

Let's Think About Spiritual Growth By Pastor Doug

When it comes to a new year it is always a suitable time to evaluate our lives and especially our spiritual condition. Think back on 2025 and ask yourself, in what areas did I grow as a follower of Jesus? Take time to celebrate where the growth occurred and enjoy the fruit of a growing disciple.

Now look ahead and ask yourself, "where do I want to be at the end of 2026?" The following questions might help you in forming a plan for the new year:

1. Is there a Bible study I want to go through with a small group or in my personal study?
2. Is there anything keeping me from being a more regular church attendee? Why is church an important foundation practice for my spiritual growth?
3. When it comes to generosity, how can I practice giving to the Lord on a more consistent basis? If I see God's hand in providing for me, why is it hard at times to give in a way where I must trust God for everything?
4. Loving well, especially the people in our lives that are far from God is not easy. What can I do to break down barriers to reach out with the gospel? Who is God placing on my heart to befriend?
5. Sometimes I waste a lot of time just watching tv or looking at cat videos. What is the time waster in your life? Is there an area of service that God has placed on your heart that may be more spiritually beneficial?

Last year I challenged the church family to read the entire Bible in a year. I personally am behind, but I am within reach with a few more hours of reading. It was a good discipline, even when I got bogged down with difficult passages to read (like Leviticus). When you set a goal and meet it, you usually will move towards Jesus and look back with satisfaction. I am glad I did it. But this year I am looking into a more consistent quiet time. Take time to make a spiritual inventory. Then step out in faith. 2026 might just be one of your best years growing in the Lord.

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.

January 4th— Don't Waste the Wait
Guest Speaker-Don Winans

January 11th— Simon Bartos—
Candidating message

January 18th- Guest Speaker

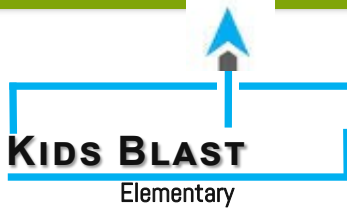
January 25th- Simon Bartos

Contact Us

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Doug Davidson — Sr. Pastor
Donna Spitzer — Family Ministry
Henna Hulme—Children's Director
Matt Hulme — Youth Staff
Emily Winans —Administrative
Assistant



**STUDENT
LIFE** Jr. High and High School

January 14th, 21st, and 28th
6-7:30 p.m.

January 11th, 18th, and 25th
5-6:30 p.m.
(Youth Groups are combined)



•*Men's Breakfast*— At MCC on January 10th at 8:30a.m.

Women's Ministry News

Bible Study—We're taking a break during the dark winter months. Please watch for my emails on when we'll be starting back up.

First Satiurday Breakfasts—During the winter months we do breakfast instead of dinner. The next one is this Saturday, January 3rd at 9:30am at Waffle O Waffle. Address is 799 N. Court Street in Medina across from Walgreens. Please let me know if you can make it.

Random Saturday Gatherings—Another winter activity to keep us connected. Watch for my email for this. I'll be watching the weather and I'll let you know.

Please watch for my emails on updates of our activities. If you're not getting somewhat regular emails please let me know.



Candidating message—January 11th

On January 11th, Simon Bartos will give a message for both services. Afterwards there will be a vote of our members in person or online. A membership email will go out beginning of next week with details.

Simon Bartos Bio:

"I met my wife Lauren in February 2011 at Panera Bread in Medina while we were both attending Medina High School. We started dating February 5, 2011, and went to Ohio State together. We married after graduation in 2016, and moved back to Medina in 2017, realizing it was where we wanted to settle down and raise a family."

Simon Bartos

An excerpt from a 21 page questionnaire that we asked Simon to complete in September.

Simon and Lauren live in Lafayette township with their three young children-William (7), Leia (5), Aria (2), and are expecting their fourth in June. As you know, Simon has filled in for Pastor Doug on numerous occasions, bringing his family along on his most recent visit.

Simon graduated from Ohio State University with Bachelors in Environmental Engineering in 2016, and achieved a Masters of Civil & Environmental Engineering from OSU in 2019. Simon is currently employed at an Engineering organization in Cuyahoga County as a Water Resource Engineer.

Simon came to The Lord at 8 years old at an AWANA meeting. An avid reader and desire to learn fit in well in school, and on the university campus where he had many conversations with fellow students and professors regarding spiritual matters and the Gospel.

His desire to serve The Lord continued to grow coupled with the encouragement of his Pastors, Lauren, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Simon preached his first sermon in January 2017 at Remsen Christian Church in Medina. Simon was ordained in 2021, and is currently enrolled in a Masters of Divinity program at Emmaus Theological Seminary.

Simon has served in pastoral residency and as associate pastor at New Hill Church in Medina, where he had oversight of family discipleship, youth, and children's ministries. Simon and Lauren are currently fellowshiping and serving in Brunswick at Cuyahoga Valley Church, where they are both active in children's ministries and Simon has the role of seminarian and lay preacher.

Simon is passionate about equipping families for faithful discipleship, teaching Scripture with doctrinal precision, and helping the church fully realize the freedom we have in Christ. In his spare time, Simon enjoys hiking, fishing, and outdoor activities with his family. Lauren homeschools their children and has a passion for supporting other young mothers and the family.

Please pray for Simon and Lauren. As a church let's pray for a unity of spirit with the congregational vote.

Poinsettias in the church were placed by....

Heather SpringerIn memory of Peggy Jo Hawkins

Pastor Doug and Bev DavidsonIn memory of William & Cam Worrell

In memory of Norwood (Woody) & Vivian Davidson

In memory of Debbie Wilkinson

Grace ZayIn memory of David, Arthur and Cindy

Josh & Rita BrownIn memory of Ryan Paul Brown

Amanda Waibel & FamilyIn memory of Felecia Steiger

Beth Ann PetersonIn memory of Norman L & Phyllis A. Pearson

Kathy SummersIn memory of Kim Flottum

MCC Church FamilyIn Honor of Mona Chadwell and Grace Zay

Anonymous In Honor of Jesus Our Savior





We are pleased to announce that MCC will be hosting drive-thru Community meals on **Saturday, January 17th** 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.



Church family!

Thank you for the wonderful reception for my retirement from pastoring Medina Community Church! The cards, gifts, words of encouragement, and bucket list suggestions are greatly appreciated. Also, I still can't believe you all gave me a golf cart for getting around Chippewa Lake. So cool! The grandkids can't wait for the summer rides with grandpa and grandma.

I know it was not the easiest time of year for a party. But you all showed up to express your love and appreciation for my ministry. Bev and I are so thankful for being able to serve such an amazing church family.

Love you all!

Pastor Doug and Bev

Special shout out to the time getting things ready. Kathy, Donna, and Emily and so many more—you went the extra mile.

THANKS!