and window washers . . .*

*We need your help with MCC's annual Spring cleanup day. Join us on Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 to noon as we get the church looking good before the busy summer months. Young and old alike! Come for an hour or the whole morning. Sign up Sundays at the information table.*

## Upcoming Events:

•**Bible study**— On April 18th we'll resume our Thursday evening ladies Bible study. We meet at the church at 6:30 p.m.

•**April Breakfast**— We will meet for breakfast at Jane's Diner on the square in Medina on Saturday, April 6th at 9:30 a.m. Please let Kathy know if you plan to come as they don't take reservations (but Kathy can give them a heads up on Friday).

•**First Wednesday Dinners**— In May we'll start back up with our first Wednesday dinners. Look for more info to come

The women's ministry coordinator is Kathy Summers. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please contact her at (330) 461-1081 or [kathyksummers@gmail.com](mailto:kathyksummers@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Events:

•**Men's Breakfast**— Join us on Saturday, April 20th at 8:30 a.m. for our next Men's breakfast. We'll have breakfast together, time in the Word, and then a friendly archery competition. Let Pastor Doug know if you would like to help cook. Sign up at the information table this Sunday or text Pastor Doug at (330) 635-9655.

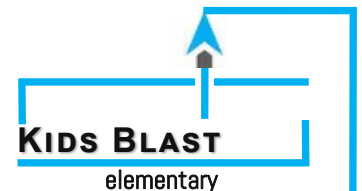
The men's ministry Bible study leader is Dave Arron. If you have any questions about the study or need to reach him, his number is (330) 242-4231.



Sundays  
5:00 to 6:30 pm



Sundays  
6:00 to 8:00 pm



Wednesdays  
6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

