

THE VALUE OF BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

by *Pastor Doug*

When it comes to our spiritual growth there is nothing like the church family. I often say that we are to “know and be known, love and be loved, and serve and be served” in our church community. You may be a people person or a total introvert, but either way, God wants to use the church to encourage you and draw closer to Him.

I like what Acts 2:42–47 says about the early church and the value of community: ⁴²*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* ⁴³*Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.* ⁴⁴*All the believers were together and had everything in common.* ⁴⁵*They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.* ⁴⁶*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,* ⁴⁷*praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2 describe the kind of community my soul longs for. We were made for honest, vulnerable fellowship. We were created to help each other, eat together, worship God, and love deeply. True community requires sacrifice and vulnerability. I Corinthians 12:25-26 says, ²⁵*so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.* ²⁶*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.* When one part of our physical body hurts, the rest of the body feels the pain. In the same way when individuals in our church family are hurting, we feel their pain and are encouraged to come along side of them to minister to needs.

Over the last several months as a church we have experienced a whole lot of death of loved ones, illness, and hard knocks. It has been a difficult, lonely path for the families impacted. The good news is that we never have to travel this path alone. Biblical community makes a huge difference! What a blessing to receive the prayers, hugs, comfort, and words of encouragement as we go through the valley. Together we pick up one another and bring relief from the harsh reality of living in a fallen world. Thanks for going to church with a purpose. Thanks for loving well!

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.

SERIES: THE GIFT

- **December 3** —
No One Understands Me
- **December 10** —
It's Hard To Believe
- **December 17** —
A King Like No Other
- **December 24** —
Celebrate!
- **December 31** —
I Can't Wait To See You (Romans 15)
- **January 7** —
Grateful For The Friendships (Romans 16)
- **January 14** —
Guest Speaker—Roger Biadi
- **January 21** —
Guest Speaker—Justin Boughter
- **January 28** —
Guest Speaker—Steve Andrews





Christmas Eve at MCC

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

EVENING SERVICE

5:00 p.m.

Candlelight—All Services

Children will sing at the 11:00 a.m. Service



Women's Ministry

December 3 - ANNUAL LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND GIFT EXCHANGE

This will be at 12:30 pm following second service. Please bring one gift wrapped for the exchange, and a dessert to share. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Donna Spitzer with any questions at (330) 317-2675.

December 16 - JAIL MINISTRY DRIVE-UP PARTY

For several years we've purchased Christmas gifts for the children of Medina County Jail inmates. We get forms from the inmates with names, ages, and addresses of where the children live and who their caretakers are. If you want to help there are several ways to do so. You can purchase inexpensive gifts for boys and girls, and we will have a day of sorting and wrapping once we get the forms with their information (probably the Saturday before). The families will receive a letter inviting them and asking for a response. Then, on Saturday, December 16 we'll have a drive-up party for the families to pick up their gifts. Santa and Mrs. Clause will be there to assist with the gifts. If you would like to find out more about this ministry, please contact Pam Castle at (216) 926-4199 or nosugar14@yahoo.com.



The MCC Children's Choir for the holiday season holds weekly practices on Mondays (December 4, 11, & 18 at 5:30 pm) with some Wednesday night practices sprinkled in (December 6 & 13 at 5:30 pm).

The choir will sing on December 17 and again on Christmas Eve at the 11:00 am service. If your child likes to sing, it's not too late to join!



We are pleased to announce that MCC will be hosting drive-thru Community meals on **Saturday, December 16th and Saturday, January 20th** 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 ministry. 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.



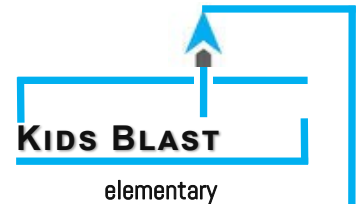
ONTRACK
Jr. High

Sundays
5:00 to 6:30 pm



STUDENT LIFE
Sr. High

Sundays
6:00 to 8:00 pm



Wednesdays
6:15 to 7:30 pm



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

Medina Community Church • 416 South Broadway, Medina, Ohio
(330) 723-5155 • mccoffice@zoominternet.net • www.medinacommunitychurch.org